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ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER

HERITAGE MONTH





"I'll never understand this game!"



SERMON SERIES

Romans 1:1-17

The Letter Opening

Romans 1:18-3:20

Universal Sinfulness

Romans 3:21-8:39

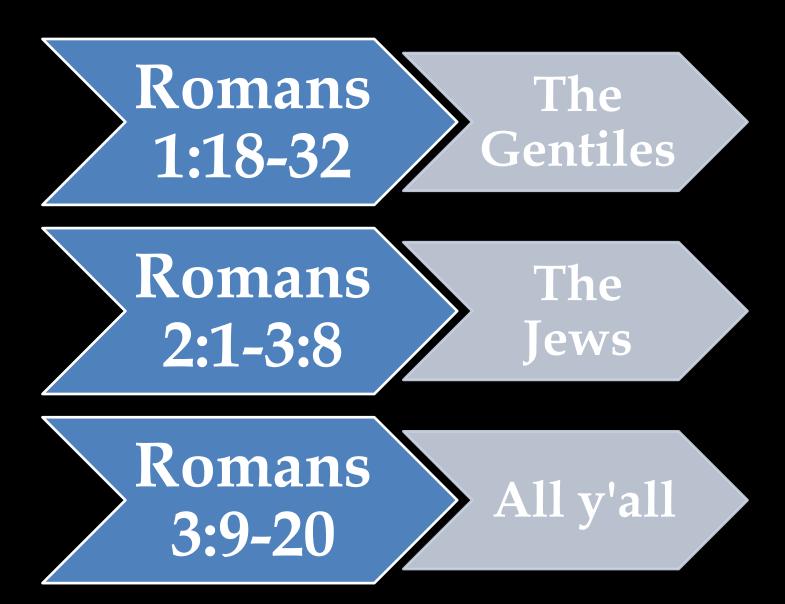
God's grace & Gospel

The Theme of Romans

Romans 1:16-17

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

The Universal Reign of Sin



Romans 3:9-20

⁹ What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, 10 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." 13 "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." ¹⁴ "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, ¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Romans 3:9-20

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

"But, we're still better...right?!"

Romans 3:9

⁹ What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin...

All people who have not experienced the righteousness of God by faith are "under sin": that is, they are helpless captives to its power...helpless pawns under sin's power...For the problem with people is not just that they commit sins; their problem is that they are enslaved to sin. What is needed, therefore, is a new power to break in and set people free from sin—a power found in, and only

in, the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Douglas J. Moo, <u>The Epistle to the Romans</u>, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1996), 201.

Your own books confirm you're no better

Romans 3:10-18

10 ...as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." 13 "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." ¹⁴ "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." ¹⁵ "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, ¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known." ¹⁸ "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Your own books confirm you're no better Romans 3:10-18

10 ...as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; (Ecc. 7:20) ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." (Psalm 14:1-3) 13 "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." (Psalm 5:9) "The venom of asps is under their lips." (Psalm 140:3) 14 "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." (Psalm 10:7) "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, ¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known." (Isaiah 59:7-8) 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes." (Psalm 36:1)

What can we conclude about the references?

- 1. They are from the Old Testament (Psalms, Isaiah, Ecclesiastes).
- 2. They are Paul's justification for his comments that both Jews and Gentiles are under sin, that neither is better off.
- 3. The Old Testament shows that both Gentiles *and Jews* have opposed God. Both have been depicted, at points, as unrighteous, or turning aside, or deceitful, or godless.

Romans 3:15-17

¹⁵ "Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ in their paths are ruin and misery, ¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known." (<u>Isaiah 59:7-8</u>)

Isaiah 59:7-8

⁷ Their (the Jewish people) feet run to evil, and they are swift to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; desolation and destruction are in their highways. ⁸ The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths; they have made their roads crooked; no one who treads on them knows peace.

Every mouth is stopped

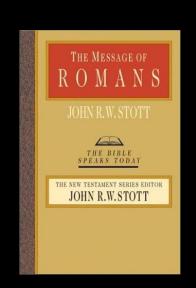
Romans 3:19-20

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

These words, writes Professor Cranfield, 'evoke the picture of the defendant in court who, given the opportunity to speak in his own defense, is speechless because of the weight of the evidence which has been brought against him'. There is nothing to wait for but the pronouncement and execution of the sentence.

John R. W. Stott

The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World InterVarsity Press, 2001, 102



Romans 3:10-18

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How does each reader interpret a passage like this one?

"I'm going to read this...once I'm done!"

"I'm so glad I'm not like that! You know, I wish my roommate were here. He really needs to hear this."

"That sounds like a great Friday night!"

"Skip it"

"You think that's bad?!
That ain't nothing!"

"Kids, listen to Jesus. No potty mouth."

"These verses are talking about YOU. So turn or burn."

God said,
"Our feet need
to be swift
when we shed
their blood."

"If it works and makes you happy!"

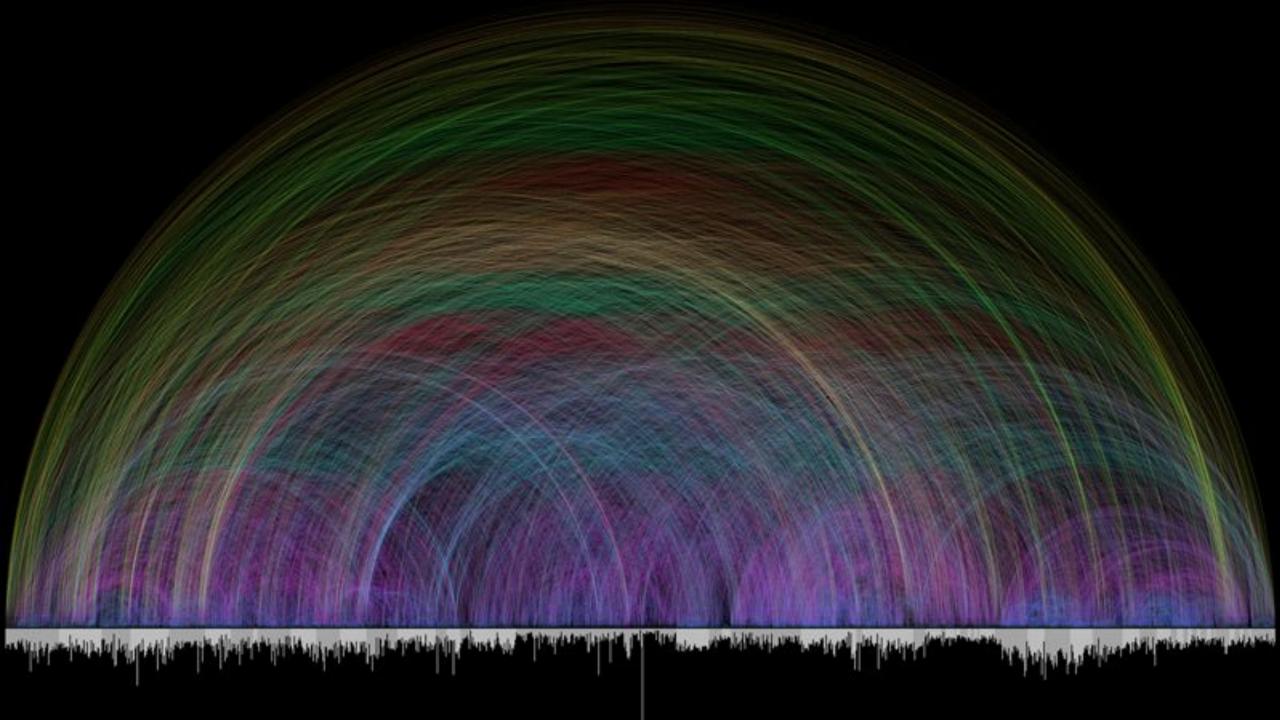
"I don't think this passage will make us any money."

"You must be talking about my political opponent."

"The bible is such a downer.

BTW: Have you read Eat, Pray, Love'?"

"That's not my truth...but, just in case it's true, here's a reel of me screaming curses and bitterness.



This is about how the bible speaks to itself - or the textual cross-references within it. Each of the 63,779 cross references found in the Bible is depicted by a single arc - the color corresponds to the distance between the two chapters, creating a rainbow-like effect.

Photograph: Christoph Römhild

and Chris Harrison



Romans 3:10-18

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Our troublesome tongues

Genesis 3:11-12

God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"
 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

Our troublesome tongues

John 8:42–45

⁴² Jesus said to them (the Jews)..."⁴³ Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me."

Our troublesome tongues

Matthew 16:21–23

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." 23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Isaiah 53:7

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

Isaiah 53:9

⁹ He had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

John 1:1, 14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Matthew 27:11-14

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." 12 But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. 13 Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" ¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

John 19:30

³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

John 19:30

³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

1 Corinthians 1:18

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Your blood speaks a better word
Than all the empty claims I've heard upon this earth
Speaks righteousness for me
And stands in my defense
Jesus, it's Your blood