

Going Deeper

The Collective Church Weekly Devotions

September 26, 2021 - Justin Mann – Rooted in the Word: Romans



The book of Romans was written by the Apostle, Paul. To fully understand what Paul was writing to the home churches in Rome, it's important to understand Paul's background.

We can find this information in Philippians 3:4-6, which says, "though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless."

You see, Paul was a Pharisee. He was an expert of the Old Testament and probably was able to recite the scriptures by memory. He had a belief that God would send the messiah and fulfill his covenant with His people. However, Paul did not think Jesus could be that messiah because it's not what the Pharisees had expected. On the way to Damascus, he met Jesus who asked Paul why he was persecuting Him. Paul became blind for three days. When he regained his sight, Paul was converted, or rather, he had a transformed way of understanding everything he had ought for and believed in. He knew then that Jesus was the Messiah and God had kept his promise in a beautiful and unexpected way.

From here, Paul then explains how the scriptures - which he is an expert in - tell the rescue mission of God for His people and how Jesus is the answer! Paul says we are to live as one church, united, under God. God loves us so much that he made a covenant with Abraham for the Jews and the Gentiles. Our response is simply to love. To love God and love our neighbor. Because of God's faithfulness, we are all brought in the church and into his new family. We then are to love in a way that shows the world what God has given us.

We are to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. This is both a comfort and a challenge. We are in a constant process of learning more and more who Jesus is. It's a journey, which is comforting, as we are all going through it together. It's a challenge because the things that we do, matter. It means living with constant change. Through this process, we stand on an equal footing and playing field.

Application Questions:

1. Why do you think people prefer to work their way to heaven, rather than accept God's free gift?
2. How does Paul want us to respond to his letter?
3. Download the Bible app and catch up on the reading plan, BibleProject|Paul's Letters!