

1. Read Romans 1:16-17.
2. Was there anything in the sermon that concerned you, helped you or confused you?
3. Ask each person to share one of their favorite concepts from Romans. Have someone read the "Romans Summary Statements" from the supplemental materials. Were any of the groups favorite concepts left out?
4. Discuss the degree to which you agree with the following:  
There are two systems:
  1. **SELF-SALVATION** through good **WORKS**, obeying rules or attaining some high spiritual state.
  2. **RELYING** on a **CHAMPION**, Jesus, as our **SUBSTITUTE**.
5. As you read Romans 15:14 through 16:16, think about why you think Paul wrote Romans. Then discuss your opinions.
6. Do you feel like you basically understand the ministries of at least 5 of the missionaries supported by the general giving at CPC? Of the ministries you understand, which is one you really appreciate a lot?
7. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." --Acts 20:35 and "Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required;"--Luke 12:48  
Nevertheless, research shows that in general Americans who earn more give a lower percentage of their income away. Why do you think that is true?
8. 1 Tim 5:17 refers to the elders directing the affairs of the church. What do you think are some of the ways that people determine what portion of their income they will place in the hands of the elders to direct the affairs of the church? Please pray together and ask the Lord to provide all the general budget funding we need to accomplish the mission he has given us.
9. How can we pray for you?

God is good. All the time.  
All the time. God is good.

In the end, all will be well.  
If all is not well, it's not the end yet

**And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.--Romans 8:28**

## Supplemental Materials:

Romans Summary Statements: (note: you may wish to add in more)

1. Everyone has sinned.
2. God is just and will punish sin
3. Jesus took our punishment for us.
4. All who believe in him are forgiven.
5. We then join God's kingdom and family
6. No boasting; it's a free, unmerited gift.
7. He fills us with his Spirit
8. We become co-heirs of everything with Jesus
9. We still sin, but gradually become like Jesus
10. God's enthralling glory awaits us
11. All things (even evil things) work for our good
12. God is especially for us
13. Nothing can separate us from his love
14. We are to be living sacrifices
15. Spiritual gifts are for serving
16. Love and honor one another
17. Overcome evil with good
18. Honor and obey civil authorities
19. Relax about disputable issues
20. Stay away from divisive people
21. God gets all the glory

## Romans Summary Verses (NIV unless otherwise noted)

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, RSV

Rom 3:23: ...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Rom 3:27 Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded.

Rom 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Rom 5:3-5 More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. RSV

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom 6:19 For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification. RSV

Rom 6:23: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom 7:15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. RSV

Rom 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

Rom 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. RSV

Rom 8:17...and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. RSV

Rom 8:18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us RSV

Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. RSV

Rom 8:28-31 We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? RSV

Rom 8:38-39: For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom 9:16-17 It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

Rom 10:9 ...if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Rom 11:12 Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean! RSV

Rom 12:1-2 ...present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, RSV

Rom 12:6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them RSV

Rom 12:10 love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor RSV

Rom 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. RSV

Rom 13:1-2 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. RSV

Rom 14:1 Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.

Rom 14:12-13 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

Rom 14:22-23 So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. 23 But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

Rom 15:24 I hope to visit you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there,

Rom 16:17 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

Rom 16:27 To the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

One version of the "Romans Road" used to explain the gospel to people:

- Rom 3:23: ...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- Rom 6:23: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- Rom 10:9 ...if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- Rom 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

### **Concepts from the Book of Romans**

New Testament belief always includes:

1. **CONVICTION** regarding who Jesus is and what he has done
2. **CONFIDENCE** in him as your Savior; reliance; trusting in him
3. **COMMITMENT** to him as Lord, God, King: restored relationship.
4. **CHANGE** flowing from the inside to the outside; transformation.

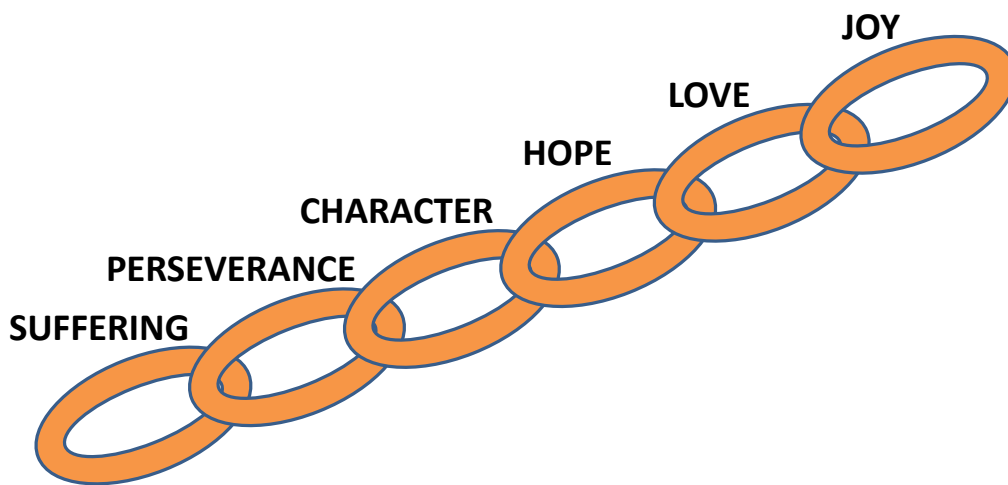
**Justification:** declared righteous before God

**Sanctification:** gradually transformed by the Spirit, becoming like Jesus

**Vocation:** meaningful, important work alongside Jesus

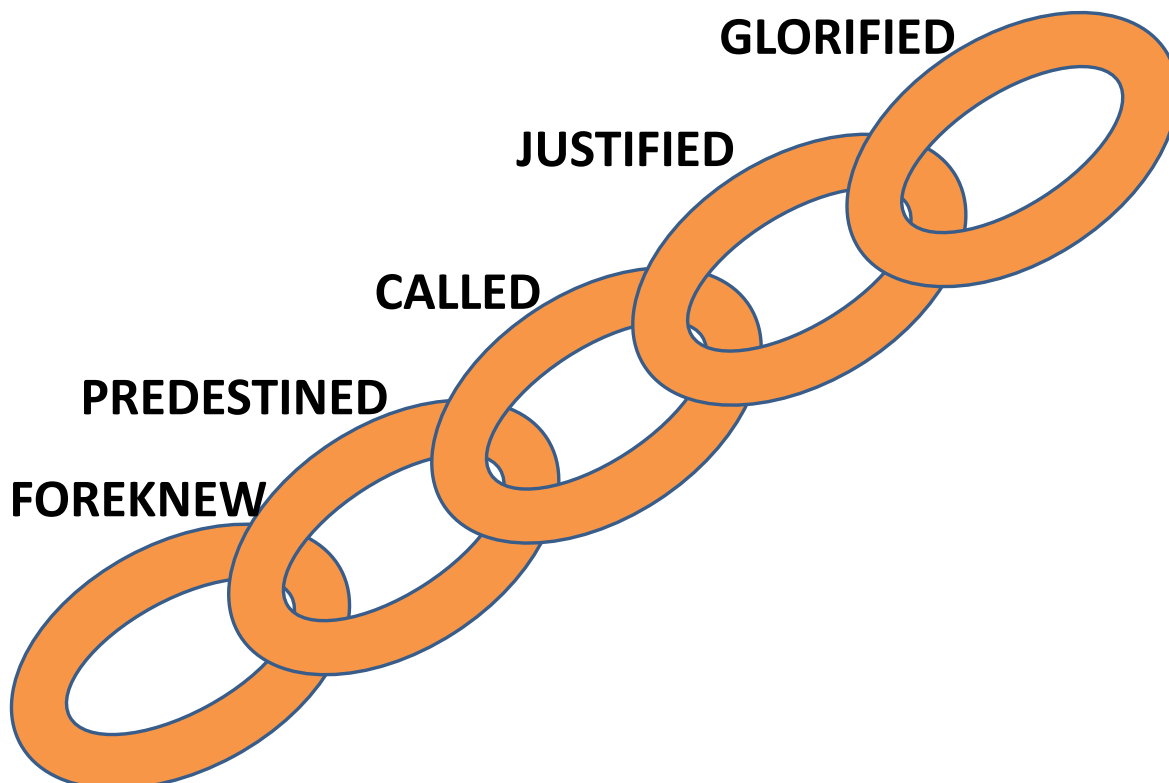
Romans 5:1-5

## THE CHAIN OF BLESSING



Romans 8:28-30

## THE UNBREAKABLE CHAIN OF GLORY



**Advantages of the kingdom of God, System #2:**

(Relying on Jesus as our substitute)

1. God has done everything necessary to make our pardon possible.
2. We will not be required to observe the entire Mosaic Law.
3. We are declared legally righteous, justified and acquitted by God.
4. We will not experience God's wrath.
5. We are part of God's kingdom and family.
6. We will not spiral downward into depravity.
7. We experience peace with God.
8. We experience the glory of God.
9. It is a free gift.
10. Inner transformation; we gradually become truly good.
11. God's presence inside us--comforting, interceding.
12. God's supernatural power.
13. Guaranteed inheritance: everything & everyone forever.
14. Guaranteed purpose, help and good outcome when we suffer.
15. God is especially for us.
16. Nothing can separate us from God's love.
17. Purposeful, gifted ministry/service
18. Overcoming evil with good
19. Each other's love and support
20. Freedom from petty rules
21. \_\_\_\_\_
22. \_\_\_\_\_
23. \_\_\_\_\_

**Disadvantages of System #1:**

(Being good enough by works, obeying rules or advanced spirituality)

1. No one succeeds.
2. Experience God's just wrath.
3. Miss out on experiencing God and his kingdom.
4. Miss out on the purposeful, abundant life God offers.
5. Miss out on becoming truly good and truly fulfilled.
6. Miss out on supernatural gifts for ministry/service
7. Often enslaved by petty rules