



## ROUTE 66 - Pastor Tim Chambers

**Key Idea:** *The Book of Romans*, a book full of deep theological truths that don't just inform our faith, they shape our daily lives.

**Scriptures Used:** Romans 8:14, 8:18, 8:11, 6:23, 6:14, 6:6, 8:28, 2:5, 6:11, 8:5, 8:6, 10:15, 1:21, 5:8, 3:23, 6:12-13, 8:1-2; Ephesians 4:32; Hebrews 12:15

**Share:** The Apostle Paul wrote Romans, before following Jesus, he was known as Saul, a Pharisee who persecuted Christians. But everything changed when he encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus. His life was radically transformed. After meeting Jesus, Paul became one of the greatest leaders of the early church, and Romans is one of his most influential writings. It unpacks the transformative power of **justification by faith, repentance, and forgiveness**—these being core truths that are crucial not only for understanding our faith but for applying it to our everyday lives.

### **Discuss:**

- 1) Which of these three core truths: faith, repentance and forgiveness do you find most difficult to put in practice? Explain why.
- 2) How has encountering Jesus changed your life and helped you in the areas of faith, repentance and forgiveness?
- 3) Biblical meaning of **justification** is the act by which God moves a willing person from the state of sin (injustice) to the state of grace (justice). Considering this definition of justification, what role belongs to God and what role must we take in being justified?

**Share:** The justification by faith, repentance, and forgiveness are truths to live by. These truths push us to think about where we stand: **Are we living like a "Saint" or an "Ain't"?** Let's discuss some powerful contrasts between a *Saint* and an *Ain't* through the lens of the Book of Romans.

**Read: Romans 8:14 "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God."**

**Read: Romans 8:8 "Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God."**

### **Discuss:**

- 1) How do we find our identity in Christ and what must we avoid to stay connected to God's family?
- 2) Your identity cannot be based on your past mistakes or successes, what must it be rooted in?
- 3) How does identity shape behavior?

**Read: Romans 8:11 "The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you."**

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

**Discuss:**

- 1) What does it mean to be spiritually dead and describe what that spiritual condition looks like?
- 2) How does someone go from being spiritually dead to spiritually alive?
- 3) What empowers a person to live spiritually alive and what bounds someone to spiritual death?

**Read: Romans 6:14 "For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace."**

**Read: Romans 6:6 "We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with."**

**Discuss:**

- 1) What does it mean to you to no longer be under the law, but under grace?
- 2) "It's been said that Christians aren't perfect, they're forgiven." How would you explain this statement to a nonbeliever?
- 3) We know that as Christians we still sin and fall short of the glory of God, so as saints what should be our daily response to our sins?

**Read: Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him."**

**Read: Romans 2:5 "Because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath."**

**Discuss:**

- 1) How has knowing that God is in control, no matter what you face in life, impacted you?
- 2) Hope is something everyone needs but so many lack, in what ways can we share the hope of Jesus with others?
- 3) What are some of the dangers of having a stubborn and unrepentant heart?

**Read: Romans 6:11 "In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus."**

**Read: Romans 8:5** “Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires.”.

**Discuss:**

- 1) How does our mind impact our decisions?
- 2) What are some practical things we can do to keep our mind on God and our heart wanting to please Him?

**Read: Romans 8:6** “The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace”

**Discuss:**

- 1) Describe what a life governed by the Spirit look like?
- 2) Describe what a life governed by the flesh look like?

**Read: Romans 10:15** “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

**Read: Romans 1:21** “For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.”.

**Discuss:**

- 1) What are some practical ways we can share the good news with others?
- 2) What holds us back from sharing the good news?
- 3) Why are glorifying God and thanking God an essential part of truly knowing God?

**Share:** One of the most practical ways we live as saints is by adopting a mindset of forgiveness. When we do that we start following the example of Jesus Christ. In today’s world, it’s easy to get caught up in bitterness, offense, and grudges. But saints are called to pre-determine forgiveness. ***That's why it's called FORgive. We learn to Give... BFore.***

**The following Scriptures will help lead us to breaking the cycle of bitterness:**

**Read: Romans 5:8** “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

**Read: Ephesians 4:32** “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

**Read: Hebrews 12:15** “See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble.”

***Read: Romans 3:23 "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."***

***Read: Romans 6:12-13 "not let sin reign in your mortal body."***

***Read: Romans 8:1-2 "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."***

***Closing Remarks:*** *The Book of Romans challenges us to ask, "Am I a saint or an ain't?" The difference isn't about perfection, but about identity, relationship with sin, and hope in Christ. Saints are not perfect, but they are redeemed, transformed, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

***Pray that we all... 1) Embrace our identity as a saint. 2) Pre-determine to live a life of forgiveness. 3) Walk in true repentance, turning from sin and living in the Spirit. Amen!***

### **Upcoming Event:**

**The Ultimate Harvest Festival! - October 27th 4 pm - 6 pm**

**Note:** LOOP Leaders - Encourage everyone in your LOOP to volunteer and help make the harvest festival an amazing event for our community. Everyone can now register to volunteer on the Church Center App.