

Why Listen to Romans?

Romans 1:1-7

This fall we will be studying the book of Romans together. Specifically, we will focus our attention on Romans 1-4 this semester and then over the next couple of years, we will work our way through the rest of Romans in our sermon-based studies. Romans is a great book; it is an important book. It is Paul's most comprehensive explanation of the Christian faith. Our hope is that each of us would be deeply encouraged by the rich theology in this book and that our lives would be different because we have spent time studying and discussing it. Today, we are considering, "Why Listen to Romans?"

Opening Discussion: What are your hopes and/or expectations about a study through the book of Romans?

Read Romans 1:1-7

1. What strikes you in this passage?
2. How does Paul establish his credibility to write this letter in this greeting?
3. What does this passage teach about Jesus?
4. What does Paul say about his mission (vv. 5-6)? What's the goal of his ministry?

Steve said:

Since Paul's mission involved bringing about "the obedience of faith," we should read Romans with an eye for what he says about obedience. We will see that Paul lays both a theological and a practical foundation for obedience. Romans isn't merely a dense, theological treatise on the gospel. It is definitely that. But it is also an impassioned plea to allow the gospel to form our lives. In other words, as believers you and I are to see ourselves as "bond-servants of Jesus Christ." We are to be people whose obedience has no limits or qualifications.

5. What do you think it means to "be people whose obedience has no limits or qualifications"?

6. How might studying a book like Romans help move you to a place where your obedience has no limits or qualifications?