

Word notes Sunday 20/04/08 Helen Parker
Romans 1-4

Summary

Overview of chapters 1 - 4

The need for salvation for all. The method of salvation. The life of Abraham as an illustration

The basic point:

All are sinners, all can be saved, hallelujah!!

The need for salvation by all – grounded in universal guilt - God's anger against sin

Paul writes that no one can claim to be good in God's sight by their own merits. All people, Jews and Gentiles deserve God's condemnation for their sin.

Everyone is sinful, no one can claim not to know of God's existence. Creation itself is testimony to God's existence.

Sexual sin

God intended sexual relationships to be a gift. Sin distorted the use of the gifts from God. Sexual sin hurts people on an individual level as well as a wider family and society level.

The method of salvation - Forgiveness through Jesus

Romans 3 v 22 – 25

After all the bad news about us being sinners and God's judgement Paul explains the good news.

Key verse (v 22) We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. There is a way to be declared not guilty – by trusting Jesus to take away our sins.

Application:

If people inherently 'know' God (Rom 1:18-20) why do we need to witness?

Discuss why it is that Christians seem to be in such a mess in regard to how we relate to people who have fallen in sexual sin (especially homosexuality) compared to other areas of sin. How can we come to a Godly perspective?

Faith – trusting in Jesus for a way out of the Sin-Judgement-Death superhighway – is an easy word to say but maybe not an easy step to take – or is it? Ask one person to share briefly (Max 5 mins) how they had to make a step of faith when they got saved, and ask another to share briefly how they need to put that faith to work in everyday life. Do all have a common experience?

Why does Paul use Abraham as an example? – clue: the answer is in last week's memory verses.

Homework:

How did we do with memorising the two key texts? Who wrote a letter this week?

Witness

Ask one of the Witness cell (Martin, Jim, Robin; Simon; Brian and Tony) to share what they have been up to and discuss how to ensure the group will incorporate a Witness section into future meetings. Witness cell members have been asked to help Cell leaders by leading Witness sections.