

Taking (another!) Look at Romans

From your current knowledge of the book (however great or small that might be!), what would you say Paul's letter to the Romans is 'all about'?

Read Romans 1:1-7

Paul's introduction is quite substantial. What do we learn about:

⇒ Paul?

⇒ The gospel?

⇒ Jesus?

⇒ The church in Rome?

Read 1:8-15

What do we learn about...

⇒ Paul's relationship with the church in Rome?

⇒ why he might be writing this letter?

Given the content of the letter to follow, especially chapters 1-8 (refer to the recap sermon on Sunday for more detail!), how do you think the letter itself relates to Paul's desire 'to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome' (v15)?

Read 1:16-17

What do these verses tell us about the gospel?

⇒ How is the gospel 'the power of God for salvation'?

15:14-33

After outlining Paul's understanding of the gospel (1-4), the hope it brings (5-8), and the implications for our lives (lots of 5-15, but esp. 12-15), as well as answering tricky questions about how the gospel relates to God's ancient promises and plans (9-11), Paul returns from 15:14 to discuss his reasons for writing to the Romans.

List all effects that Paul hopes his letter might have...

Consider especially:

⇒ the way the Christians in Rome live

⇒ Paul's future plans

⇒ potential partnership between Paul and the Roman church

Reflect...

What do you think Paul's letter to the Romans is 'all about'?

Why is clarity on the gospel so important?

Consider, what positive effects does clarity on the gospel bring, and what negative effects can confusion or wrong doctrine have?