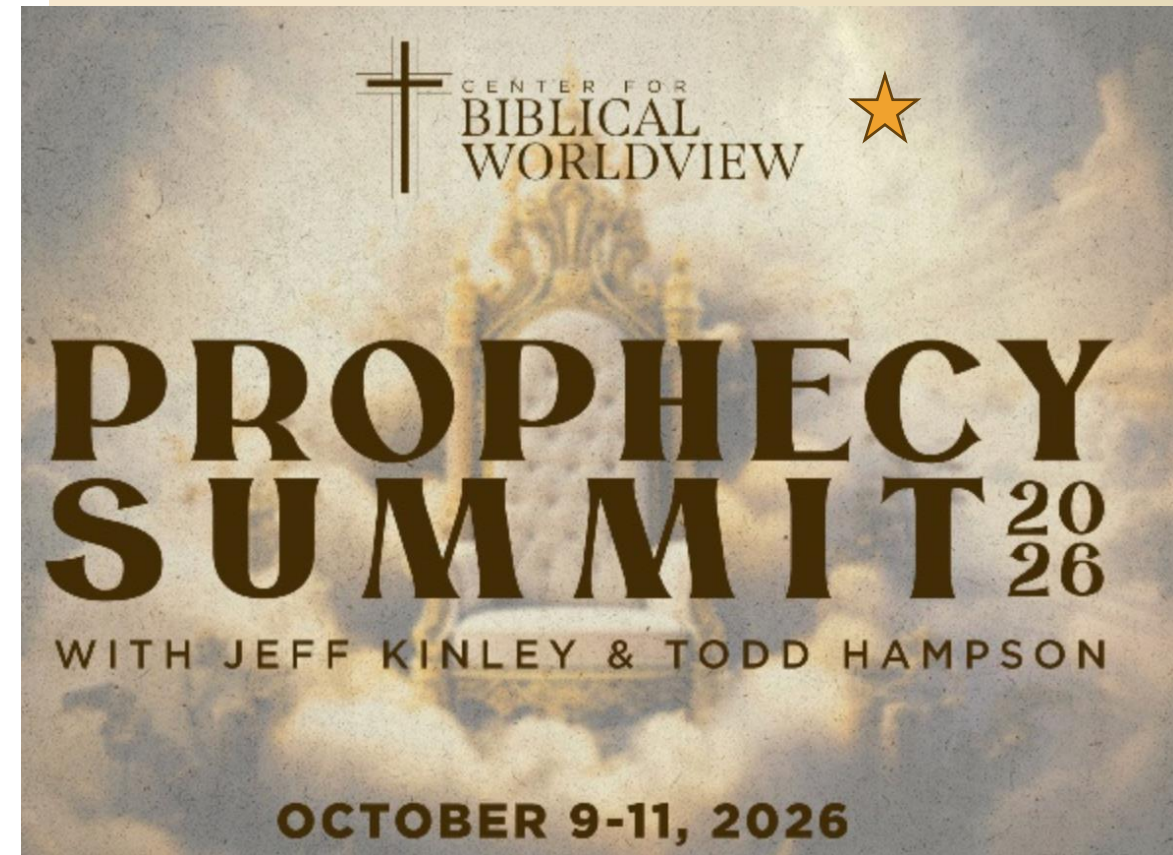


Upcoming Events that are noteworthy

8/1	TOUCH A TRUCK	
8/2	PROMOTION SUNDAY	
8/10	JOYFUL NOISE	
8/11	SEW & KNIT	
8/12	WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES BEGIN	★
8/13	IGNITE MEN'S DINNER	★
8/14 & 8/15	PLACE WEEKEND EXPERIENCE	
8/23	ALL THE PRAISE NIGHT OF WORSHIP	★
8/29	MIDDLE SCHOOL ONE DAY	
8/30	LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR	
8/30	KEN BOA ECHOES OF THE CREATOR	★



[Prophecy Summit Registration](#)



Logos Class

Book of Romans Ch 4

Class for Aug 30, 2026

Rooms 123/124 Adult Ed Building

Class Schedule for the next few weeks

- ✓ *July 26, 2026* *Book of Romans, Intro and Ch 1A*
- ✓ *Aug 2, 2026.* *Romans Ch 1B*
- ✓ *Aug 9, 2026* *Romans Ch 2*
- ✓ *Aug 16, 2026.* *Andy Kumar teaching for me*
- ✓ *Aug 23, 2026* *Romans Ch 3*
-  *Aug 28, 2026.* *Ice Cream Social at the Steinke's*
- ✓ *Aug 30, 2026.* *Romans Ch 4*
- *Sept 6, 2026* *Romans Ch 5*

Quick Update ...ICYMI

Middle East

- *Ceasefire between Hamas / Israel/ US – many issues but a positive*
- *HEAVY Duty sanctions on Iran and those who support them*

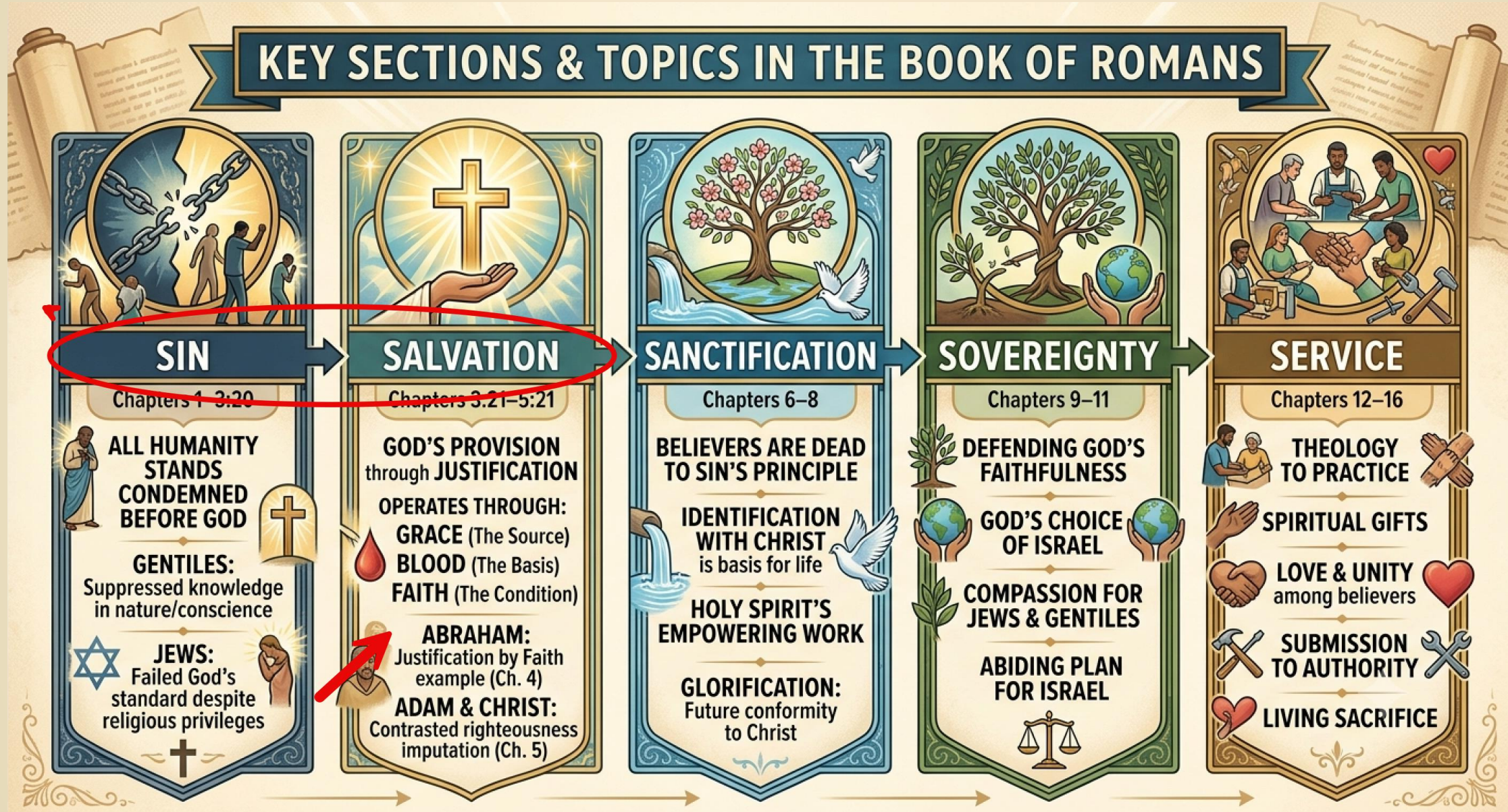
US/World

- *The Russia-Ukraine war is going nowhere towards an end. NK sending troops*
- *Russia sending military weapons parts to Iran via the Black Sea*
- *Cozy relations/arms between Russia, Turkey, Iran, and China troubling but prophetic*
- *Earthquakes, Floods, volcanic eruptions, famine, and disease. Wars and rumors of wars. California fault lines are under the most pressure in hundreds of years*
- *Many signs of the Tribulation are appearing with more frequency*

Natural Disasters, Isolation of Israel, Antisemitism, Apostasy in the church, Peace in Israel to presage the Antichrist, Scoffers of Prophecy, and deniers of God. Time of Noah and time of Lot prophecies—continuation of the Aliyah to Israel. Isolation of Israel, and end-time coalitions forming. Christian Apostasy and Lack of Unity. One World Religion. Rise of Islam. Substantial European acts to move away from Western values and embrace one-world ideas.

Remember, Israel is God's timepiece for the End of Time. Israel is the hour hand, Jerusalem is the minute hand, and the Temple Mount is the second hand

We move into a new section this week



Quick Summary of Romans Ch 3

*Romans 3 continues Paul's point that **everyone is affected by sin**, and that **God's answer comes through faith in Christ**. Paul begins by acknowledging that the Jews had been entrusted with God's words, but he quickly makes clear that this privilege did not place them beyond accountability. **Even when people are unfaithful, God remains faithful, showing that God's character is not shaken by human failure.***

- Chapter 3 unfolds in two parts.
 - First, Paul shows that **both Jews and Greeks are under sin**, and that no one is righteous or naturally seeks God. **The law does not make people right with God; instead, it shows them their sin and removes any ground for trusting in personal effort or religious background.**
 - From there, Paul points to God's solution. **God's righteousness is now made known apart from the law**, even though the Law and the Prophets had already pointed toward it, and **it is received through faith in Jesus Christ by all who believe**. People are justified by God's grace as a gift because of the redemption found in Christ Jesus. Through Christ's sacrifice, received by faith, God shows both his righteousness and his mercy toward those who trust him.

Quick Summary of Romans Ch 3

*Paul ends the chapter by ruling out boasting. No one can claim credit before God, because people are made right with him by faith, not by works. His argument moves from **the reality that all people are guilty before God to the good news that God offers justification through Christ to everyone who believes***

- This prepares the way for Paul's later explanation of what faith looks like in the life of the believer.*

...Now let's get to Chapter 4

Romans 4:1-3 *What about Abraham then?*

4 What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh?

² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

³ For what does the Scripture say?

“Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”



Faith that takes God at His Word

Romans 4:4-8. *Faith that takes God at His Word*

⁴ Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an ***obligation***.

⁵ However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

⁶ David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

⁷ ***“Blessed are those
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.***

⁸ ***Blessed is the one
whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”*** Psalm 32:1-2

So, why is Paul invoking Abraham?

Paul speaks of Abraham for 3 important reasons:

1. The Jews regarded Abraham as the great founder of the “race” and a pattern of all that a Jewish man should be. *God picked him out to be the ancestor of all his special people*
2. Paul has been talking about what makes a man right with God is NOT the performance of his works according to the Law, but the total yieldedness that takes God at His word... Even still loving us when we have done nothing to earn that love. *This was the opposite of all they had been taught, yet was foundational in Scripture.*
3. Paul knew that Faith is an abstract idea, and that understanding faith is easier when it is shown through a tangible person they knew. Abraham was that way to teach them about Faith. *If you want to see what Faith is...look at Abraham*

What does this mean?

Paul is making a comparison of those who work for a living and get wages as an obligation for that work...compared to those who totally trust and yield themselves to the Lord. He is not comparing earning a living with sitting around being yielded, but showing that wages we earn are NOT the way to get righteousness in relation to God. These wages do not gain us favor with God.

To Paul, the greatness of Abraham was not in his meticulous keeping of the Jewish Law (wasn't even in place then), but his complete trust in God, and his complete willingness to abandon his life to follow Him.

To the Jew: Man must earn God's favor to be loved by God

To the Christian: Man cannot earn God's favor but must rely solely on the belief that what God tells us is true and cast all our Faith on that belief. Being loved by God is not dependent on what we do, but on God's grace and mercy.

Romans 4:9-12 *The Father of the Faithful*

⁹ *Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness.*

¹⁰ *Under what circumstances was it credited? **Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before!***

¹¹ *And he received circumcision as a sign, a **seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised**. So then, he is the father of **all who believe** but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them.*

¹² *And he is then **also the father of the circumcised** who not only are circumcised but **who also follow in the footsteps of the faith** that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.*

I hope you are beginning to see Paul's intent

Abraham's call, his faith, righteousness being credited to him, and his right relationship with God were BEFORE the Law and BEFORE he was circumcised.

This fact makes two important deductions:

1. Abraham is not the father of those who have been circumcised. He is the father of all who made the same act of Faith in God that he made. This means that true descendants of Abraham in the Faith are from every tribe and nation that belong to the family of God
2. The Converse is also true...No matter how pure your descent from Abraham, and whether you are circumcised... You may be a DNA descendant, but it does NOT make you a child of Abraham in the faith unless you have taken the faith steps that Abraham took



The way to God is not being a member of any nation, nor through a mark on the body, but by the Faith that takes God at His Word, and relies totally on the Grace of God

Romans Ch 4:13-17 God's Grace

¹³ *It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.*

¹⁴ *For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless,*

¹⁵ *because the law brings wrath (judgment). And where there is no law there is no transgression.*

¹⁶ *Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to **all Abraham's offspring**—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.*

¹⁷ *As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” Gen. 17:5*

He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

The Black and White of it, *which are we under?*

Paul saw things in comparison

- God's Promise (2 Greek words)
 - **Huposchesis** – a conditional promise. If you do, then I'll do
 - **Epaggelia** – An unconditional promise made from the goodness of a heart. *This is the word Paul used for God's love*
 - **FAITH** – Faith in the promises of God
 - **GRACE** – Something never earned or deserved. We must find glory in what God has done for us
- **LAW**- Diagnose a problem but not effect a cure. It can even stimulate lawbreaking. *'Stolen Fruit is the sweetest'*
 - **TRANSGRESSION** – As long as there are laws, there will be lawbreaking. Our life is only one of continual failure and lawbreaking
 - **WRATH** – In God's world, wherever there are laws that are broken, judgement will follow. If we are continually in a state of transgression, God's judgment is coming.

Romans Ch 4:18-25 Making the Impossible Possible

¹⁸ *Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed, **and so became the father of many nations**, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”*

¹⁹ *Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. (Promise of a Son, she was 90)*

²⁰ *Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,*

²¹ *being fully persuaded that **God had power to do what he had promised.***

²² *This is why **“it was credited to him as righteousness.”***

²³ *The words “it was credited to him” were written **not for him alone,***

²⁴ ***but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.***

²⁵ ***He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.***

Abraham – the Essence of his Faith

The essence of Abraham's faith in this case was that he believed that God could make the impossible possible.

So long as we believe that everything depends on our efforts, we are bound to be pessimists, for experience has taught the grim lesson that our own efforts can achieve very little.

When we realize that it is not our effort but God's grace and power which matter, then we become optimists, because we are bound to believe that with God nothing is impossible.

Paul comes back to this idea in the letter to the Philippians

1 Phil 4:13 ¹³ *I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

 *A person or a church that is alive in the Lord dares to do anything that God has given us to do.*

Next week

*We will pick up where we left off; **Read Romans Ch. 5***

➤ *Pray for our Nation and its leaders*

- *Pray for both the Iranian War and the Russia/Ukraine wars to come to an end*
- *Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and Peace for Israel*

➤ *Our State and its Leaders, and the elections to come, for God to give us Godly leaders*

➤ *Our Church, the Pastors and Leaders*

➤ *Pray for the needs of our class members and families*

Thank God for his mercy and grace for each of us as we struggle with life