

Belmont Exeter House Group Notes

w/c 5th May

Romans 8:12 - 25

Earlier this year we worked our way through the whole book of Romans, which meant that we weren't able to dig deeper into passages. In our evening services during the Summer we were taking a longer and more detailed look at Romans 8 and Romans 13&14. The talks are available on the website (<https://belmontexeter.church/talks>), and on the podcast feed on itunes and Spotify for those who use those apps.

This passage is the topic for the evening services on 28th April and 12th May. If people aren't able to be at the service then please encourage them to catch up online via the talks page on the Belmont Exeter website.

This outline gives plenty of questions for study of the text, as well as the outworking of these ideas into our everyday lives. There's more than you'll need for a single study so please do edit to a focus that is helpful to your group / study.

Please use other sections of the bible to enrich your study and understanding. Four books on Romans which may be helpful as you prepare are:

Paul for Everyone – Romans by Tom Wright, accessible explanations on short sections
Romans for You by Tim Keller, comment on longer sections, written in a sermon style
The Message of Romans by John Stott, in depth commentary
Reading Romans backwards – Scott McKnight

BIG IDEA: God's Spirit shapes our lives, thoughts and actions in the light of a glorious future. Everything we do is working towards this future.

WAY IN: Share examples of when you have planned for an event, an adventure, a project. What did you do in preparation?

READ: The study will focus on Romans 8v12 - 25, but it'd be good to read the whole chapter to see the flow of Paul's thinking.

DIG IN:

Questions to discuss

1. Which part of the text (or sermon if you were able to listen to it) had the greatest impact on you? What puzzled you? Did you learn anything new about God? Jesus? You?
2. Paul contrasts 'flesh' and 'spirit' throughout Romans 8. What do each of these terms mean? What does it look like to live according to each of these?
3. In Roman culture slaves were often considered part of the household / family. Paul makes another contrast between slaves and children. Summarize what are the differences between these two relationships with the master / father in the household?

4. By what means have Christians become children? What is the inheritance that comes to these heirs? What is the expectation for life now for those who are God's children?

5. In vv18 – 25 , Paul talks about waiting and hoping. What are we to wait and hope for? How is that hope strengthened?

Perhaps work in smaller groups for these next two sections.

LIVE IT OUT:

6. How does adoption as children into God's family make a difference as we face difficult times?

7. Are there examples you can share where you've known the Spirit help you ' put to death the misdeeds of the body'?

8. How does the hope of a liberated and glorious creation affect the way we approach our everyday activity?

PRAY IT THROUGH

Again in small groups –

share and pray about an aspect of your life you'd like to see transformed by the Spirit.
share and pray about a part of your weekly pattern in which you'd like to live with more hope and joy.