



Part 2: Cross-wired

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Excerpts from The Apostle Paul's Letter to the Romans:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” – *Romans 1:16-17*

There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For God does not show favoritism. – *Romans 2:9-11*

There is no one righteous, not even one. – *Romans 3:10*

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. – *Romans 3:22-24*

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them. – *Romans 4:7-8*

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. – *Romans 5:1*

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. – *Romans 5:6*

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. – *Romans 5:8*

(Continues on back)

A quick summary:

Salvation is available to everyone

We are saved by grace

We are saved by grace through faith

Because of what Jesus did on the cross, we can stand before God justified

We have been freed from the power of sin

We are now free to become more and more like Jesus

Next Steps:

Baptism. Baptism is an outward way of expressing that we have accepted Christ and given ourselves to God. If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal savior, declare your choice to follow him through water baptism during any weekend service in Bellingham on October 12 and 13. ***A required baptism class takes place Saturday, October 5 from 7:15-8:15 PM or Sunday, October 6 from 12:45-1:45 PM. More details on the blue insert inside this program.***

Alpha. If the summary of Romans in this outline presents some ideas that are new to you, the Alpha Course would be a great way to dig deeper into these core truths of faith in Jesus. Alpha begins this Monday, September 30 and runs through December 2. Alpha starts at 5:45 PM in the Meeting Place and includes free dinner. *Register online or at the Connection Point. Contact Jayne (jayned@ctkbellingham.com) for more information.*

Personal and Small Group Questions:

- 1) What is your favorite way to receive communication (face-to-face, hand-written letter, phone call, text, Skype, etc.)? Why do you prefer that medium?
- 2) What was your favorite verse from the first five chapters of Romans? Why is that verse so special to you?
- 3) Take some time and review Paul's life before he was named Paul. You'll find his story in Acts 8 and 9. How does Paul's history affect the way you read his words in Romans?
- 4) If we have been freed from the power of sin, why is it so easy to slip back into sin? What does Romans 5 have to say about our new life in Christ?
- 5) What questions did you have from the first five chapters that you could ask your group or a close friend?
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?

OUR MISSION | To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.