

Romans in Eight Verses

part one: Romans 1:16

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 (NIV)

Please take about twenty minutes to have a go at the questions below before watching this week's 25 min video. There are a couple of suggested ways to respond at the end. We'd love to hear how you get on! Sam (sam.bostock@gmail.com)

Get ready

Romans is all about the gospel. We are mostly familiar with this word 'gospel', but how would you explain it to someone else? Have a go at writing out a summary of the heart of the gospel in fifty words or fewer.

Pray for God the Holy Spirit to help you to listen well, understand clearly and put into practice what God wrote for us through Paul.

Read

Read Romans 1:1-15

In v1 Paul introduces himself as a "a servant of Christ Jesus". What does he mean by that?

What else does he tell us about himself in these opening verses? Paul comes across as a very passionate person – what do you think drives him?

What are the key elements in Paul's fifty word summary of the gospel? (v2-4) How does it compare to what you wrote?

Paul thanks God for the Romans because their faith is "being reported all over the world" (v8). So why does Paul want to come and preach the gospel to them? (v9-15)

Reflect

Why do you think Paul is so passionate about the gospel?

In lieu of preaching the gospel in Rome, Paul writes a letter that unpacks the gospel in chapters 1-8. That's what we'll be looking at over the next eight weeks.

How eager are you to 'read, mark, learn and inwardly digest'¹ the gospel over the next few weeks?

Why might Paul have been eager to preach the gospel to us in Bloomfield?

Watch

Video on Romans 1.16: <https://youtu.be/KWbWHDRrp4>

Respond

Pray for the powerful message of God's salvation to be at work in your life, those of your family and our church, unbelieving family, friends and colleagues, and our nation.

What questions are you left with from this opening section of Romans? Write them down. (It's worth making a note of these to see whether they are answered over the next few weeks – if not, get in touch with one of the preaching team!)

¹ These words are taken from a well-known prayer in the *Book of Common Prayer*.