

A Summer in Rome

A Message from the Master sermon series

July 6 – August 31, 2008

Summer is the time of year when many families go on vacation, but God never wants us to take a vacation from his Word. Summer is a good time to recharge our spiritual batteries, a time for our faith to be refreshed and renewed. To help us to do that we will devote our summer sermon series to a study of Paul's letter to the Romans.

Why study Romans? Luther says it best: *“This epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament, and is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. We can never read it or ponder over it too much; for the more we deal with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes.”*

July 6 – Lindemann Justification

Romans 3:21-28

Every tour has to begin somewhere, and our study of Romans begins with the Bible's most important (and perhaps most comforting) teaching: the doctrine of justification by grace through faith.

July 13 – Bivens A History Lesson

Romans 4:18-25

Just as Rome is a city with a rich history, Romans uses examples from Bible history to convey God's truth. In this lesson Paul points to the Old Testament patriarch Abraham as a man who was saved by faith...just like we are.

July 20 – Pagels Peace, Hope & Joy

Romans 5:1-11

This letter was written during the *Pax Romana*, a period of peace and prosperity throughout the Roman Empire. While peace on earth is a blessing, it doesn't last, unlike the peace with God believers enjoy through Jesus.

July 27 – Mattek Conflict Resolution

Romans 7:15-25a

It isn't unusual for siblings to fight with each other on vacation, but there is a much more serious battle that is being waged inside each one of us (the struggle between the Old Adam and the New Man), a spiritual conflict that can only be resolved at the cross.

August 3 – Westendorf **Anticipation**

Romans 8:18-25

Sometimes the anticipation of what we will see and do on vacation ends in disappointment, but the Lord guarantees that Christians will not be disappointed when the anticipation of future glory becomes reality in heaven.

August 10 – Mueller **Holy Groans**

Romans 8:26, 27

Parents can become frustrated when their kids grumble and complain on vacation, but we need to remember that not all groaning is bad, especially when it is the Holy Spirit who intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

August 17 – Lindemann **Protection & Election**

Romans 8:28-30

Travel companies strongly urge vacationers to take steps to protect themselves and their valuables. Paul turns similar advice into a promise when he reminds us that the Lord will always take care of his chosen people.

August 24 – Bivens **Security**

Romans 8:35-39

One of the greatest fears of parents on vacation is that they will somehow get separated from their children. Even though that can and does happen, these words assure us that nothing can separate God's children from their heavenly Father. Those who rest secure in God's love have nothing to fear.

August 31 – Pagels **Doxology**

Romans 11:33-36

Just as the Lord's Prayer ends with a doxology, our tour of Romans ends with a song of praise. We give honor and glory to our triune God, whose divine wisdom is surpassed only by his unending grace and mercy.