

Why We Need the Gospel

Why do we need the gospel? How is the gospel relevant to my life? In the opening chapters of Romans, the apostle Paul records concise explanations to these questions, and his teaching remains greatly beneficial for all believers. In this episode, we'll begin by looking together in the book of Acts to establish the context for Paul's letter to the church in Rome. Then we'll turn to Romans to study and discuss Paul's summary of the gospel, his explanation of the purpose of God's law, and the problem of sin. Lastly, we'll explore what Paul says about how we are transformed, where we can turn for hope, and what all of this means for our lives today.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- How would you describe the “problem of sin”?
- How would you summarize the Gospel?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Why We Need the Gospel](#)

READ [Romans 1-3](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee highlight how both [Romans 1:18](#) and [Psalm 19](#) remind us that we have plenty of proof all around us that God exists, but we often suppress that truth and deceive ourselves. What tempts you to deny God's existence? When God is not the center of your life, what or who becomes your idol?
- In segment 2, Scott identifies two reasons God gave us his law: 1) to reveal sin, which helps us see our need for the gospel, and 2) to reveal a better way to live. How might remembering the first reason for the law help you keep the law as a guide for righteous living? What is the difference between understanding the law as a guide for righteous living versus seeing it as the way to save yourself?
- At the end of segment 2, we're reminded that our evangelical witness includes our external deeds as well as our internal piety. How do these two relate to each other and why does it matter?
- In segment 3, Scott talks about how the church became uncomfortable talking about sin in the 1980s and 90s. Are you comfortable talking about sin—including your own—with God, with others in your faith community, or even with non-Christians? Why or why not? What does a healthy conversation about sin look like?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Acts 28:30-31](#), [Psalm 19](#), [Hebrews 10](#), [Matthew 5:17-20](#), [Mark 12:28-34](#)

CONCLUSION

In segment 2, we're reminded about the danger of judging others for their sins while hypocritically continuing in our own sinful habits. Write or say a prayer of confession and repentance about your own hypocrisy and the ways you judge others.

After you have finished your prayer time, read one of the following Scripture passages, that assures you, and all of us, of God's forgiveness: [Psalm 103:8-13](#), [Isaiah 1:18](#), [Romans 5:8-9](#), or [1 Peter 2:24](#).

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