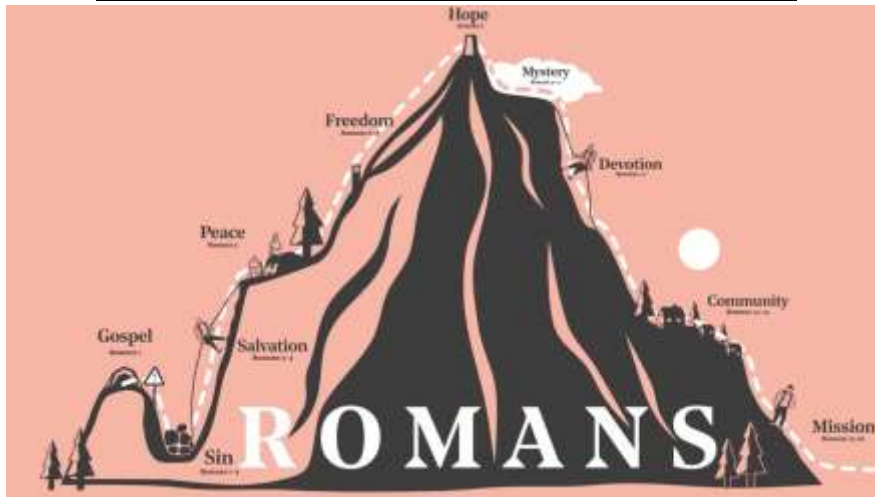


## Romans Course – Hill Cliffe Study Guide



### Session 1 – Gospel – Romans 1

#### Key Verse: 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”*

You may want to read the whole of Romans 1 together

#### The author - Romans 1.1

Paul introduces himself as ‘a servant of Jesus Christ’, literally a ‘slave’. 30% of Roman citizens were slaves, and every slave wanted to be free. Paul was free, but out of choice, proudly called himself a slave, Christ’s servant.

- What does “freedom” mean to you? What about “slave”?
- What do you think being “a servant of Jesus Christ” means?

#### The recipient - Romans 1.7, 14–15

This letter was written for close-knit, diverse underground house churches in Rome.

- How does that compare with our church today?
- Our tagline is “*you’re welcome here*”- is that true for everyone?
- Paul is both under obligation to the one who entrusted it to him, and the one to whom it is meant to be delivered. Do you feel that sense of urgency and responsibility to share God’s word?

#### The message - Romans 1.2–6, 16–17

The word ‘gospel’ means ‘good news’, but it’s not **new** news. It’s the fulfilment of what has been promised beforehand right through the Old Testament.

- Is the gospel still relevant in modern society?
- Does it feel terrifying or exciting to be sharing this message?

Paul sees himself as a **slave of Christ** (v1), under **obligation** to share the gospel (v14), of which he is **not ashamed** (v16).

- Would you describe yourself in the same way?
- Which bits of that description do you find most challenging?