



Study 3: Catholicism & Salvation

Personal Preparation

1. Read Romans 3:9-6:23
2. Read Chapters 5 & 6 of 'Nothing in my hand I bring'.

Group Discussion Questions

What makes the Christian life appealing or attractive for you?

1. Ray Galea starts chapter 5 by giving the difference between the two views of 'justification' held by the Roman Catholic church and Protestants. In your own words, how would you explain the difference?
2. What does the theological term 'sanctification' mean?
3. **Read Romans 3:21-31.**
 - a) In this passage, who are the two different groups of people Paul is referring to?
 - b) For the Jew, what is the thing they were boasting about?
 - c) Why shouldn't they boast?
 - d) Why can God justify Jew & Gentile, when the Gentiles didn't have the law, including circumcision?

Ray Galea makes the point that people like Martin Luther came to realise that the book of Romans deals with a situation very similar to the one faced with Roman Catholicism—a system where you have a place for faith, but you also must do ‘works of the law’ in order to have salvation.



4. What are some ‘works of the law’ within the Roman Catholic church? (chapter 6)

5. For ourselves, do you think there is a danger we could develop a wrong view of ‘the good works’ that we do? Why?

6. “If all I need to do is believe in Jesus, then that becomes a license for me to do whatever I want” How would the book of Romans help you respond?

7. How does the book of Romans (particularly the example of Abraham 4:18-25) help us in our explanation of what ‘believing in Jesus’ means?

8. Do you think this is different to the way most people think about ‘believing in Jesus’? How?

9. Ray Galea outlines the Roman Catholic view of *graces* merited through the seven sacraments. Have a go at explaining the Roman Catholic view of grace in your own words:

10. Why is ‘faith alone’ intimately connected with ‘grace alone’ for salvation? (see page 74 & 75)

11. For us as individuals and as a church—what are the implications for us when we hold to ‘faith alone’ and ‘grace alone’?

12. If you were to die tonight, and stand before Jesus and he were to say to you, ‘Why should I let you into my kingdom?’ What would you say and why?