

Indicatives and Imperatives of Romans 1-11

How practical have the first 11 chapters of Romans been for you? How often have you walked away from church, or discussed over lunch, the very real and practical steps in your studies, friendships, and (grand) parenting you will take during the week to live in response to God's Word? If you're anything like me then you probably haven't had many of these discussions!

There's a few good and bad reasons for that. Maybe one of the bad reasons is that we haven't been listening too well to the sermons. Well, we should prayerfully consider our hearts, and pray that God would work mightily in us to respond!

But I suspect that the more obvious reason is that many of these sermons in the first 11 chapters have not had, or held before us, specific, tangible, practical solutions and commands to our lives. Perhaps this is the fault of the sermons (I pray not!), but upon reflection and re-reading of Romans 1-11 I have noticed again the relatively sparse amount of commands from Paul (for the grammar conscious, there's been a lack of imperatives). Rather what Paul has spent a great deal of time upon are 'indicatives' - or to put it simply: the things that God has done for us. 11 chapters devoted to this—why would that be?

The pattern of 'indicatives first/imperatives second' is not restricted to Romans, but is pretty evident in all of Paul's letters, as well as the letters of the New Testament generally. There's good reason for that too: we need to constantly heart the truths of the gospel in all their vividness, complexity, and sheer incomparable awesomeness. And we need to hear these truths constantly because our sin-stained hearts are prone to forgetting. We are prone to forgetting and assuming what God has done for us in Jesus—and when we forget we end up prioritising or emphasising our works. This is why the antidote to a work's based faith is not 'do nothing', but a recapturing of the centrality and priority of the gospel.

Many indicatives we have covered so far—the fallenness of humanity and our utterly desperate need for salvation. God's response in Jesus: to present him as the wrath-turning (propitiation) substitutionary sacrifice in our place, placing our sinfulness upon Jesus and in exchange being given Jesus' righteousness. We are assured of this exchange by faith, which does lead to living for him (cf Romans 6), and resounds to his praise and glory. And we can be assured that God will keep his word on this matter, even in the face of the seeming failure of a similar word to his people, the Jews (cf Romans 9-11).

Returning to these truths again, and again, is what will anchor our lives as we seek to live out the many imperatives that Romans turns to (Romans 12-16). Hence why even the first imperative in response to the gospel truth of Romans 1-11 is to begin with renewed minds. What we believe is just as important as how we live.

Let us be encouraged, then, to keep pursuing a deeper, richer, more grounded faith in the knowledge of Jesus and the gospel, and then let us be encouraged to work hard at applying these rich truths to our lives. Pray that as we explore the remaining chapters that the good works we are encouraged to pursue will be done so from a profoundly rooted knowledge and faith.



27 May 2018 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

Welcome, we're glad you're here!

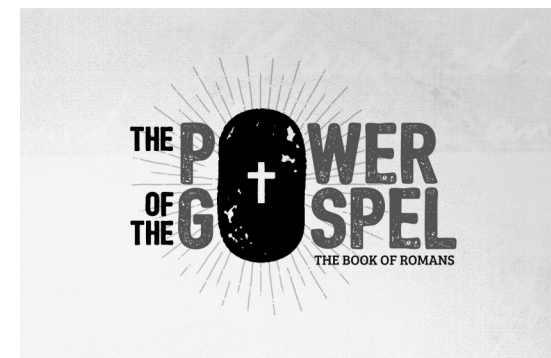
We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at www.slechurch.org.au.

Living Sacrifices

Christians are exhorted to present their lives to God: to have their minds transformed, to joyfully serve the church with their gifts, and to let love saturate their lives before the church and the world.

by Pastor Steven Tran

Next Week: Romans 13



Today's Service

Welcome and Singing	Man of Sorrows Oh How Good It Is Before You I Kneel
Holy Communion	
Offering	
Community News	
Bible Reading	Romans 12
Sermon	By Pastor Steven
Song of Response	Undivided

Stay Connected

- facebook.com/slechurch
- slechurch.org.au
- +61 7 3371 7589
- info@slechurch.org.au
- 83 Ryans Road, St Lucia 4067

Check out slechurch.org.au/groups to find a group that you can join.

Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am. We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

Our Pastors

PASTOR BEN HO
 Mobile: +61 433 581 335
 Email: ben.ho@slechurch.org.au

PASTOR STEVEN TRAN
 Mobile: +61 411 621 159
 Email: steven.tran@slechurch.org.au

Financial Update

Last Week	\$10,763.10
Weekly Required	\$5,520.00
Shortfall 2018	\$0.00

Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

A/C Name: SLE Church
 Bank: National Australia Bank
 BSB: 084-424
 A/C No: 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

Prayer Points

PRAISE GOD FOR ROMANS 1-11! Praise God that Paul has given us one of the most comprehensive books of the Bible that teaches us great gospel truths. Pray that we would be saturated in these truths as we seek to live in obedience, bringing every part of our lives under the rule of Jesus.

PRAY FOR OUR WORLD to know this gospel. Pray that in it's brokenness and cries that God would move people to turn to Jesus and be healed. Pray God's church to remain steadfast and faithful in presenting this gospel to our dying world. Pray that God, who is merciful to save, would save more.

CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR ANNA NGO AND HER FAMILY. As announced last Sunday, Anna has been battling cancer for a few years and is about to trial some final treatment. Pray for strength for Anna and her family as they pursue this final avenue. Pray for rest, even in this difficult time—physical rest through the treatment, and the comfort of spiritual rest to saturate their family as they trust God's goodness even in this time.

CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE SICK AMONG US. Many families and members of our church continue to battle with various colds and physical ailments. Pray that God would be gracious to heal us quickly. Pray for God to move within each of us to reach out and care for each other in our sickness. Pray, to the glory of God, that we would set our hopes on a future free from sickness that is to come.

Community News

Scripture Union \$10 per Month Pledge
 The representatives of the Scripture Union came to share their ministry of school chaplaincy and invited people to support their \$10 per month challenge. If anyone has decided to support them, could you please fill out the pledge form and return to them ASAP.

Extra forms can be found near the foyer.
 For any query contact Ken Choi please.

SLE CHURCH, SLDB & CCCB INC AGM | Sunday 3 June at North Hall

SLE members, please note the above AGMs will be held on Sunday 3 June in the North Hall. Members are expected to attend either in person or by proxy the SLE Church AGM. For the SLDB and CCCB Inc AGMs, attendance by proxy will be acceptable.

Proxy votes are available on the outside of the foyer sliding doors

- SLE AGM : 1:15pm-1:45pm
- SLDB AGM : 1:45pm-2:15pm
- CCCB Inc AGM 2:15pm-2:30pm

Serving

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Bryan	Randy <i>Zach</i>
Preach	Ps Steven	Ps Steven
Bible Read	Andrew <i>Marilyn</i>	Chi <i>Dan Lowe</i>
M.Tea	YF Fri/Sat YF Fri/Sat	Muriel
Wash Up	YF Fri/Sat	Clay
Welcome	Philip Mee Lan Meng Yin <i>Wei-En</i> <i>Marcus</i> <i>Leya</i> <i>Andrew</i>	Ken Steph Dan <i>Benedict</i> <i>Marilyn</i> <i>David</i> <i>Huixian</i>
Stewards	Alvin Matt Tao <i>Aaron</i> <i>Nethanel</i> <i>Yong Seng</i>	Jeffery Simeon <i>Helen</i> <i>Stanley</i> <i>Sarah</i>
Piano	Sylvia	Dan Lowe
Guitar	Dom	
Bass	Aaron	Ethan
Drums		Ivan
Vocal	Alisha	Sharne
PA	Reuten <i>Chris</i>	

Living Sacrifices [Romans 12]

Intro:

1. The change of changes (12:1-2)
 - a. Therefore... by the mercies of God...

b. Living sacrifices

c. Renewed minds

2. Humble Service (12:3-8)
 - a. Humility begins with yourself

b. Serving the body with your gifts

3. Genuine Love (12:9-11)
 - a. Brotherly (and Sisterly!) love

b. Love before outsiders