



St Margaret's Church

Together we aim to: Worship God, Proclaim Jesus, Grow in the Spirit and Serve the World

In Contact

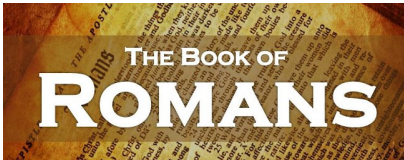
24th October 2021

If you are visiting St Margaret's for the first time we hope you will enjoy worshipping with us today.

For more information please visit our website: www.stmargaretsburnage.org.uk

Come and join us for tea or coffee after the service.

Romans 2: 17-29



Roamin' in Romans 5: We are better than you

I am better than you. This could be a playground taunt at school. *I am better than you because I can run faster, I have more friends, I am a gifted and talented learner, my family is wealthier than yours.* We could all probably add to this list from our own experience. We all know what it is like to feel inferior and be put down by others because sadly it does not stop at childhood.

It is clear from Paul's writing in this week's passage that the Jews in the church in Rome have been saying or giving the impression that "we are better than you." In the earlier part of Romans 2, Paul had been challenging the flawed way we judge others and showing God alone as the righteous judge. Now he turns specifically to the Jews who pride themselves on their national identity, their guardianship of the Law (God's holy commands given through Moses and entrusted to the Jews) and their special relationship with God as the chosen people. Surely they were above the gentiles and did not indulge in crude idolatry and all the morally evil practices associated with this? By pointing to some of the Ten Commandments, Paul, like Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) shows how they are failing to keep the Law themselves. He exposes their hypocrisy and shames their superiority (2.24). He then goes on to the symbol of their identity as Jews in circumcision (v.25-27). As he does in his other letters, Paul points out that the outward sign (external and physical) without the heart (inward and spiritual) devoted to God is condemned by non-Jews whose hearts are for God and follow his laws and ways in true obedience. In short, being Jewish does not make you better.

All this may seem interesting or it may seem remote to us, but what if every reference to Jew was replaced by "Christian"? How comfortable would we feel? What challenges do we hear from God? What changes do we need to make? Allow God to speak to you through re-reading this passage or maybe by using this paraphrase:

"You call yourself a born-again Christian and you are sure you are right with God because you prayed a "sinner's prayer" and committed your life to God. Since then you have memorized Scripture and know the right answers to dozens of questions. You have been part of a homegroup and guided others on their faith journey. You attend worship regularly and wear a cross on your lapel. Outwardly, everything says you are a Christian and yet those outside the church have higher moral standards than you and live more holy lives. A Christian is one inwardly whose heart is all for Jesus and whose words and actions speak with integrity, truth and love of Jesus."



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Rector Matt Calladine Tel: 0161 432 1844

Rev Matt Calladine

Bible Verse for 2021:

I am about to do something new; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43: 19

This week:

Matt Calladine will be preaching on Romans 2: 17-29 **'We are better than you'**.

Next Week:

Peter Miller will be preaching on Romans 3: 1-20 'No one is Justified.'

Anonymous Income Surveys

These are used by the Diocese to assess what each church can pay as their parish share. It is important that as many people as possible fill one of these in and place in the box at the back of church. If you cannot get to church but wish to participate, please Contact Mark Stansfield. The form only requires one tick.

Advent Windows:

You may have noticed some windows filled with Halloween displays. Let's use our windows as Christmas approaches to flood Burnage with hope and light in Jesus?

Looking ahead:

Memorial Service:

On Sunday 7th November we will be having our memorial service at 3.30pm. Forms for church people to enter names are at the back of church or ask Peter at admin.

Remembrance Service:

This year's Remembrance Service will be on Sunday 14th November. We will be gathering at 10.20am to lay a poppy wreath at the Lych Gate, one of our war memorials

October 24th to 30th Pray for:

- ◆ People living in Jersey Close, Alexandra Drive & Roseleigh Avenue.
- ◆ Good response to invitation letters about Memorial Service sent to funeral contacts.
- ◆ Good fun, activities and worship at Family Special service next Sunday (31st).
- ◆ A good restart for ABC & warm welcome for former & new contacts.
- ◆ Completion of the generator house & cabling and the toilet block at Falconer Home.
- ◆ Government approval for IEM's HQ rebuilding project & for sufficient money.
- ◆ Children at Kids Club & Youth Club to engage with theme "God the promise keeper".
- ◆ Perseverance for the Pearts in the continuing difficulties of life in Bolivia.



UHT Semi Skimmed Milk Tinned Fruit

Tinned Cold Meat UHT Fruit Juice

You can find donation points at:

Burnage Tesco, Burnage Library (when open) and Asda Reddish
(and at the centres when open)