

ROMANS | THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

Romans 1:1-6 “The Gospel of God”

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Why did Paul write to the church in Rome?

1. Visit – Announce his plan to come to Rome after his return from Jerusalem (15:24-25).
2. Preach – Proclaim the gospel message to them (1:11, 15-16).
3. Unity – Resolve the conflict between the Jewish and Gentile Christians.
4. Missions – To have the church’s support as he took the Gospel to Spain.

- **Romans is a book about the gospel of God.**

The letter to the Romans is framed by the opening salutation (1:1–7) and the closing doxology (16:25–27).

These two texts frame the entire letter calling attention to the same themes.

- The focus in both is on the gospel: “the gospel of God” (1:1), “according to my gospel” (16:25).
- The gospel that is preached centers on Jesus Christ: the gospel is “concerning his Son” (1:3), and it is described as the “proclamation of Jesus Christ” (16:25).
- The gospel Paul preaches is in fulfillment of the Scriptures: it “was promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures” (1:2), and it “has been manifested now through the prophetic Scriptures” (16:26).

- **Overview of the gospel in Romans:**

I. The righteousness of God (1:1-3:20)

II. The grace of God (3:21-8:39)

A. Justifying grace (3:21-5:21)

B. Transforming grace (6:1-8:39)

III. The plan of God (9:1-11:26)

IV. The will of God (12:1-15:13)

V. The mission of God (15:14-16:27)

- **Paul was set apart for the Gospel (1:1).**

Galatians 1:15–16 But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, 16 was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone;

- **The message of the Gospel (1:2-6)**

1. The gospel comes from God (v. 1c).

> **All the religions of the world can be defined by one of two words.**

(1) Ascend - Man reaching

(2) Descend - God stooping

> **God is the initiator.**

2. The gospel is not new (v. 2).

> It is an eternal plan that God has been fulfilling over time (Gen. 3:15; Gen. 15; 2 Samuel 7; Isa. 53).

> **Crosspoint's Core Value: Scripture reveals truth.**

> **God is to be trusted.**

3. The gospel is about Jesus (vv. 3-4).

> **Christianity is Christ.**

> The gospel is not proclaimed if Christ is not proclaimed.

> The authentic Christ has not been proclaimed if his death and resurrection are not central (the message is "Christ died for our sins . . . [and] was raised").

The person and work of Christ are the rock upon which the Christian religion is built. If he is not who he said he was, and if he did not do what he said he had come to do, the foundation is undermined and the whole superstructure will collapse. Take Christ from Christianity, and you disembowel it; there is practically nothing left. Christ is the center of Christianity; all else is circumference. **John Stott – *Basic Christianity*, p. 21**

> **The substance of the Gospel is Christ (vv. 3-4).**

(1) Deity

(2) Humanity (v. 3)

- He is fully human.

- He fulfilled the promises of Scripture.

(3) Resurrection and exaltation (v. 4)

It is a transition from the Son as Messiah to the Son as both Messiah and powerful, reigning Lord. Jesus began a new phase of divine sonship. From weakness and frailty and submission and humiliation to the Son of God in power and strength and authority and exaltation. - **Sam Storms**

4. The gospel is for all people (v. 5).

> **Crosspoint Church's Mission: We exist to make disciples of all people for God's glory.**

5. The gospel produces faith-fueled obedience (v. 5).

> **Evidence of salvation is obedience to Jesus.**

> **Crosspoint Church's Vision: We desire to be a people transformed by the gospel, living daily on mission, and sending laborers to the nations.**

6. The gospel is for the sake of Jesus' name (v. 5b-6).