

- I) V1-7 INTRO: Paul, a *servant* of Jesus Christ *called* to be an apostle *separated*
The apostle Paul wrote no less than 13 letters recorded in the NT
Out of the 13 letters, Romans is recognized as his greatest work
- II) The Book of Romans has been called the Gospel according to Paul
The **gospels** record the words and works of Jesus
Romans reveals the purpose of His death
- III) To do so, Paul gave to the church what is called a systematic theology
Systematic theology is basically summarizing doctrinal traditions of our faith
Romans would be the most precise presentation of doctrine in the NT
- IV) Romans is not simply a presentation of Christian theology
Obviously theology is of great importance because you **do** what you **believe**
It is a letter that gives a very practical exhortation about lives that glorify God
- V) Christianity is not just a collection of facts to **believe** but a way to **live**
Christianity is a life of love and righteousness that reveals one is saved
Eph 4:1 **I, therefore**, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to **walk worthy** of
the calling with which you were called
- VI) Romans **instructs** and **encourages** us to live a life of love and holiness
It serves the purpose of introducing Paul and his teachings to the Church
This is necessary because Paul did not plant the Church at Rome
- VII) As a missionary, Paul planted churches in many locations
He also wrote letters to many churches and was known by them
The churches in Corinth, Galatia, Thessalonica, Ephesus (and 1 & 2 Ti),
Philippi, Colosse (including Philemon?), Crete (Titus) and **many other areas** knew
Paul by face, but the Roman church did not
- VIII) This is because Paul did not plant the church in Rome, and hadn't been there
- IX) The origin of the Church is not known, as it is not recorded in scripture
There are basically two possibilities that Bible scholars have settled on
- I) **FIRST**: The church was planted by some who were saved at Pentecost

Acts speaks of Jews who were in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost
Ac 2:10 and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes

Some believe that these *saved Jews* returned to Rome and began a church

- II) **Second:** The church was founded by Christians who had moved to Rome
This would explain why they had not met Paul before, and is more probable
- III) There are those who say that the church at Rome was founded by Peter
There is no evidence that the church was founded by Peter
- IV) Paul explains his reasons for writing and longing to visit them in **V9-13**
 - 1st** V9: He had a spiritual burden for the Church
 - 2nd** V11: He desired to spiritually bless them that they might be established
 - 3rd** V12: He desired to encourage them and be encouraged by them
 - 4th** V13, 15: He desired to preach the gospel and produce fruit among them
- V) AD 57-58 Romans was written while on his third missionary journey (Ac 20:3-6)
- VI) The theme of Romans is found in Ch 1:16-17
God offers **His righteousness** to those who come to Him in faith
- VII) V1 Paul, a *servant* of Jesus Christ called to be an *apostle separated* to the
Paul introduces himself first as a servant: A voluntary slave of Jesus for life
He does not begin with a title but with a self description: **he is a servant**
- VIII) V1 Paul did not exalt himself but recognized himself for what he was
As he introduced himself he let them know he was **a servant of God**
Lu 22:27 For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.
- IX) V1 *Called* to be an apostle
He did not push for the office but was selected by God to hold it
Jn 15:16 You did not choose Me, but *I chose you* and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you
- I) V1 He was **separated** to the **gospel of God**
Selected by God to preach the gospel **originating with** and **declaring God**

- II) This **calling** and **separation** originated with God and not **himself** or man
Gal 1:15-16a It pleased God, Who separated me from my mother's womb, and **called me by His grace**, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the heathen
- III) V2 Which He promised before through **His prophets** in the *Holy Scriptures*
The message of the Gospel was foreshadowed in the OT
1 Pe 1:10-12 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that *they were not serving themselves but you*, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.
- IV) Jesus spoke of this
Jn 5:39 **Search the scriptures**; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they **which testify of Me**.
- V) V3 Concerning **His Son** Jesus Christ our Lord who was born of the seed
At this point Paul reveals **essentials** of the Christian faith
- VI) **First**: Jesus is declared to be **born of woman**, but is also the **Son of God**
Born of the seed (offspring, family; tribe) of David
- VII) This speaks in reference to His human lineage; **Jesus was fully human**
God had made a promise to King David
2 Sa 7:12 When **your days** are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up **your offspring** to succeed you, who will come **from your own body**, and I will establish His kingdom.
2 Sa 7:16 **Your house** and your kingdom will endure **forever** before Me; your throne will be established **forever**.
- I) This is why Jesus is called the **Son of David** (17 times in the NT) **Messianic**
Joseph was David's physical descendant (Mt 1:16) but not Jesus' Father
Jesus made this clear when He was 12

- II) Joseph and Mary had left Jerusalem, and after a day's journey couldn't find Him
Frantically they returned to Jerusalem and found Him
He was listening to and asking questions of the esteemed rabbis'
- III) Mary was worried and reprimanded Him
Lu 2:11-12 When they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, Son, why have You done this to us? Look, **Your father and I** have sought You anxiously! And **He said** to them Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that **I must be about My Father's business**? (Joseph isn't My father!)
- IV) Mary was also a descendant of David (Lu 3)
Jesus is a descendant of David **by adoption** through Joseph a
He is **the seed** of David **by blood**, through Mary
- V) V4 And **declared the Son of God** through the **resurrection** from the dead
Declared: Ordained, decreed, determined, appointed
Jesus' **Sonship** was openly revealed and validated by His **resurrection**
- VI) His resurrection **validated everything** that had taken place from conception
His mother was a young virgin who became **pregnant**
His resurrection restored her reputation
- VII) V5 Through whom we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to
Through Jesus Paul received **grace** and **ministry** (apostleship)
Grace: God's unmerited favor by which you are saved and gifted to serve God
Apostleship (ministry): Every person called is commissioned to serve
- VIII) Not only Paul, but **we too** minister **by the grace** of God
Eph 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift
1 Pe 4:10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of **the manifold grace of God**
- I) V5 For the **obedience to the faith** among **all nations** for His name
Obedience to the faith speaks of obedience to the gospel message
Paul was ordained to be a preacher and missionary of the gospel

- II) **The faith** includes Faith in the name of Jesus, as the only Savior of the world
Obedience to the Lord is the necessary consequence of genuine faith
Mt 7:21 Not everyone **who says to Me** Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven
- III) One one occasion Jesus had cast out a demon
When questioned and tested about this work, Jesus responded
After doing so, a woman in the crowd was moved by His words
Lu 11:27-28 She said to Him blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts which nursed You! But He said More than that, blessed are those **who hear** the word of God, **and keep it!**
- IV) Faith in the Lord will be demonstrated by a consistent life of obedience
Not just words, but faith that is demonstrated by love for God and people
1 Jn 2:4-5 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His *commandments*, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His *word*, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him
- V) V5 For the **obedience to the faith** among **all nations** for His name **Missions**, being proclaimed among all nations that all might be saved.
Is 45:22 Turn to Me and be saved, **all the ends of the earth**; for I am God, and there is no other
Mk 16:15 And He said to them, Go **into all the world** and preach the gospel to every creature.
- VI) V6 Among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ
You Christians at Rome are also called to the same obedience of faith
- VII) V7 To all **who are in Rome** beloved of God called to be saints
Beloved of God: reconciled through Jesus thus removing the barrier
Called saints: Set apart for service to God, living a holy life
Grace and peace: May His grace overflow in you and may you have His peace
- I) V8 I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all that **your faith** is spoken of
This would speak **of its reputation**, including non believers and believers
Your faith in Jesus and your godly **reputation** is well known
- II) This is a pastor's dream: their love and faith in Jesus is well known

1 Th 1:8-9 From you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God

III) V9 **God is my witness** whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son
God is my witness: Before the Lord, I am telling you the most sincere truth

IV) My service to Him begins with my spirit, and is seen in my outward life
Paul opposes the outward practice of Christianity without inward change
I am constantly and ceaselessly praying for all of you

V) V10 making request if by some means now at last I may find a way
I constantly pray that I may be able to come to see you **in the will of God**

VI) Paul had a great burden to see them, but the *burden* isn't the call
It must be in the will of God

Ac 16:6-7 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, **having been kept by the Holy Spirit** from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, **but the Spirit would not allow them to**

VII) V11 For I long to see you that I may impart to you some **spiritual gift** so that
I that I may come and minister to you spiritually to strengthen your faith

VIII) I desire that you be filled with the Spirit and that you will exercise your gifts
Eph 4:11-12 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ

I desire you to be **established**, firmly planted on the solid rock

I) V11 I pray that God's word and Spirit may fully guide and empower you
2 Th 2:15 Therefore brothers, **stand firm** and cling to the traditions we taught you, whether by speech or by letter

1 Co 16:13 Be on the alert **Stand firm in the faith** Be men of courage Be strong

II) V12 That is that I may be encouraged **together with you** by the **mutual faith**

Paul did not want his readers to think he thought too highly of himself
A humble servant won't be arrogant and will not lord it over others

- III) V13 I do not want you to be unaware brethren that I often planned to come to
It's not that I haven't wanted to see you, but I've been hindered from coming
Either by **being busy** in ministry, or **spiritual hindrances**
1 Th. 2:18 We wanted to come to you--certainly *I Paul did* again and again --
but Satan stopped us
- IV) V13 His desire: To have some fruit among you also:
Paul was the world's hungriest evangelist
His greatest desire was to preach the gospel and to win people to Jesus
- V) The greatest joy in his life was to see people come to Jesus
Some pastors strive for recognition, prestige, a large work, influence, money
Paul strove to preach the name of Jesus
Ro 15:20 I have made it my aim **to preach the gospel**, not where Christ was
named, lest I should build on another man's foundation
- VI) V14 I am a **debtor** both to Greeks and to barbarians both to wise and to unwise
I am indebted to Greeks and barbarians (lit., a foreigner, speaking neither
Greek nor Latin)
As a steward of God's grace, I am duty bound to faithfully preach the gospel
- VII) Because I am a saved sinner, **I desire others to be saved too**
Also, I have been given a ministry to preach to the Gentiles
Gal 1:16 Paul says (God) was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I
might preach Him among the Gentiles...
Ro 11:13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am an apostle to the
Gentiles, I magnify my ministry
- I) This is the heart of the **Jesus movement**
We are thirsty beggars telling others where they can find Living Water
- II) V14 Both to the wise and to the unwise
I am **under compulsion** to preach and teach!
- III) God has placed in my soul the desire to reach **the world** for Him

I will speak to the **educated** (Greeks) and **uneducated** (barbarians)

1 Co. 9:16 Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

IV) V15 So as much **as is in me** I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in
As much as in me: as far as any opportunity is given to me, I am ready!
I am prepared to preach in small villages as well as mighty cities!

V) There is only **one thing** worth living and dying for, and that is sharing Jesus
This is true today: the world is waiting to hear the truth
Mt 9:3 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His
harvest.