

Lesson 1, ROMANS 1

The church in Rome was not started by Paul as many others throughout the known world were. It is believed that after Pentecost, Jewish believers returned to Rome and the seeds of faith flourished. Over time it seems this church had many Gentiles or pagans along with believing Jews. Paul desired to go to Rome which was the seat of power in the ancient world. To win Rome for Christ meant a giant leap for Christianity.

1. Read Romans 1:1-7. How does Paul describe himself? How does he explain the humanity of Jesus? How does he explain the deity of Jesus?

2. Read Romans 1:8-15. What is on Paul's heart in these verses? How does it differ from the old Paul (also called Saul) that we read about in Acts 9:1-2?

3. Romans 1:16-17 is the theme of Romans. What does it say? Paul then quotes the Old Testament prophet Habakkuk. Glance through this small book. Habakkuk 2:4 juxtaposes the wicked and the righteous. What is the difference? Two other jewels in Habakkuk are found in 2:14 and 2:20.

The next verses of Romans 1 can be disturbing. Don't give up.... the glory is coming.

4. Read Romans 1:18-23 with Psalm 19. What does this tell you about the sinful nature of man?

5. Read Romans 1:24-32. This is written right after verse 22 which addresses idolatry. Three times Paul states that God “gave them over”. To what sins did God give them over?

6. Compare Romans 1:25 to John 8:44. How do you think we combat the lies of the Enemy?.

APPLICATION: How has God made himself known to you? Is there anything in your life that you have “exchanged the glory of the immortal God” for?

PRAYER: Most glorious Father, we bow before your majesty and awesome power that is on display in every aspect of your creation. Give us eyes to see you in the everyday patterns of our lives. Keep us from the sins of the tongue and from the degrading of our bodies. Help us to focus on your mercy and your grace to us as we offer that same mercy and grace to others. We love you Father and are so grateful for your Son Jesus for it is by his blood that we are set free. Amen.