

Romans 1:1&7 An Introduction

Paul's letter to the Romans is a cornerstone to the Christian faith. Even in introducing the book there is much meat for the Christian to digest. What do we already know? What ought we to know? What do we plan to learn as we study this book?

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Questions Romans Will Help Us Answer:

- What is the righteousness of God?
- What does it mean to be justified?
- What is the difference between justification and sanctification?
- What does it mean to be "in Christ"?
- What does it mean to walk in the Spirit?
- Is the Law still binding on Christians?
- What is election and how does God elect?
- Has God rejected Israel — and how should Christians understand Israel today?
- Can a justified person live in persistent sin?
- How should strong and weak believers live together?

*Augustine- I seized it, opened it, and read in silence the first passage on which my eyes fell... instantly, as the sentence ended... all the darkness of doubt vanished away.

*Luther- This Epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament and the very purest Gospel, and is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart

"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

John Wesley

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Where & When was Romans Written?

Romans 16:1 — I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea...

Cenchrea was Corinth's eastern port.

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Romans 16:23 — Gaius, my host and the host of the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city...

1 Corinthians 1:14 — I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

In Corinth, an inscription was discovered mentioning an Erastus who was a city official

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Romans 15:25–26 — But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem.

Acts 20:1-3 — After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to himself, embraced them, and departed to go to Macedonia. Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece and stayed three months. And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

All of these things point to Paul writing Romans during his third missionary journey, while in Corinth.

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Paul would have written Romans in the winter of AD 56–57.

-Galatians (AD 48–49) was a battle letter against Judaizers.

-1 & 2 Thessalonians (AD 50–52) addressed new believers confused about the end times.

-1 Corinthians (AD 54–55) and 2 Corinthians (AD 55–56) were urgent letters to a troubled church.

-Romans was Paul's fullest and clearest explanation of the gospel, written not to correct a crisis, but to establish a church.

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Who wrote Romans?

Paul wrote Romans

-Who is Paul?

PAUL FACTS:

-Born a Jew

Philippians 3:5 — circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee.

PAUL FACTS:

Born a Jew
Born in Tarsus

Acts 22:3 — I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today.

PAUL FACTS:

Born a Jew
Born in Tarsus
Born a Roman

Acts 22:27–28 — Then the commander came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman?" He said, "Yes." The commander answered, "With a large sum I obtained this citizenship." And Paul said, "But I was born a citizen."

Romans 1:1 — Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, **separated to the gospel of God**

PAUL WAS:

- An expert in the Bible & Jewish Law
- An expert in Greek philosophy & rhetoric (the art of persuasive speaking)
- An Roman citizen, with special rights and privileges

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Acts 8:3 — As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.

Acts 9:3–5 — As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

Acts 17:26-27 — "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, "so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

Paul's race, nationality, birth city, and upbringing all were part of God's plan for Paul.

Romans 8:28-29 — And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

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To Whom was Romans written?

-A church not founded by Peter or Paul

Paul had never been there:

-Romans 1:13 — ...I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now)...

Paul never intervened where other Apostles had been:

-Romans 15:20 — And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation

So then, who started it?

Acts 2:1 & 4 — When the Day of Pentecost had fully come...they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues...

-Acts 2:5 & 10 — And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven... visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

Jews were expelled from Rome in AD 49:

-Acts 18:2 — ...(because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome)...

-When Claudius died in AD 54, the Jews were allowed to return

We know there are Jewish Christians there:

Romans 2:17 — Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God,

We know there are Gentile Christians there:

Romans 11:13 — For I speak to you Gentiles...

And we know that mixed cultures can create tension...

Romans 14:5 — One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike...

-Romans 15:7 — Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

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Why did Paul write Romans?

-1) To promote UNITY

Romans 1:12 — that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

Romans 15:5–6 — Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other?

They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow.

So one hundred worshipers met together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship.

A.W. Tozer

The Pursuit of God

Why did Paul write Romans?

1) To promote UNITY

2) To ESTABLISH them.

Romans 1:11 — For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established

*MLJ-Conversion is not the end, it is the beginning.

**MLJ-To be converted is not enough; we need to be established and built up.

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Why did Paul write Romans?

1) To promote UNITY

2) To ESTABLISH them.

3) So that they could FIGHT for the faith.

Romans 16:17 — Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

Jude 1:3 — Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

1 Timothy 6:12 — Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

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Many, if not most, of the men and women who received this letter would become martyrs and die for their faith.

*MLJ- Martyrs are men who know what they believe.

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What is Romans about?

-Romans is about the gospel of God.

Romans 1:16–17 — For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes... For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

Ὁ δὲ δίκαιος ἐκ πίστεως ζήσεται
ho deh deekáios ek peéstehos zaýsetai
The just(righteous) one from faith shall live.

ROMANS OUTLINE:

-Romans 1–3 — Condemnation: The Unjust

-The Heathen are unjust (1:18-32)

-The “Moral man” is unjust (2:1-16)

-The are unjust (2:17–3:8)

-All the world is unjust before God (3:9–20)

Romans 3:23 — for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

People won't accept a savior if they don't realize they need one.

If you never understand what God has saved you from, you will never appreciate salvation.

If you think that you can be righteous on your own, Satan will use that to crush you.

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ROMANS OUTLINE:

Romans 4-8 — Faith

- Romans 4–5 — Faith Brings Justification
- Romans 6–7 — Faith Brings Sanctification
- Romans 8 — Faith Brings Assurance

Romans 8:38-39 — For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

But what about Israel?

ROMANS OUTLINE:

Romans 9-11 — Excursus: What About Israel / Can We Trust God's Promises?

- Romans 9 — God's Sovereignty
- Romans 10 — Man's Responsibility
- Romans 11 — God's Faithfulness

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ROMANS OUTLINE:

Romans 12-End — How Then Should We Live?

RECAP:

Romans 1:17 — “The just one from faith shall live.”

- Romans 1-3 All are unjust/unrighteous
- Romans 4-8 By faith we are made just/righteous
- Romans 9-11 God is still just/righteous
- Romans 12-16 How we should live

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How will we study Romans?

- With open Bibles and pens in hand

*AinsleyNotes

2 Timothy 2:15 — [Study diligently] to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

How Will We Study Romans?

- With open Bibles and pens in hand
- With humble hearts and teachable spirits
- With willingness to be corrected and changed
- With the intention of being used by God

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Romans 13:11 — And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.