

# 27 Gems – A Survey Study of Romans

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

## **The MESSAGE of Romans:**

- *Romans is the 21st shortest book in the NT with 7,111 Greek words.*
- *Romans quotes the **Old Testament** more than his other letters combined.*
- *Romans is often regarded as **Paul's master piece** and most important work.*
- *Romans mentions "**law**" 78 times; "**righteousness**" 66 times; "**faith**" 62 times.*
- *Romans led **St. Augustine, Martin Luther, and John Wesley** to faith in Christ.*
- *Romans is so foundational, it has been called the "**Constitution of Christianity.**"*

*"This epistle is the chief part of the New Testament, and the purest Gospel..it can never be read or considered too much or too well; and the more it is handled, the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes."  
- Martin Luther*

## **The MEGA-THEME of Romans:**

*"The Righteousness of God by faith in the Gospel of Christ" (Rom 1:16,17)*

## **The MEGA-STRUCTURE of Romans:**

- I. The Awesome **WRATH** of God! (ch.1-3)
- II. The Amazing **GRACE** of God! (ch.4-8)
- III. The Perfect **PLAN** of God! (ch.9-11)
- IV. The Proper **WALK** for God! (ch.12-16)

### **I. The Awesome WRATH of God! (1-3:20)**

The **GENTILES** are guilty of sin! (1:18–32)

**Rom 1:18-21, 24-25** - *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown [it] to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible [attributes] are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify [Him] as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ... 24 Therefore God also*

*gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen."*

- **Here Paul focuses on the guilt of the pagan nations of the world before God.** Though God has faithfully manifested Himself through Creation (Ps.19) and Conscience (Rom 2:14,15), pagan man has willfully chosen to reject the true God, and instead worship finite creatures. This resulted in the Lord giving them over to a darkened mind, a hardened heart, and a debased morality - resulting in sinful and wicked lifestyles.

The **JEWS** are guilty of sin! (2:1–3:8)

**Rom 2:1-3, 5, 17, 21-23** - *"Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. 2 But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. 3 And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? ... 5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ... 17 Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God, ... 21 You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? 22 You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?"*

- **Paul now also addresses the religious Jews,** saying that they are equally guilty before the righteous judgement of God. This is due to the fact that, though they possess God's Law, they themselves fail to obey it. In all the areas that they judge and condemn the Gentiles, they themselves are guilty before God.

The **WORLD** is guilty of sin! (3:9–20)

**Rom 3:10-18, 20** - *"As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one." 13 "Their throat [is] an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps [is] under their lips"; 14 "Whose mouth [is] full of cursing and bitterness." 15 "Their feet [are] swift to shed blood; 16 Destruction and misery [are] in their ways; 17 And the way of peace they have not known." 18 "There is no*

*fear of God before their eyes." ... 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law [is] the knowledge of sin."*

- **Paul lumps ALL of humanity together and declares us sinful** and wicked before our Holy Creator. Not one human being, no matter their moral effort or religious zeal, is good enough to be accepted by God by his own efforts. ALL humans are declared to be sinfully depraved, desperately wicked, and deserving of God's righteous wrath for their evil deeds. This is the state of humanity before our Holy God.

*"We are so prideful that we think that we are just, and upright, and wise, and holy, until we are convinced, by clear evidence, of our injustice, vileness, folly, and impurity.. God is the only standard by which this conviction can be produced." - John Calvin*

## **II. The Amazing GRACE of God! (3:21-8)**

### **In a Christian's Salvation:**

- **Justification is ANNOUNCED (3:21–31)** - *"But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth [as] a propitiation by His blood, through faith... 27 Where [is] boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith."*
- Paul here declares how **"justification"** is possible, and how a human being is able to come into a position of **"righteousness"** with God: through faith in Jesus Christ and the redemption He accomplished on His Cross. God declares that the only way a person can escape the wrath of God for their sins, is to place their faith into the finished work of Jesus on the Cross, who absorbed God's wrath in their place, and in doing so will receive the Righteousness of Christ as a free gift!
- **"Justification"** is a legal word that means to be *"legally declared to be in a right standing or position"*. Justification happens when a person trusts into Christ's work on the Cross, and thereby receives absolute forgiveness for **ALL** sin (past, present, future), and has the **PERFECT** Righteousness of Jesus *"deposited"* into their *"spiritual account"*.
  - *"Do we work nothing for the obtaining of this righteousness? I*

*answer: Nothing at all. For the nature of this righteousness is..to know nothing whatsoever of the law or of works, but to know and to believe this only: that Christ is our High Priest, reigning over us and in us by grace." - Martin Luther*

- **Justification & ABRAHAM (ch.4)** - 1 "What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has [something] to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." ... 9 ...faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. ... 13 For the promise that he would be the heir of the world [was] not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith."
- **Here Paul reaches back to the Old Testament**, to the most famous Patriarch of all for the Jewish nation: Abraham. He uses Abraham to teach that the Lord has **ALWAYS** saved men by faith through grace, and **WILL** always save men by grace through faith in Christ.

*"He who has assured hope and confidence in Christ's mercy has already entered into a perfect faith..for perfect faith is nothing else but assured hope and confidence in Christ's mercy." - Thomas Cranmer*
- **Justification & ADAM (ch.5)** - 12 "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned ... 15 But the free gift [is] not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. ... 18 Therefore, as through one man's offense [judgment came] to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act [the free gift came] to all men, resulting in justification of life. ... 20..But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.."
- Paul uses Adam to illustrate the effects of a "**Federal Head**" upon the human race, such as Adam. In the same way that Adam, as the "**Federal Head**" of the human race, infected all of mankind with sin through his one act of disobedience, so Jesus Christ (the "Last Adam" in 1Cor 15:45) can effect redemption for all humanity, through His one great act of obedience....a substitutionary death upon the Cross! What Amazing Grace!
  - *"It is entirely by the intervention of Christ's righteousness that we obtain justification before God. This is equivalent to saying that man is not just in himself, but that the righteousness of*

*Christ is communicated to him by imputation, while he is strictly deserving of punishment." - John Calvin*

**In a Christian's Sanctification:**

- **Our VICTORY over the Flesh (ch.6)** - 6 "*..knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. ... 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.*
- Not only has the **PENALTY** of sin been fully paid for by Christ, but Paul also declares that once a person has come to Jesus in salvation, the **POWER** of sin is broken over their life. At the moment a person received Christ, the Spirit breaks the dominating power of sin that held the unbeliever in bondage to wickedness. This must be "reckoned" true and appropriated by faith, and then practically applied in the Christian's daily life.
- **Our LIBERTY from the Law (ch.7)** - 1 "*Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? 2 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to [her] husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of [her] husband. ... 4 Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another--to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. ... 6 But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not [in] the oldness of the letter."*
- **Paul now uses the illustration of the marriage covenant** that is dissolved by the death of the wife, to teach that believers have "died" to the Law and been set free by the Grace of God in Christ! Jesus is our new Husband, and we have new life from Him, in order to lovingly worship and follow Him. The Bride and Bridegroom picture is often used to illustrate believers and Christ. (Eph 5:25; Rev 22; Matt 25; John 3)
- **Our POTENCY thru the Spirit (ch.8)** - 1 "*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God [did] by sending His own Son in the likeness*

*of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit... 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. ...13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."*

- **The Person that makes these truths come to life in our hearts and daily living, is none other than God the Holy Spirit.** By indwelling the believer, the Holy Spirit is able to empower us to live righteously before God, and to strengthen us to overcome the power of our sinful flesh that still assaults us. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; Eph 5:18) is the answer to the Christian's desire for power and strength to live in a way that pleases the Lord, and overcomes sin and temptation. The Spirit can "put to death" the carnal lusts and cravings of our bodies, and empower us to live according to a new "law of the Spirit" that is stronger than the "law of sin and death."

*"Christ's victory ... is the overcoming of the law, of sin, our flesh, the world, the devil, death, hell and all evils; and this his victory he has given to us. Although, then, these tyrants and these enemies of ours accuse us and make us afraid, yet they cannot drive us to despair, nor condemn us; for Christ, whom God the Father has raised up from the dead, is our righteousness and victory." - Martin Luther*