

Roamin' Thru Romans

A detailed study/analysis of the Book—Sunday Night Series

Scripture Reading: **Romans 1:1-17**

Introduction – Review from last Sunday night:

"The cathedral of the Christian faith."—Frédéric Godet

I. Unique Place in the Canon

Historically, Romans is the most influential of Bible books.

II. Authorship

The internal evidence for Pauline authorship is very strong as well.

III. Date

This makes the date about A.D. 56. (maybe 57-58)

IV. Background and Themes

How did Christianity first reach Rome?

We cannot be positive, but it may be that Jews from Rome who were converted in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost (see Acts 2:10) carried back the good news. That was in A.D. 30.

These Christians in Rome were from both Jewish and Gentile backgrounds.

An excellent way to understand the Epistle to the Romans is as a dialogue between Paul and some unnamed *objector*.

Sunday Morning: 9/17/23

We will think of Romans as dealing with eleven main questions:

- (1) What is the subject of the Letter? (1:1, 9, 15, 16);
- (2) What is the gospel? (1:1-17);
- (3) Why do men need the gospel? (1:18-3:20);
- (4) According to the gospel, how can ungodly sinners be justified by a holy God? (3:21-31);
- (5) Does the gospel agree with the OT Scripture? (4:1-25);
- (6) What are the benefits of justification in the believer's life? (5:1-21);
- (7) Does the teaching of salvation by grace through faith permit or even encourage sinful living? (6:1-23);
- (8) What is the relationship of the Christian to the law? (7:1-25);
- (9) How is the Christian enabled to live a holy life? (8:1-39);
- (10) Does the gospel, by promising salvation to both Jews and Gentiles, mean that God has broken His promises to His earthly people, the Jews? (9:1-11:36);
- (11) How should those who have been justified by grace respond in their everyday lives? (12:1-16:27).

An acquaintance with these eleven questions and their answers will give a working knowledge of this important Epistle.

The answer to the first question, "**What is the subject of Romans?**" is, of course, "the **gospel**."

Paul wastes no time in getting to the point. Four times in the first sixteen verses he mentions it ([vv. 1, 9, 15, 16](#)).

Romans 1:1 (KJV)

¹ Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the **gospel** of God,

Romans 1:9 (KJV)

⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the **gospel** of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

Romans 1:15-16 (KJV)

¹⁵ So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the **gospel** to you that are at Rome also.

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the **gospel** of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

This gives rise to the second question, "**What is the gospel?**"

The word itself means *good news*.

But in [vv. 1-17](#) the apostle tells us six important facts about the good news:

(1) **Its source is God** ([v. 1](#));

(2) **It was promised by the prophetic OT Scriptures** ([v. 2](#));

(3) **It is the good news concerning God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ** ([v. 3](#));

(4) **It is God's power for salvation** ([v. 16](#));

(5) **It is for all men, Gentiles as well as Jews** ([v. 16](#));

(6) **It is by faith alone** ([v. 17](#)).

With that as an introduction, let us take a more detailed look at these verses.

End for today