

Romans

1. Introduction

Tonight we enter into the third portion of the New Testament called “The Epistles”

A. Epistle – A written message or a letter.

The New Testament is made up of 21 letters written to instruct believers in who Christ is and how to live for Him.

1. This Epistles divide into three unequal parts

- General or Church epistles
 - Romans – 2Thess
- Pastoral Epistles
 - 1 Timothy–Philemon
- Hebrew Epistles
 - Hebrews – Jude

- The authors of the epistles include Paul, James, Peter, John and Jude
- Hebrews is the only letter whose authorship is uncertain.

2. J. S. Baxter had this to say:

“All Scripture from Genesis to Revelation is written for us... but not all is written about us or directly to us as Christian believers. The one part of the Bible that is written specifically to us and about us as members of the mystic body and bride of Christ is that part which consists of the 9 church epistles and the 4 pastorals. Therefore if there is any part of Scripture which Christian believers’ ought to know thoroughly it is this part.”

He went on to say:

“Nowadays in our churches there is a pathetic deficiency in the grasp of Christian doctrine...”

He attributes this to the neglect of understanding the church epistles

3. As the Gospel was being proclaimed and churches were birthed, it became necessary for instruction to be given to the converts. The 21 epistles were heaven’s solution. These letters are designed to express Christian doctrine and practice. While the Gospels present the life of Christ, and Acts explains the spreading of the Gospel, it is the epistles that explain the proper behavior of believers as we await the return of Christ.

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4. The epistles are not listed in chronological order.

The Chronological order would be:

<u>Book</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
1Thes	Corinth	52
2Thes	Corinth	53
1Cor	Ephesus	57
2Cor	Macedonia	57
Gal	Corinth	57-58
Rom	Corinth	58
Col	Rome	63
Eph	Rom	63
Phil	Rom	64

5. The book of Acts gives the background for several of Paul's epistles, explaining the details concerning the founding of the churches to which the letters were written.

Galatians— (Acts 13:14–14:28)

Philippians— (Acts 16:11–40)

1-2 Thessalonians— (Acts 17:1–9)

1-2 Corinthians— (Acts 18:1–16)

Ephesians— (Acts 19:1–41; 20:17–35; also 1 and 2 Timothy)

B. Romans

1. The book of Romans is first in the list of Epistles and stands first in every manuscript although it was not the first letter written.

Its position as first is deserved for Paul's presentation of the gospel in Romans has impacted the church's life in every age:

- a. Augustine was converted in AD 386 reading Romans 13:13–14.
- b. Martin Luther's understanding of salvation was radically changed in AD 1513 as he compared Psalm 31:1 to Romans 1:17 (cf. Habakkuk. 2:4) which led to the launching of what is called the Protestant Reformation.
- c. John Wesley was converted in AD 1738 by hearing Luther's sermon on the introduction to Romans.
- d. Pastor Chuck, the founder of the Calvary Chapel movement writes of the effect Romans had upon his life and ministry

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Chrysostom the Archbishop of Constantinople during the late 4th century had Romans read to him once a week

Martin Luther declared –

This letter is truly the most important piece in the New Testament. It is purest Gospel. It is well worth a Christian's while not only to memorize it word for word but also to occupy himself with it daily, as though it were the daily bread of the soul. It is impossible to read or to meditate on this letter too much or too well. The more one deals with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes.

2. The book of Romans was written to pave the way for Paul's first visit to Rome. His deep-seated need to bring the Gospel to the whole world led him to the capital of the empire.
3. Within Romans we clearly see the desire Paul had for every person to hear about and come to Faith in Christ.

Romans 1:15-17

“So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

Romans 10

“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.”

Romans 15:28

*“Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to **Spain**.”*

C. Author:

Romans 1:1 identifies the author as the apostle Paul

Romans 16:22 indicates that Paul used a man name Tertius to transcribe his words.

There is no scholarly reason to doubt the authorship of Romans. Even the ancient heretics ascribed the work to Paul

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D. Date of Writing

1. The Book of Romans was likely written AD 56-58.
 - a. It is clear from the letter that for many years Paul had desired to visit the Christians in Rome (15:23), to help establish them in the faith (1:11).

Circumstances had hindered Paul from coming but he stood ready “to preach the gospel to you them” (1:13–15).

Finally on his third missionary journey, while in Corinth (Acts 20:1–3), Paul wrote this letter and sent it by the hand of Phoebe (16:1, 2). Soon afterward he was arrested in Jerusalem (Acts 21:27) and taken to Rome, but not as a free man (Acts 28:16).

- b. Many see Paul’s “*thorn in the flesh*” as bad eyesight. As a result this he used a scribe named Tertius (16:22) to help with the writing of this letter.

We see many hands involved in the completion of the most amazing book ever written

Paul dictated, Tertius wrote and Phoebe delivered

E. Theme

1. The theme of this letter is the Gospel. Paul expresses it clearly in the first chapter and explains it throughout the letter

Romans 1:15-17

“So, as much as is in me, *I am* ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

Salvation is given freely through faith in Christ, and that message must be declared to the whole world

F. Situation

1. Most of Paul’s letters were written to churches he founded or individuals he had led to Christ. The letters addressed specific problems they were facing. Romans on the other hand, was written to a church Paul had never visited and

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was not addressing the problems they faced, instead this letter is a clear treatise on the doctrine of Salvation.

The book lays out the **need** for salvation, the **means** of salvation, the **effect** of salvation, **scope** of salvation and the **responsibility** of the saved.

2. It is not clear how the church in Rome began. The evidence within Scripture suggests that it was not founded by an apostle. Instead it seems most probable that the church began as a result of someone traveling through Israel, Asia Minor or Greece who came to Christ and brought the message of salvation back to the city of Rome. It is even possible that someone who attended Pentecost brought the Gospel home with them.
3. This letter was written more than 25 years after Pentecost and 20 years after Paul's conversion.

Summary –

The church in Rome may have been one of the earliest churches founded as a traveler returned from Pentecost with the Gospel message. Paul's desire to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth put a great urgency within him to travel to Rome. In preparation for his visit he sent this letter with Phoebe who was traveling to Rome on business.

The purpose of the letter is to clearly present God's way of salvation for fallen mankind.

2. Outline

One possible outline that may help to put the letter into more manageable pieces could be;

Introduction - 1:1–17

Sin—The need for redemption - 1:18–3:20

Justification—The provision of redemption - 3:21–5:21

Sanctification—The effect of redemption- 6:1–8:39

Jew and Gentile—The scope of redemption - 9:1–11:36

Service—The fruit of redemption - 12:1–15:13

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Conclusion - 15:14–16:27

It is important to get the big picture of the book of Romans before we delve into the details for it is easy to look sight of the whole when we spend our time on isolated verses or smaller sections.

1. Why study Romans

- a. In addition to the fact that this is one of the 66 inspired books of the canon, Romans is worth our attention because of the impact it has had throughout history and its clear declaration of the doctrine of salvation.

A concordance is a useful tool in unlocking much of the content of this fascinating book. We find many of the deepest of all theological words used and explained within Romans.

Righteous or Righteousness almost 40 times
Just, justified, justification more than 25 times
Gospel more than a dozen times
Sin close to 40 times
Faith over 35 times
Grace nearly 20 times
Law over 50 times
Spirit over 25 times
Flesh 20 times

These words represent some of the most important of all Christian doctrines and cannot be understood apart from Romans.

- b. Romans gives us a clear picture of the sinful condition of mankind

We learn where sin came from

Romans 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”

Who it impacted

Romans 3:23

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

Romans

How it affects our relationship with God

Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

c. Romans gives a clear picture of the way of salvation

Not through keeping the law or attempts at morality

Romans 3:20

“Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

Through faith in Christ

Romans 3:21-22

“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^[a] who believe. For there is no difference”

And through the preaching of the Gospel

*The preaching of the Gospel is a very important subject within Romans

Paul saw himself as owing a debt to all of mankind that could only be paid through sharing the Gospel of Christ

Romans 1:14-15

I am a debtor both to Greeks and Barbarians, both to the wise and unwise, so, as much as is in me, *I am* ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.

Paul declared that people cannot hear unless someone preaches

Romans 10:14”

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?
And how shall they hear without a preacher?”

Preachers must be sent out

Romans 10:15

And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

Romans

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,
who bring glad tidings of good things!”^[b]

Paul was not satisfied with where he had been but desired continue to carry the Gospel as far as he possibly could

Romans 15:25

But now I am going to **Jerusalem** to minister to the saints.

Romans 15:28-29

“Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to **Spain**.²⁹ But I know that when I **come to you**, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel^[a] of Christ.”

Jerusalem, Rome and Spain were all on Paul’s radar for the preaching of the Gospel of God

- d. Romans also provides us with much valuable information of Christian living
- e. Life in the spirit is contrasted with life after the flesh

In the most personal text within Romans, Paul explains the struggle he endured with his own flesh. He writes of how sinful desires welled up within him and although he knew them to be wrong he lacked the power to overcome them. He declares that the answer to his dilemma was found through the work of Christ and the His Spirit.

Romans 7:24-25

O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

The cross provides solution for the struggling sinner for our sins were paid for through the death of Christ. His blood works as a cleansing agent washing sin as far as the East is from the West

Romans 8:2

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans

The Spirit also aids in the Christian's struggle to overcome the desires of the flesh. The Spirit provides a power that the flesh lacks. Jesus promised power to be a witness would be provided when we were baptized with the Spirit of God

Paul also gives practical instruction on how to walk in the Spirit

Romans 8:5-6

“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.”

- f. Serving Christ is the proper response to salvation

Romans 12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God

- g. Paul addresses practical issues that the Roman Christians were facing and provides the Law of Love as the solution for conflict within the church

DETAILED OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION 1:1-17

We are given key insights into Paul and the Roman church

- 1. Paul

He is an apostle and a servant of Christ who separated himself to the Gospel of God

He longed to visit the church in Rome although he had yet to be able to make good on his desires.

He considered himself a debtor to mankind and felt it his responsibility to bring the Gospel to the world

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2. The Church

Paul wanted them to understand they were called, loved and separated unto the Lord

Their faith was having impact around the world

3. We are given the theme of the entire letter-The Gospel of Christ

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 the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

II. SIN—THE NEED FOR REDEMPTION - 1:18–3:20

1. Gentile sin - 1:18–2:16

- Just as the righteousness of God is given to all who believe, the wrath of God is given to all who sin

Romans 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness

- Paul explains that God has gone to great length to reveal himself both in creation and within the conscience. Men have chosen to suppress the revelation of God in order to continue to live in unrighteousness. This unrighteousness creates a downward spiral beginning with false worship, leading into unnatural behavior and climaxing in an environment where wickedness is accepted as normal behavior.
- It is worth noting that both those who practice these sinful acts and those who approve of these actions are equally guilty in the eyes of God.

This text is written to show the condition of mankind apart from God. The goal is to show the need for a savior not to provide ammunition in politics

Romans

2. Jewish sin- 2:17–3:8

The Jewish people had been given much that should have caused them to recognize Christ as savior. Instead many considered themselves righteous simply because of their heritage. Paul explains that for both Jew and gentile, belief in Christ is required for salvation

3. Universal sin - 3:9–20

Paul sums up his argument that we are all sinners by drawing attention to the writings of the Psalmist and Isaiah.

He draws his argument to a close

Romans 3:20

Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

3. JUSTIFICATION—The provision of redemption - 3:21–5:21

1. Immediately upon condemning mankind for sin, Paul gives heaven's solution

Romans 3:21-22

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.

2. Paul explains that this redemption is accomplished through the work of Christ on the cross

Romans 3:24-25

*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, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,*

3. Paul explains that this salvation is acquired not by works of righteousness but by exercising faith in Christ

Romans 3:28

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

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Abraham becomes then an example of salvation by faith

Abraham was chosen while a gentile not a Jew

Faith came prior to any works of righteousness

Righteous actions followed true faith

Right standing has always been achieved by faith not works.

4. Salvation results in much more than the forgiveness of sin. Paul goes into great lengths to describe the benefits of being justified by faith

Romans 5:1-3

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have^[a] peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.³ And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations

Romans 5:9

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Romans 5:11

And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Peace, access to God, eternal hope, purpose in life, deliverance from wrath and reconciliation are just a few of the benefits awaiting all sinners who will trust Christ for salvation

4. **SANCTIFICATION—The effect of redemption- 6:1–8:39**

While salvation is a gift received freely by grace an individual who receives Christ will be drastically transformed by him. This process is known Biblically as sanctification. While there are many definitions for this word perhaps the best is simply “to become more like Christ”

Paul gives great insight into the work of sanctification

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1. PRACTICAL HELPS ON SANCTIFICATION - 6:1–23

1. We died to sin when we were born again and must now walk in newness of life
2. We must reckon, or considered ourselves dead to sin if we are going to have victory over it.
3. Sin constantly vies for the reigns in life, Paul explains how not to allow sin to rule
 - a. Don't present your members as instruments to sin. Your hands, feet, eyes, ears and mind should not be used to sin but to work our righteousness
 - b. Present yourself as a servant of righteous

2. THE CONFLICT OF HAVING TWO NATURES - 7:1–25

In theory we should be able to reckon the old man dead and present ourselves as servants of righteousness. The problem is compounded by the fact that when we come to Christ our old nature remains and we still struggle with sin.

Paul expressed his personal struggle in chapter 7

3. THE VICTORY BY THE SPIRIT - 8:1–39

The secret to victory over the flesh is the inward work of the Spirit.

It is the cross that removes our guilt and the Spirit that provides us with power to live for Christ.

Romans 8:11

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.

The Spirit also assists us in prayer, uses the circumstances of life to conform us into the image of Christ and makes us more than conquerors

Romans

5. THE SCOPE OF REDEMPTION - 9:1-11:36

During the first century the early church saw an increasing openness to the Gospel among the Gentile world while at the same time the Jewish people became hardened and closed to the message of salvation through faith in Christ. This led to great confusion in the church as it relates to the plan of God for Israel. In Romans 9-11 Paul expresses the desire of God for the nation of Israel.

6. SOVEREIGNTY AND FAITH - 9:1-33

Paul begins by expressing his desire to see all of Israel come to faith in Christ

He continues to explain that just as faith is required among gentiles for salvation it was also required among the Jews.

God's sovereignty is seen in His selection of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,

Man's responsibility is seen in the descendants of Jacob

All of Israel was chosen, but only those who exercised faith benefited

Romans 9:31-32

“but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.”

7. GOD'S OFFER OF SALVATION-10:1-21

Paul begins by expressing that his greatest desire is for Israel to come to faith in Christ. He will go on to explain how salvation is achieved.

Romans 10:9-11

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame

Romans

And how it is that the whole world can hear the message of salvation

Romans 10:14

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

We need to send and Go!

8. GOD'S PROMISE OF RESTORATION - 11:1-36

It is clear from Scripture that individual Israelites can and will come to faith in Christ. Here Paul goes into great detail to explain that nationally God still has a plan for the nation of Israel. He foresees a day when multitudes of Jews will come to recognize Jesus as savior and Lord

Romans 11:1

I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

In the meantime the church should serve as a light drawing them to Christ. Paul speaks of our relationship with Christ making Jewish people jealous that we are receiving the benefits of relationship with Go that were designed for them.

9. SERVICE—THE FRUIT OF REDEMPTION - 12:1-15:13

A call to service 12:1-2

Among the most well known verses in Romans, Paul calls us to arms. Since we have benefited from the mercy of God we should live lives devoted to His service.

This should express itself in:

1. Serving with the gifts we have been given
2. Loving one another
3. Being good citizens
4. Recognizing that the time is short

Fixing problems within the church

Romans

While Romans was not written primarily to address church problems, Paul could not help dealing with one that had crept into the church. It was a problem of judging the liberties of others.

Paul saw the solution to this being

Romans 14:10

But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ

Romans 14:15

Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.

Romans 15:1

We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

10. CONCLUSION AND GREETINGS - 15:14–16:27

It is fascinating to notice the emphasis Paul placed upon people. This list represents those who came alongside Paul to assist him in ministry. A good team is essential to any effective ministry.

Jesus in Romans

Jesus is referred to by name 38 times in the NKJV version of Romans. Obviously He is a man player in the doctrine of the book. Paul presents Him as the risen Christ, Lord of all, and the Son of God. Some of the Key verses that reveal His work include:

- 3:22 - Righteousness is granted through faith in Christ
- 3:24 - Redemption is accomplished through the cross

- 5:1-2 - Access to God is through faith in Christ

- 5:17 - As Adam brought sin into the world, Christ brought righteousness through the cross

- 6:23 - Christ offers eternal life to those who believe

- 8:39 - Love of God is experienced through Christ