



Go for God!

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the ROMANS
Introduction & Chapter 1:1-17
“Come Join the Romans Road to Salvation!!!”

> **Author: Paul, the apostle.** Before Paul’s conversion he was known as Saul of Tarsus, a Roman citizen. He was a full-blooded Jew of the tribe of Benjamin he received the privilege of being educated under Rabbi Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). As a young Pharisee, Saul was present at the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:58; 8:1). He zealously persecuted Christians in Judea and decided to go northeast to Damascus when his encounter with the resurrected Christ completely changed his life. He spent three years in Arabia and Damascus (Gal.1:7-18) before being introduced by Barnabas to the apostles in Jerusalem. Paul was a soul winner and a church planter. He wrote thirteen New Testament epistles, nine epistles to various churches (Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians) and four to individuals (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon). Paul was martyred by execution under Nero in A.D. 67 - 68.

> **Date written: Paul wrote *The Epistle to the Romans* in A.D. 57**, near the end of his third missionary journey (Acts 18:23—21:14; cf. Rom. 15:19). It was written during his three-month stay in Greece (Acts 20:3-6), more specifically, in Corinth. Paul was staying with Gaius of Corinth (16:23; cf. 1 Cor. 1:14), and he also mentioned “Erastus, the treasurer of the city” (16:23). Paul gave this letter to a deaconess named Phoebe from the church at Cenchrea, near Corinth, and she carried it to Rome (16:1-2).

> **Theme:** The theme and key verses are found in **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. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”***

- C.I. Scofield writes, “Romans relates to the whole world because there is “no partiality” (2:11) with Him who is “the God of the Jews” and “of the Gentiles also” (3:29). Accordingly, all humanity is found guilty (3:19, 23) and a justification is revealed which is sufficient for man’s need and received through faith alone (3:28). **Romans states the divine provision of God’s grace whereby He is able to declare sinners as righteous through the atoning work of His righteous Son. It goes on to set forth the nature of the new life which all justified persons may enjoy through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.**”

- **This epistle quotes the Old Testament some 57 times, more than any other New Testament book.** It repeatedly uses key words such as — **God 154 times, law 77 times, Christ 66 times, sin 45 times, Lord 44 times, and faith 40 times.** Romans will answer your questions about God and life.) (Listen to John MacArthur.)

> **Insights on Rome:** Rome was founded in 753 B.C., and by the time of Paul it was the greatest city in the world with over one million inhabitants (one inscription says over four million). The Roman Empire boasted of some 60 million slaves, filled with rich and poor, free and slave. At the time of Paul’s writing the church had been established for a few years. Christianity gave them hope and love for God and one another, delivering them from the religious worship of polytheism (the belief in many gods). The philosopher Seneca called Rome, “The cesspool of iniquity” and the writer Juvenal called it a “filthy sewer into which the dregs of the empire flood.”

> **Insights on *The Book of Romans*: The Book of Romans can be divided into three sections:**
#1- Chapters 1—8 – DOCTRINE (Sin, Salvation, Sanctification) – FAITH!

#2- Chapters 9—11 – DISPENSATIONAL (God’s Sovereignty with Israel) – HOPE!

#3- Chapters 12—16 – DUTIFUL (Christian Service) – LOVE!

> Are you familiar with the Romans Road to Salvation?

- The first verse is **Romans 3:23**, "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*" We have all sinned. We have all done things that are displeasing to God. There is no one who is innocent. (**Romans 3:10-18** gives a detailed picture of what sin looks like in our lives.)

- The second Scripture on the Romans Road to salvation, **Romans 6:23**, teaches us about the consequences of sin - "*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*" The punishment that we have earned for our sins is death. Not just physical death, but eternal death!

- The third verse on the Romans road to salvation picks up where **Romans 6:23** left off, "*but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*" **Romans 5:8** declares, "*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*" Jesus Christ died for us! Jesus' bloody death paid the price of our sins. Jesus' resurrection proves that God accepted Jesus' death as the payment for our sins.

- The fourth stop on the Romans road to salvation is **Romans 10:9**, "*that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*" Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sins and rescue us from eternal death. Salvation, the forgiveness of sins, is available to anyone who will trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

- The final step of the Romans road to salvation is the results of salvation. **Romans 5:1** has this wonderful message, "*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

Through Jesus Christ we can have a relationship of peace with God. **Romans 8:1** teaches us, "*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*" Because of Jesus' death on our behalf, we will never be condemned for our sins.

Finally, we have this precious promise of God from **Romans 8:38-39**, "*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*"

> ROMANS Chapter 1:1-17 – “THREE INSPIRATIONS OF FAITH!”

~ Inspiration #1 - (v1-7) FAITH'S OBEDIENCE!

(v1) Observe Paul's self-portrait:

- *a bondservant - doulos* – a voluntary slave of Christ;

- *an apostle* – one who is sent by authority with commission from Christ (**Acts 9**);

- *separated to the gospel of God* - Porter Barrington writes, “To be separated means to be sanctified (set apart) for salvation and service by:

(1) The **Word of God** which has the power to separate the believer from sin (Jn. 17:17; Ps. 119:11).

(2) **God the Father**, who has the power to separate the believer to the “*coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (1 Thess. 5:23).

(3) **God the Son**, who has the power to separate the believer to righteousness, “not having spot or wrinkle” (Eph. 5:24-27).

(4) God the Holy Spirit, who has the power to separate the believer to salvation and service (2 Thess 2:13).

Without being separated, you can have relationship with God; but you cannot have fellowship with Him. You may be united to Him in Calvary, but separated from Him in sin (Is. 59:1-2).

Without separation, you can have influence without power, movement without achievement; you may try, but not trust; serve, but not succeed; war, but not win.

Without separation to God from sin, your whole Christian life will be “wood, hay, straw.” The abundant life is made possible by the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and made a reality by being separated to Him.”

(v2-4) Facts of faith render our obedience:

(v2) – Facts of Prophecy: The **prophets** spoke of the Christ to come through the Holy Scriptures. Jesus fulfilled over 400 of these prophecies from the Old Testament.

(v3) – Facts of History: **According the Bible** reveals that Jesus existed in the flesh born through the lineage of David (Mt. Ch. 1; Luke Ch. 3)

- Even secular historians have written about the life of Christ:

In A.D. 114, the **Roman historian Tacitus** reported that Jesus was founder of the Christian religion and that He was put to death by Pontius Pilate during the reign of Emperor Tiberius (*Annals* 15.44).

- **Pliny the Younger** wrote a letter to Emperor Trajan on the subject of Jesus Christ and His followers (*Letters* 10.96-97).

- Jesus is even mentioned in the **Jewish Babylonian Talmud** (*Sanhedrin 43a, Abodah Zerah 16b-17a*).

- Writing in A.D. 90 before the apostle John wrote the book of Revelation, the familiar **Jewish historian Josephus** wrote a brief biographical sketch of Jesus of Nazareth. In it he said, “*Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call Him a man: for He was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to Him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned Him to the cross, those that loved Him at the first did not forsake Him; for He appeared to them alive again the third day as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning Him. And the tribe of Christians so named from Him are not extinct at this day* (*Antiquities*, vol. 2, book 18, chap.3)

(v4) Facts of Testimony: **Evidence of the resurrection- 1 Corinthians 15:4-8** (Jesus was seen risen from the dead by over 500 witnesses!)

(v5-7) Notice what God has done for you? He’s given you *grace* (unmerited favor). He’s personally *called* you! You are *beloved*! You are a *saint*! And you’ve been blessed with *peace*.

~ Inspiration #2 - (v8-15) FAITH’S WITNESS!

(v8) Their witness is spoken of throughout the WHOLE WORLD! (Fulfilling the Great Commission! - Matthew 28:18-20 - *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* Amen.)

(v9-10) Here's a witness of the **POWER OF PRAYER!**

(v11) The witness of **DISCIPLESHIP!** – “to impart some spiritual gift”

(v12) The witness of **FELLOWSHIP!** – “be encouraged together”

(v13-15) The witness of **SOUL-WINNING!**

~ **Inspiration #3 - (v16-17) FAITH'S RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

(v16) Paul **is not ashamed of the gospel (good news) of Christ, for it is the power (dunamis) of God to salvation for everyone who believes!**

- C.I. Scofield writes, “The Hebrew and Greek words for “salvation” imply the ideas of **deliverance, safety, preservation, healing, and soundness.**

> **Salvation is in three tenses:**

(1) The Christian has been saved from the guilt and penalty of sin (Lk. 7:50; 1 Cor. 1:18; 2 Cor. 2:15; Eph. 2:5,8; 2 Tim. 1:9) and is safe.

(2) The Christian is being saved from the habit and dominion of sin (Rom. 6:14; 8:2; 2 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 2:19-20; Phil. 1:19; 2:12-13; 2 Th. 2:13).

And (3) the Christian will be saved at the Lord's return, from all the bodily infirmities that are the result of sin and God's curse upon the sinful world (Rom. 8:18-23; 1 Cor. 15:42-44) and brought into entire conformity to Christ (Rom. 13:11; Heb. 10:36; 1 Peter. 1:5; 1 Jn. 3:20).

- Salvation is by grace through faith, is a gift and wholly without works (Rom 3:27-28; 4:1-8; 6:23; Eph. 2:8). The divine order is: **first salvation, then works!** (Eph. 2:9-10; Titus 3:5-8.)

(v17) The word **righteousness** is found 35 times in the book of Romans - God imparts His own **righteousness** to those who believe.

- Let's observe Paul's unashamed witness and testimony in Acts 26.

In 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 it says, **Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

“The just shall live by FAITH!”