

A marble bust of a man with curly hair and a beard, wearing a draped garment, sits atop a fluted column. The background is a light blue, marbled texture.

ROMANS

The Gospel According to Paul

An Introduction to Romans

Rom. 1:1-19

Author: Paul, circa AD 57

- *AD 33/34: Conversion (Acts 9)*
- *AD 36/37: Training, teaching (Acts 9, Gal. 1)*
- *AD 37-44: Ministry in Syria/Cilia (2 Co. 11, 12)*
- *AD 47-57: Evangelism in Galatia, Asia, Macedonia
-Philippi, Corinth, Ephesus, Thessalonica (Acts 11-18)*
- *AD 56-57: Corinth, home of Gaius (Acts 20: 2-4)*

Author: Paul, circa AD 57

- *AD 57: Dictates Romans to Tertius (Rom. 16:22)*
- *AD 57-60: Jerus. arrest, Rome detention (Acts 21:27-36)*
- *AD 60-62: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon*
- *AD 62-64: Released. Spain? Titus*
- *AD 64: Rome fire! Nero blames Christians*
- *AD 64-67: Arrested, imprisoned, (1,2 Timothy), executed*

Recipients: Church in Rome

- *BC 63: Pompey conquers; Jewish POW's freed*
 - *BC 59: Cicero, "Pro Flacco", Jewish population size*
 - *AD 19: Tiberius Expels Jews from Rome*
 - *AD 49: Claudius expels Jews from Rome (Acts 18:2)*
 - *AD 54: Claudius' edict lapses upon his death*
 - *AD 57: Paul's letter received*
 - *AD 64: Rome fire, Nero persecutes Christians/Paul*
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The Gospel According to Paul

- *WHY write this letter?*

- **Paul REALLY wanted to see Rome*

- (Acts 19:21, 23:11, Rom. 1:11,15)*

- **Paul REALLY wanted to evangelize Spain*

- (Rom. 15:24, 28)*

- He needs a Secure, Supportive base of operations
from which to launch*

The Gospel According to Paul

- *WHAT is in this letter?*

- **A sustained argument, a treatise, a “theological last will and testament”*

- (verse-by-verse analysis can therefore be clumsy)*

- **The GOSPEL in its entirety according to Paul*

- Our Condition, Justification, Response and Identity*

The Gospel

(1) OUR CONDITION

- *Ungodly, unrighteous, idolatrous, self-absorbed, rebellious*
- *Objects of God's wrath*

(2) OUR JUSTIFICATION

- *What won't suffice: Heritage, behavior, religion, morality, law*
- *What will: Jesus' substitutionary atoning sacrifice.*

The Gospel

(3) OUR RESPONSE

- *Believe in Christ (nothing else) for salvation*
- *Consider ourselves dead to our flesh and alive in Christ*

(4) OUR NEW IDENTITY

- *Slaves (doulos) of the Lord (kurios)*
- *Elected, adopted, redeemed, saved, justified, sanctified*

“ If God justifies a sinner, it does not mean that He finds reasons to prove that he was right – far from it. It does not even mean, at this point that He makes the sinner a good man. It means that *God treats the sinner as if he had not been a sinner at all.* Instead of treating him as a criminal to be obliterated, God treats him as a child to be loved. ”

“ That is what justification means. It means that God reckons us not as His enemies but as His friends, not as bad men deserve, but as good men deserve, not as law-breakers to be punished, but as men and women to be loved. That is the very essence of the gospel.”

”

Barclay “The Letter to the Romans”, 22.

Looking Ahead...

9/11	Rom. 1:20-2:2	10/23	Rom. 6:1-14
9/18	Rom. 2:3-29	10/30	Rom. 6:15-23
9/25	Rom. 3:1-31	11/6	Rom. 7:1-12
10/2	Rom. 4:1-25	11/13	Rom. 7:13-25
10/9	Rom. 5:1-11	11/20	Rom. 8:1-17
10/16	Rom. 5:12-21	11/27	Rom. 8:18-39

Prayer/Fellowship

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” Rom. 1:16

How do you respond to Paul’s declaration?
Where are you in line with his heart and passion?
Where are you not?