

August 23, 2026

Dr. Jay Robertson

Series: “Romans: The Gospel according to Paul”

Sermon: “Introduction to Romans” Part 2

Scripture: Romans 1:1-7

Memory Verse: Romans 8:1



Introduction

A. “The greatest gospel tract that I could ever have read was God’s Word in the Book of Romans” (Gabriel Hughes).

I. Authorship and Historical Background

A. The Holy Spirit revealed the Book of Romans to Paul who then shared the message with Tertius who then wrote all that Paul told him to write. (Romans 16:22)

B. Romans is the gospel according to Paul. It was written in Corinth in AD 56-57.

C. Romans has 16 chapters and 433 verses. It is primarily a teaching letter. The main theme is justification by faith alone. The thesis statement is found in Romans 1:16-17.

D. The church in Rome had been started by Jewish Christians, but by this time there were more Gentile converts than there were Jews.

E. The Romans allowed the Jews to worship their one God if they paid their taxes and didn’t convert anyone to their religion. But Jewish Christians spread the gospel and people were saved, including Gentiles.

F. Emperor Claudius was upset. He thought the Jews were violating the agreement he had with them. People were following “a Jewish carpenter.” In AD 49 he exiled the Jews, not realizing it was not Judaism converting the Gentiles. It was Christianity.

G. The Jews were exiled a number of years so there were only Gentiles left in the church in Rome. After Claudius died in AD 54, Nero became the emperor. He allowed the Jews to return to Rome.

H. The Jewish Christians returned to find their church very different than when they had left. The church was mostly Gentiles with some Jews.

I. The disagreements between the Jews and the Gentiles prompted Paul to write the letter to instruct both Jews and Gentiles how to work through these differences.

II. An Overview of Paul's Letter to the Church in Rome

A. First Perspective

1. Doctrine (1-11) and Duty (12-16)

2. Justification by Faith (1-11) and Living by Faith (12-16)

B. Second Perspective

1. Chapters 1-11

(a) Greeting (1:1-17)

(b) Condemnation (1:18-3:20)

(c) Justification (3:21-5:21)

(d) Sanctification (6:1-8:39)

(e) Sovereignty (9:1-11:36)

2. Chapters 12-16

(a) Relating to Others in Christ (12:1-21)

(b) Relating to Government (13:1-14)

(c) Relating to Weak Brothers (14:1-15:13)

(d) Relating to the Church in Rome (15:14-16:27)

C. Third Perspective

1. Justification by Faith (1-11)

1:1-15. Introduction

1:16-17. Thesis sentence

1:18-32. Gentiles under God's wrath

2:1-29. Jews are also guilty and under God's wrath

3:1-20. Jews and Gentiles are under condemnation

3:21-4:25. Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus

5:1-21. Results of justification by faith; original sin

6:1-23. Dead to sin; alive to God; no longer slaves to sin but slaves to righteousness

7:1-25. Released from the Law and serving in the newness of the Spirit

8:1-39. The Holy Spirit dwells in us and God is for us

9:1-33. God is sovereign in salvation

10:1-21. Salvation is for both Jew and Gentile

11:1-36. All Israel will be saved (the full number of true Israelites will be saved)

2. Living by Faith (12-16)

12:1-21. Living sacrifices; get along with your brothers and sisters

13:1-14. Submit to the government

14:1-23. Christian liberty

15:1-33. Strong brothers strive for unity with the weaker brothers

16:1-27. Final instructions and greetings

III. The Greatest Gospel Tract

1:16-17

1:18

2:5

3:10-12

3:23-25

5:1

5:8

6:23

8:1

9:16

10:13-15

12:1

12:10

13:9

14:12

15:4

16:27

Conclusion: The Gospel Definition