

# THE GOSPEL OF GOD: ROMANS

From Dust to Destiny

“Romans...is the chief part of the New Testament and the very purest gospel... every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, and occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of his soul.” **Martin Luther**

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“The Gospel of God: Romans”

## **FIVE KEY QUESTIONS**

Although not listed in Scripture, five key questions, nevertheless, became the standard by which books were recognized as God's Word.

- 1. DID IT COME WITH THE AUTHORITY OF GOD?**
- 2. WAS IT WRITTEN BY A MAN OF GOD?**
- 3. DID IT TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD?**
- 4. DID IT COME WITH THE POWER OF GOD?**
- 5. WAS IT ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GOD?**

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## “The Gospel of God: Romans”

- **Nature of the Epistles**

- Point back to the Gospel
  - Think back to the message of the NT
  - In what manner of writing did God communicate with His people in the OT?
  - How does God now communicate w/ His Church through Paul and other NT writers?
    - Epistles (Letters)
    - From legal documents to loving letters

# From Dust to Destiny

## “The Gospel of God: Romans”

### ▣ **Nature of the Epistles**

- Point back to the Gospel
  - Whereas the Gospels emphasize the facts of Christ's redemptive work, the Epistles interpret those facts and tell the redeemed Church how to live the Christian life.
  - The Epistles show how the Church is built, what materials are used, what relationships, privileges, duties of the believer are.
  - Exhortations and commands are prominent in Paul's epistles

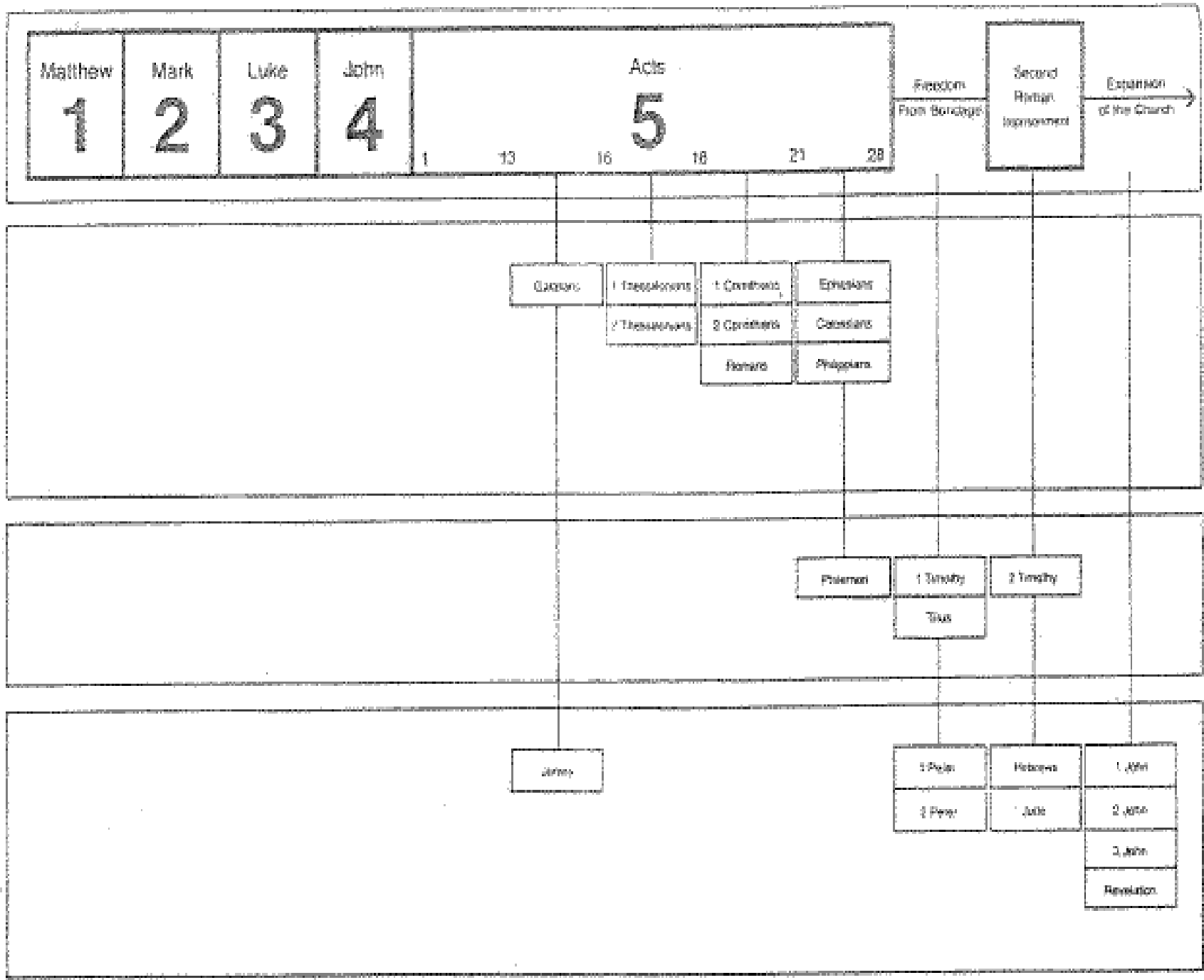
# An Overview as to Focus

<b>Historical</b>	<b>The Gospels</b> Matthew, Mark, Luke, John	<b>Manifestation:</b> Telling the story of the coming of the Savior and His person and work.
	<b>Acts</b> The Acts of the Holy Spirit through the apostles	<b>Manifestation:</b> Proclaiming the message of the Savior who has come.
<b>Epistolary</b>	<b>Epistles</b> Letters to the churches and individuals (Romans through Jude)	<b>Explanation:</b> Developing the full significance of the person and work of Christ and how this should affect the walk of the Christian in the world.
<b>Prophetical</b>	<b>Revelation</b> The apocalypse of the Lord Jesus Christ	<b>Consummation:</b> Anticipating the end time events and the return of the Lord, His end time reign, and the eternal state.

History	Letters					Prophecy
Matthew	Paul's				General	Revelation
	Mark	Early during missionary journeys	Later after arrest at Jerusalem		James	
					Hebrews	
	Luke	Galatians	First imprisonment	Release	Second imprisonment	
John				1 Timothy Titus	Jude	
			Colossians		1 Peter	
			Ephesians		2 Peter	
		1 Cor. 2 Cor.	Philemon		1 John 2 John 3 John	
Acts		Romans	Philippians			

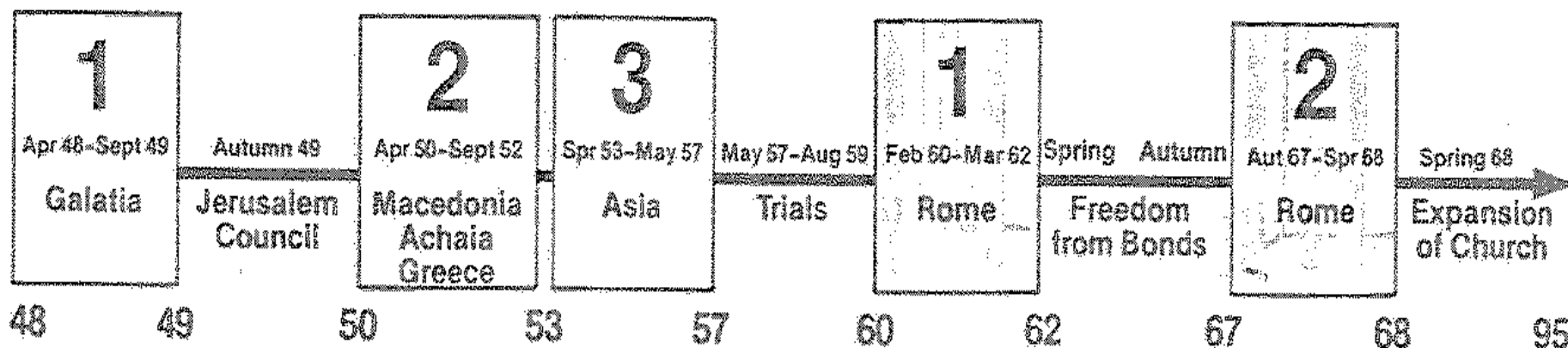
# Integration of the New Testament

Historical Books  
 Pauline Epistles (To Churches)  
 (To Pastors)  
 General Epistles



"Unto the uttermost part of the earth..." (Acts 13-28)

13      14      15      16      18 19      21      22      28



**Galatians**

Place: Antioch  
Date: 49

**1 Thess.**

Place: Corinth  
Date: 51

**1 Corinth.**

Place: Ephesus  
Date: 56

**Ephesians**

Place: Rome  
Date: 60-61

**1 Timothy**

Place: Macedonia  
Date: 62-63

**2 Timothy**

Place: Rome  
Date: 67

**2 Thess.**

Place: Corinth  
Date: 51

**2 Corinth.**

Place: Macedonia  
Date: 56

**Colossians**

Place: Rome  
Date: 60-61

**Titus**

Place: Asia Minor  
Date: 63

**Romans**

Place: Corinth  
Date: 57

**Philemon**

Place: Rome  
Date: 60-61

**Philippians**

Place: Rome  
Date: 62



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## ORDERING THE BOOKS OF THE NT

- The order of the writing of the books was approximately as follows

Book	Date (A.D.)	Book	Date (A.D.)
James	45-49	Philippians, Philemon	63
Galatians	49	1 Peter	63-64
1 & 2 Thessalonians	51	1 Timothy	63-66
Mark	50s or 60s	Titus	63-66
Matthew	50s or 60s	Hebrews	64-68
1 Corinthians	55	2 Peter	66
2 Corinthians	56	2 Timothy	67
Romans	57-58	Jude	68=8-
Luke	60	John	85-90
Acts	61	1, 2, 3 John	85-90
Colossians, Ephesians	61	Revelation	90-95

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- Paul’s Epistle to the Church @ Rome
  - Romans: Righteousness of Christ
  - Romans: Christ the power of God to us
  - Romans: The Gospel and its message
  - Romans: In Christ—justification
    - Doctrinal content

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- **The Apostle Paul (Romans 1:1a “Paul”)**
  - Hebrew name: Saul (“asked of God”)
    - Acts 9:1-19 – Damascus Road conversion
  - Roman name: Paul (“little”)
    - Acts 13:9 – Saul to Paul
    - Gives testimony of his conversion (Acts 22:7, 13; 26:14, 1 Tim. 1:13-16)

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- **The Apostle Paul**

- Born around 5 B.C., around same time of Jesus' birth
  - At the time of Stephen's stoning (Acts 7:58), Paul was a 'young man' but in 61 A.D. he calls himself an aged man (Philemon 9)
- Born in the city of Tarsus in Cilicia

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- **The Apostle Paul**

- Paul’s father was a native of Palestine, a Roman citizen, merchant by trade, and strict Pharisee, of the tribe of Benjamin
- He had at least one sister and nephew (Acts 23:16)

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- **The Apostle Paul**

- Education

- Tentmaker by trade (Acts 18:3)
- Secular study @ U. of Tarsus (Acts 17:28; Titus 1:12)
- Rabbinical study w/ Gamaliel @ Jerusalem (School of Hillel (Acts 22:3)

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- **The Apostle Paul**

- Education

- Spoke Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek
- Probably served in synagogues outside of Palestine after Rabbinical training
- Likely returned to Jerusalem some time after Christ's ascension and began leading the persecution of the church
- Uniquely qualified to become “all things to all men” (1 Cor. 9:22)

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## ▣ **The Apostle Paul**

### ▪ Missionary-Author

- God providentially used Paul, formerly the leader of the persecution of the church to become the leader of the church
- Light to the Gentile nations
- Acts 28:16-31 (Released from 1<sup>st</sup> Roman Imprisonment)
- 2 Tim. 4:6 (not released from 2<sup>nd</sup> Roman Imprisonment)
  - tradition states that Paul was beheaded



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- **The Church @ Rome**

- Authorship

- Paul by way of Tertius (16:22)
- Scribe who would copy word for word dictation

# From Dust to Destiny “The Gospel of God: Romans”

## ▣ **The Church @ Rome**

### ▪ Date

- Around 57 AD – Nero as emperor (54-68 AD)
  - important when getting to Rom. 13
- Paul in Corinth at end of 3 MJ (Acts 18:23-21:14; Rom. 15:19)
- Paul plans to visit Roman church but in prison (Caesarea) for 2 years then goes to Jerusalem because the collection is ready (Rom. 15:23, 25-26; 1 Cor. 16:1-3; 2 Cor. 8-9)
- Paul’s Journey to Rome (60 AD)

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- **The Church @ Rome**

- **Origins**

- Paul did not found the church @ Rome
- This is why there are fewer references to himself than say Corinthian letters or Galatians
- Early beginnings (33 AD) Pentecost connection (*diaspora* – Jews that returned back to Rome)
- Edict of Claudius (49 AD) Riots erupt in Jewish synagogues in Rome over preaching of Jesus as Messiah.

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## “The Gospel of God: Romans”

- **The Church @ Rome**

- **Origins**

- Romans 16:1 – appears that Phoebe carried letter to Rome
- Romans 16 greetings (26 people) – possible indication of 4-5 house churches in Rome at time of Paul’s letter – Ephesus connection & mutual friends
  - Similar to Colossians’ greetings (also not founded by Paul)

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- **The Church @ Rome**

- Theme

- Not written to address specific problems
- Not written in response to questions submitted
- Advance the gospel's unity
- Advocate Jew/Gentile relationships

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“The Gospel of God: Romans”

- **The Church @ Rome**

- Three-Fold Purpose

- Announce Paul’s plan to visit Rome after his return to Jerusalem. Prepare the church for his coming (Rom. 15:22-29; Acts 19:21)
- Present a complete and detailed statement of the gospel message God had called Paul to proclaim. He wanted to provide them with a clear understanding of the gospel’s meaning and ramifications for all of life—past (justification), present (sanctification), and future (glorification)

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- **The Church @ Rome**

- Three-Fold Purpose

- Explain God’s program of salvation for both Jews and Gentiles. Thus, Paul will address the relationship between the Law and Gospel—what about circumcision? What about the distinction as a Jew? Has God set aside the Jews? Has God forgotten His promises to the Jews?
- Calvin: Romans as “synthesis of law & gospel”

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- **The Church @ Rome**

- Three-Fold Purpose

- Paul' s theme (Romans 1:16-17)
  - Righteousness of God (cited 64 x's)
  - Forgiveness mentioned (zero x's)

- Paul quotes OT more in Romans than in any other NT epistle
  - He quotes from LXX rather than MT



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## ▣ **The Church @ Rome**

- Central theme (righteousness of God) 1:16-17)
- Other basic Christian doctrines in Romans:
  - Natural revelation (1:19-20)
  - Universality of sin (3:9-20)
  - Justification (3:24)
  - Propitiation (3:25)
  - Faith (4:1)
  - Original sin (5:12)

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- **The Church @ Rome**

- Other basic Christian doctrines in Romans:
  - Union with Christ (6:1)
  - Spiritual Adoption (8:12-17)
  - Election and rejection of Israel (9-11)
  - Spiritual gifts (12:3-8)
  - Government (13:1-7)

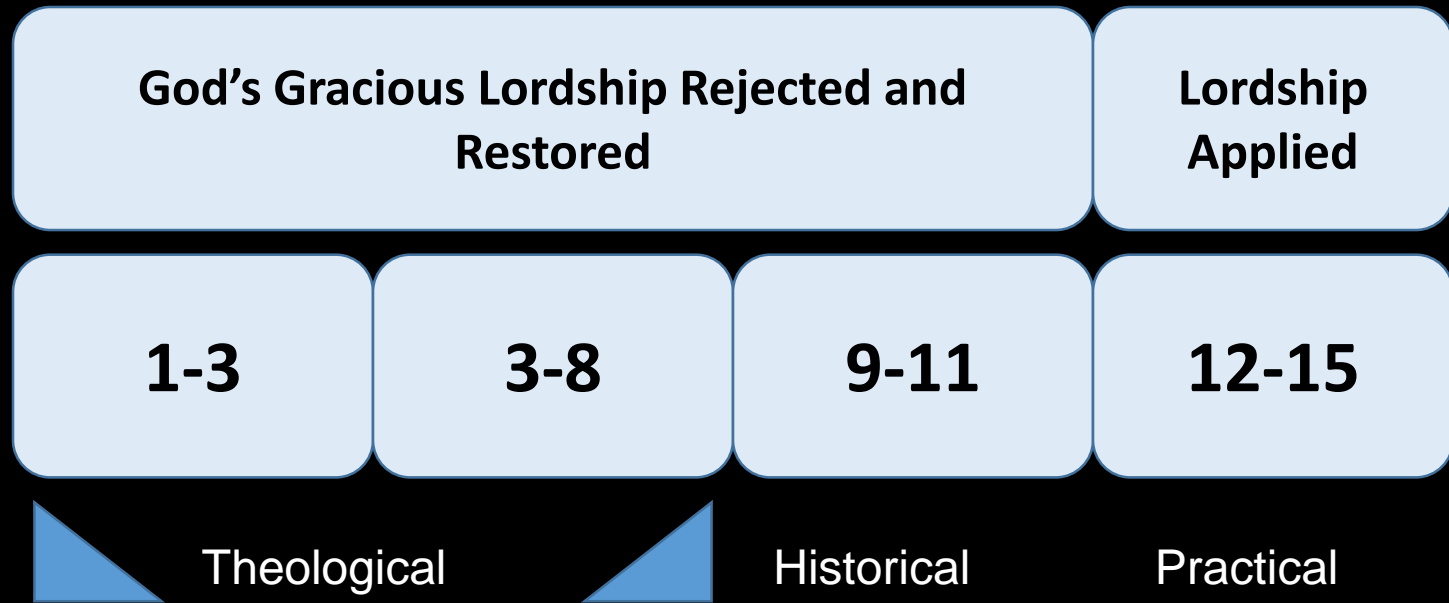
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▣ **The Roman’s Symphony: God’s Gospel**

▪ Outline

- Introduction: God’s Gospel (1:1-17) – theme stated
- Theological Development (1-8) – mvt. 1
  - Universal Guilt (1-3)
  - Universal Grace (3-8)
- Historical Development (9-11) – mvt. 2
  - Universal Promise (9)
  - Universal People (10-11)
- Practical Development (12-15) – mvt. 3
  - Universal Conduct (12:1-15:13)
  - Universal Call (15:14-33)
- Conclusion: Paul’s Greeting (16) - Finale

# From Dust to Destiny “The Gospel of God: Romans”



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“The Gospel of God: Romans”

- **Introduction: Theme, Righteousness (1:1-17)**
- **Condemnation: Righteousness Required (1b-3b)**
  - Gentile Guilt (1b)
  - Jewish Guilt (2-3a)
  - Universal Guilt (3b)
- **Justification: Righteousness Received (3c -5)**
  - Declared: Christ, our Righteousness (3c)
  - Illustrated: Abraham, a Recipient (4)
  - Commended: Christ, our Reconciliation (5a)
  - Explained: Christ, our Representative (5b)

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- **Sanctification: Righteousness Realized (6-8)**
  - The Principles: Alive to, Enslaved to Christ (6)
  - The Problem: Indwelled by, Struggle with Sin (7)
  - The Power: Indwelled by the Spirit (8)
- **Vindication: Righteousness Reserved (9-11)**
  - Israel's Past: Election (9)
  - Israel's Present: Rejection (10)
  - Israel's Future: Restoration (11)
- **Application: Righteousness Practiced (12-15)**
  - Christian Duties: To God, Others, Government (12-13)
  - Christian Liberties: To Weaker, Stronger Brothers (14-15)
- **Conclusion: Paul's Greeting (16)**

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- **Paul’s Use of Diatribe in Romans**

Passage	Question	Answer
3:3	“What if some do not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God’s faithfulness?”	“Not at all!”
3:5	“Is God unjust in bringing his wrath?”	“Not at all!”
3:9	“Are we (Jews) any better?”	“Not at all!”
6:1	“Shall we go on sinning that grace may increase?”	“Not at all!”
7:7	“Is the Law sin?”	“Not at all!”
11:1	“Did God reject His people?”	“Not at all!”

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- **Paul, Righteousness and Law**

- Romans 1:5 - “to call a people from among the Gentiles to the obedience of faith”
- Romans 1:17 - “righteousness of God is revealed in the Gospel by faith”
- Romans 2:9-10 - “trouble for evildoers” and “peace for do-gooders”
- Romans 3:21ff - “righteousness from God has been revealed apart from the Law...by faith”



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- **Paul, Righteousness and Law**

- Romans 6:16 - “slaves of obedience to righteousness”
- Romans 7:4 - “you died to the Law through the body of Christ...so we might serve by the Spirit”
- Romans 12:1-15:13 - “Offer your bodies as living sacrifices....” Give back your gifts in the body/ clothe yourself with Christ...

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- **Paul’s Hope for Israel**

- Romans 9:1-5 - Paul’s longing for Israel
- Romans 9:6ff - Not all of Abraham’s descendants are of Israel
- Romans 9:14 - God’s Mercy, Not Man’s Desire or Effort is Determinative
- Romans 9:30ff - Israel stumbled
- Romans 10:1ff - Paul’s longing for Israel

## From Dust to Destiny “The Gospel of God: Romans”

- **Paul’s Hope for Israel**

- Romans 10:4 - Christ fulfills the Law
- Romans 11:1 - God did not reject Israel
- Romans 11:5 - a remnant chosen by grace
- Romans 11:11ff - Gentiles to make Israel envious, but must realize their blessing arises from Israel
- Romans 11:25ff - All Israel shall be saved

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- **Next Week (Oct. 16)**
  - Paul’s Letters to the Church @ Corinth