

Romans – 16 Chapters

Title:

The Epistle to the Romans – because it was written to the church in Rome, the capitol of the Roman empire.

Author:

Written by Paul the apostle to the Gentiles. Paul was a strict Pharisee in Jerusalem until he had a revelation of Christ on the road to Damascus. Paul spent the rest of his life as a missionary proclaiming Jesus to Gentiles around the Mediterranean. Paul wrote 13 of the Books of the New Testament.

Occasion and Purpose:

Paul had completed his missionary work in the eastern Mediterranean and was planning to go to Spain in the west to proclaim Jesus there. He was planning to stop in Rome on the way, to bless them and to solicit their support for his westward mission. This epistle was written to introduce Paul to the Roman church and solicit their support. He did this by explaining his ministry and the Gospel he preached. He showed that all people, Jews and Gentiles are under the same condemnation, and are saved by the same faith in the same Christ. By doing this he showed that his ministry was not anti-law or anti-Jewish, and he also addressed the tension in the Roman church between Jews and Gentiles.

Themes:

1. **The Gospel** – The good news of what Jesus has done, and the implications for all people. God has worked in Jesus to save all who believe without distinction of ethnicity or status
2. **The Righteousness of God** – This theme has a few aspects:
 - a. **The Righteousness of God Himself** – God is demonstrated Himself to be just, upholding justice in condemning and saving
 - b. **The Righteousness from God** – This is God's righteousness, which He grants by grace to those who believe in Jesus
 - c. **This Righteousness is apart from Law** – it does not come from obedience to the Law of Moses or any works that people can do
3. **Justification by Grace, through Faith** – our experience of being reckoned righteous by God is caused by God's grace, which is received by our trust in God
4. **Sanctified by the Spirit through Faith** – Those who are saved are progressively changed to holiness of character by the work of God's Spirit. Believers cooperate in this life change by the obedience of faith.
5. **God has not failed** – The inclusion of the Gentiles and the rejection of Christ by many Jews is not the failure of God's plan, but is the working of God's plan to reach the entire world with the Gospel of Christ.
6. **Jews and Gentiles Together** – All people are alike in their need for salvation and in their manner of salvation through faith in Christ.

Summary:

The Good News is that Salvation has come from Christ to all who believe. All are under the same condemnation because of sin, and all who believe are saved through the atoning sacrifice of Christ. This salvation brings life change and freedom from the condemnation of sin, but also from the power of sin in the believer's life. God's salvation encompasses both Jews and Gentiles in a plan to humble and to have mercy on all people groups. Believers should therefore respond with the obedience of faith and living for Christ in all aspects of life by the work of God's Spirit

Organization:

The Gospel Proclaimed – chs. 1-11	Introduction – 1:1-17
	1:1-7 Salutation and introduction 1:6-15 Paul's plans to visit Rome (and then to Spain) 1:16-17 Theme Statement – The Gospel is God's power for salvation
	Wrath is Revealed – 1:18-3:22
	1:18-32 All people without excuse are under wrath 2:1-16 All people, even if they know the Law are under wrath 2:17-29 Jews, who have the Law, don't keep the Law, and are under wrath 3:1-8: God is right, all people are wrong 3:9-20 Conclusion – no one is righteous
	Righteousness is Revealed – 3:23-4:25
	3:21-26 God revealed His righteousness through the atonement of Christ, through faith 3:27-31 God's righteousness is through faith, not the Law 4:1-25 This is proven by Abraham – the model of righteousness through faith
	Righteousness is Applied – 5:1-8:39
5:1-11 We have peace and reconciliation with God 5:12-21 Jesus and the new humanity, contrasted with the old humanity in Adam 6:1-14 Shall we go on sinning? NO because we died to sin in Christ 6:15-23 Is grace a free ticket to sin? NO because you are a slave to what you obey 7:1-6 We are freed from the burden of the law by death 7:7-25 the Law is good, but it is used by sin, and is powerless to overcome sin 8:1-17 What the Law could not do, God did in Christ by grace, by His Spirit 8:28-39 Implication of all this – God in Christ is for us, nothing can hinder Him	
The Gospel Applied – chs. 12-16	Righteousness is Vindicated – 9:1-11:36
	9:1-29 True Israel vs. National Israel - God's people are by promise, not ethnicity 9:30-10:21 True Israel is righteous through faith 11:1-32 National Israel will be included in True Israel - God is not done, and God will not fail 11:33-36 Doxology – Praise for God's wisdom in His salvation
	Righteousness is Lived out – 12:1-15:13
	12:1-2 Lived to God – living sacrifice, not conformed, but transformed 12:3-21 Lived to the Church – Using gifts, loving one another, overcoming evil with good 13:1-7 Lived to the state – Submit to authority and pay taxes 13:8-14 Lived to the neighbor – Love one another and live morally 14:1-15:13 Lived to the weaker brother – Accept them without judging and help them
	Greetings and Closing – 15:14-16:27
	15:14-22 Paul explains his own ministry and its purpose 15:23-33 Paul's intention to evangelize Spain with the help of the Romans 16:1-16 Greetings 16:17-27 Blessing and Peace Wish

Key Verses:

1:16-17; 1:18-25; 2:1; 3:9-20; 3:21-26; 3:27-31; 4:1-5, 16, 20-25; 5:1-2, 6-11; 6:1-4, 11-14; 6:15-16, 19-23; 7:4-6; 7:21-25; 8:1-4, 12-14; 8:16-18; 8:28-32, 38-39; 9:1-8; 9:9-24; 9:30-10:4; 10:8-15; 11:30-32; 11:33-36; 12:1-2; 12:21, 13:14; 14:1, 7-8, 12-13; 14:17-19; 15:15-22; 15:23-24; 16:19-20