

Romans

Outline:

- 1:1-17 Introduction
- 1:18-3:20 We **DESPERATELY NEED** God's righteousness, both Jews & Greeks.
- 3:21-5:21 God offers us the gift of His righteousness, **JUSTIFICATION**.
- 9:1-11:36 Our faithful, merciful **GOD IS IN CONTROL**.
- 12:1-15:13 We are told how righteous people should **RELATE TO OTHERS**.
- 15:4-16:27 Personal Notes

(adapted from The Revell Bible Dictionary, page 875)

Background

"The event that split history into 'before' and 'after' and changed the world took place thirty years before Paul wrote this letter. The event – the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus – took place in remote corner of the extensive Roman Empire: the province of Judea in Palestine. Hardly anyone noticed, certainly no one in busy and powerful Rome." (The Message, by Eugene Peterson, page 306)

"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. It was full of magnificent buildings, but the majority of the people were slaves; opulence and squalor coexisted in this imperial city." (Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts, page 380)

"Nero Claudius Caesar was not named in Scripture, but his reign of terror significantly affected New Testament events and the development of the early church. It was

to Nero's court that the apostle Paul appealed his case (Acts 25:10,11) and in which he was probably acquitted. However, in A.D. 64, Nero accused the Christians of starting a fire that destroyed much of Rome. He instituted a brutal local purge, which seems to have served later as a precedent for Empire-wide persecution. One tradition, probably authentic, says that both Paul and Peter were put to death in Rome during Nero's reign." (The Revell Bible Dictionary, page 730.)



ROMAN FORUM
This is probably where Paul stood trial before Nero.
(picture from truthforlife.org)

The Letter

The book of Romans was written by the apostle Paul on his third missionary journey. At the end of the letter (Romans 15:23-29), he tells the Romans he hopes to deliver the money he collected for the poor in Jerusalem before he comes to see them. He has not visited the church in Rome yet, but he prays for

them constantly (Romans 1:9-10)

Romans gives us one of the best looks at the gospel. So much is explained in this book. He explains our need for God, justification by faith, what God does for us through Jesus, the struggle we all have with sin, the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, God's sovereignty, being a

living sacrifice, submission to the governing authorities, accepting others when we disagree, and more. You will be blessed by coming to a better understanding of this book.

What does Peter say about Paul's writings?
2 Peter 3:15-16

Words to Mark

Law
grace/gift
flesh
justification
Holy Spirit/Spirit
Righteousness
faith/believe
circumcised
gospel
death/die
free
sin
foreknew/predestined

INTRODUCTION (1:1-17)

What do we learn about the gospel? (1-5): Who? What? Why?

What do we learn about Paul's relationship to the Romans? What reasons does he give for wanting to come see them? (9-15)

How does Paul feel about the gospel? (16)

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Can others see the church's faith?

Can they see my faith?

Am I ever ashamed of the gospel

SINFULNESS OF MAN (1:17-32)"

What do we learn about faith and Christians? (5, 8, 12, 17)

"Since the beginning of the world, the unseen qualities of God – His unseen power and His divinity – could be clearly seen and understood from what God made. They have no excuse."

What two things are revealed? (17-18)

Why are we without excuse? (19-20)

It has been said, "Knowledge does not dictate action." The people knew God, but what did they do or not do, despite knowledge? (21-23)

What do we exchange for God's glory? (23)
(See also 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.)



God reacts to their rejection of Him by "giving them over to" what? (24-28)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What truths do we exchange for lies? (25) Is that a good trade?

Describe how the people become. (29-32)

They didn't just practice this themselves. What else did they do? (32)
(See also 1 John 1:8-10, 3:2-10; discuss "practice.")

JUDGING (2:1-11)

In Romans 1:20 we were “without excuse” for not seeing & believing in God. Why is man without excuse in Romans 2:1-3? (see also Matthew 7:1-5)



“you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.”

The word for “do” here is the Greek word *prasso*. It means “to practice” i.e. perform repeatedly.” Does that have any significance for this passage?

Where do I judge others when I am doing the same thing? (what about forgiving – Matthew 18:21ff)

What causes repentance (2-4)?

Contrast what happens to:
The Repentant Heart



The Unrepentant Heart

THE LAW (2:12-16)

What is the Law? How does it justify (2:13)? (see also James 2:8-13)

In 2:15, how does it describe the way some Gentiles act who do not have the Law? (1 John 3:18-21)

How will we be judged, by the Law or some other way (2:16)? What will be judged?

What can be done about our secrets? (Ephesians 5:11-14 & James 5:16)

THE JEWS & THE LAW (2:17-29)

How are the Jews described who rely on the Law (2:17-20)? Have we (or I) ever been this way?

Romans 2:21-23 goes back to the beginning of the chapter. What is Paul asking them? What is the lesson for us?

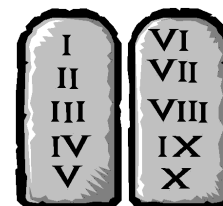
What were the Jews causing the Gentiles to do (2:24)? Do we as Christians ever do that?

What is important about circumcision (2:25-29)?

How are we circumcised in Christ (Colossians 2:9-12)?

Words to Mark:

judge or judgment
law
heart
circumcision
Jew
sin or transgress



*“circumcision is
circumcision of the
heart”*

GOD IS FAITHFUL (3:1-8)

What was the advantage of being a Jew (3:1-2)?

Do we have any similar advantages (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)?

Does their (or our) lack of faith make God unfaithful (3:4)? (also Psalm 86:15; 117:2; 119:75)

What question is asked in 3:5-8?

WORDS TO MARK:

believe or faith
circumcised
judge
liar, lie or deceit
Law
justify
gift or grace

NO ONE IS RIGHTEOUS (3:9-20)

God is the great equalizer. Where are both Jews & Gentiles (3:9)?

*"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **and** are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."*

Verses 10-18 quote several passages from Psalms, Ecclesiastes, & Isaiah. How is man described?

What would my response be to someone who treated me this way?

What is said about man's state before God at this point?

If the Law does not make us righteous, what does it do (3:20)? Do I realize that I am a sinner? (see also Hebrews 8:6-7)

RIGHTEOUS BY FAITH (3:21-31)

How does God view the Jew & Gentile now (3:22-23)?

How are we justified & made righteous (3:24)?

What is grace?

Is anyone allowed to boast (3:27)? (also 1 Corinthians 1:26-31)

What role do faith and works play in our being justified (3:28)?

What role do the Law and the Prophets play in this (3:21, 31 & Matthew 5:17)?



"freely by His grace"



*"However, to the man who does not **work** but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness."*

ABRAHAM JUSTIFIED BY WORKS? (4:1-8)

Of all the people, who would the Jews look to as the most prominent in their faith? Why?

How was Abraham justified?

Is James 2:17-26, in complete disagreement with what is taught here in Romans?

What is faith?

What about Galatians 5:6?

Paul quotes David from Psalms 32. (Read verses 1-5.) What is David saying? How did he know?

ABRAHAM JUSTIFIED BEFORE HE WAS CIRCUMCISED? (4:9-12)

Remember that this letter was written in part to Jewish Christians who wanted the Gentile Christians to follow the Law, which said you need to be circumcised.

What happened in Genesis 17:9-14, between Abraham and God?

When was Abraham said to be righteous before God? Why? (Genesis 15:4-6)

Was Abraham circumcised at the time God declared Abraham righteous? had Abraham been told to be circumcised at that time?

According to Ephesians 1:13, what is our seal that guarantees our inheritance?

WORDS TO MARK:

righteous
faith/believe
justifies/justified
circumcised
Law
dead
promise

THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM (4:13-25)

When did the Law come into being? Was Abraham ever under the Law?

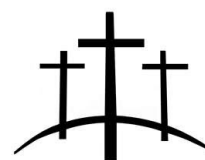
What do we learn about god's covenant with Abraham from the following verses?

- Genesis 13:14-17
- Genesis 15:1-7
- Genesis 15:18-21
- Genesis 17:1-8

How is Abraham's faith described? (4:18-21; Hebrews 11:17-19)

What are we called to believe?

Which is harder to do, trust God or do good works?



"He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification."

GOD'S DEMONSTRATION OF LOVE (4:25-5:11)

from the Simple English New Testament, changed "we" to "I", "us" to "me," etc.

Jesus was handed over to die for my sins. He was raised from death to make me right with God. Since I have been made right with God by faith, I have peace with God through my Lord Jesus Christ. Through Jesus, I have access by faith into this favor where I now stand. I feel good, because now I can hope for the glory of God. Not only that, I can feel good about my troubles, because I know that suffering develops endurance. Endurance develops character. Character develops hope. And, hope never disappoints me, because God's love has been poured into my heart through the Holy Spirit who was given to me.

While I was still helpless and ungodly, Christ died for me – at exactly the right time. It is rare when someone dies for another person – even for a good person. However, some do dare to die for a good man. But God reassures me of His love for me in this way: While I was still a sinner, Christ died for me!

Since Christ's blood has made me right with God, even more I will be saved from God's punishment through Christ. I was God's enemy, but the death of His Son was used to make me God's friend. Now that I have become a friend of God, I will be saved even more by Christ's life. Not only that, I feel good about being in God through my Lord Jesus Christ. I now have friendship with God through Christ,

QUESTIONS (4:25-5:11)

WORDS TO MARK:

believe or faith

gift or grace

Jesus

die/death

love

sin/trespass/transgression

righteousness

justification

Why can we "feel good about our troubles"? (James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-9; Hebrews 12:7-11)

"I feel good" is repeated 3 times. romans begins by telling why I shouldn't feel good. In Jesus I can feel good. Do you feel good? Has anyone ever showed you such love? (John 15:13)

What does the above passage say about God's timing? What does Abraham's life show us about God's timing?

What words are used to describe us before and after Jesus?

Before:

After:

ADAM & JESUS (5:12-21)



What entered the world through Adam (5:12)?

What reigned from Adam until Moses (5:14)?

Describe what came through Adam compared what came through Jesus:

Adam

Jesus

How is Adam a foreshadowing, type or pattern of Jesus (5:14)?

Notice how often grace & gift are mentioned. What reigns now (5:21)?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT FROM ME?



"...don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?"

We can all identify with the book of Romans. It begins by telling me I am a sinner (chapter 1). It tells the Jews and us not to think too much of our selves or to judge others (chapter 2). We are all the same, lost sinners, without God's gift of Jesus (chapter 3). Just as Abraham was justified by faith, so are we (chapter four). Chapter five looks at what God did through Jesus. It is such a beautiful chapter. We started as sinners, now we are God's friend.

Now that we've learned what God has done for us, it is time to see what God wants from us. Do you ever wonder what God wants from you? Is it as simple as going to worship and not doing bad things? We've spent quite a bit of our time in Romans talking about how I cannot earn my salvation. If I believe, I'm done, right? What else is there for me to do? I am already saved.

Salvation is just the beginning. God has great expectations for each one of us!

GOD WANTS ME TO DIE TO SIN (6:1-14)

Just as in 3:5, Paul again asks, "If my sinning increases God's grace, shouldn't I keep sinning?" A similar question is asked in 6:1 & 6:15. If I am saved by grace, why can't I continue to sin?

What does God want me to do? (See also John 12:24-45; Colossians 3:5.)

How is baptism described? (See also Galatians 2:20.)

What do I die to? What am I freed from? Does that mean I won't sin anymore? (1 John 3:7-10)

What kind of instrument am I (6:13)?

WORDS TO MARK:

dead/death
freed/free
sin
grace
righteousness

GOD WANTS ME TO BE HIS SLAVE (6:15-23)

Paul begins by asking again, can I continue to sin since I am under grace? (6:15)

We will be slaves to someone. How is the choice made (6:16)?

From where did my obedience come? What did I obey (6:17)?

What's the difference (6:19, 23)?

Slave to Sin

Slave to Righteousness



"...you have been set free from sin and become slaves to God."

THE STRUGGLE TO BE RIGHTEOUS

Romans says:

The world is sinful. (ch. 1)

I am not to judge; God will judge. (ch. 2)

We are all sinners, so God sent Jesus. (ch. 3)

Even Abraham was saved by faith. (ch. 4)

Jesus changes everything for us. (ch. 5)

God wants my response to be one of dying to sin & being His slave. (ch. 6)

The Emotional Response

Sad

Fear

Guilt, then Hope

Relief

Joy!

Thoughtful

Romans has taken us from the beginning where we recognize that everyone of us is a sinner, to realizing that we are saved by Jesus. Because of what God has done through Jesus, He has some expectations. Will I die to myself and become God's slave? He has freed me from my slavery to sin. Will I now live a new life of obedience to Him? YES!!! We're all done, right? Then why, despite my best efforts, do I still sin?

RELEASED FROM THE LAW (7:1-16)

WORDS TO MARK:

Law
death/die
commandment
sin
new
Spirit

How long does the Law have authority over me (7:1)?

How long am I tied to my spouse (7:2)?

What has caused our death to the Law (7:4)?

What is the old way? What is the new way (7:6)?

God is good at new things! (Isaiah 43:18-19; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

What did the Law do (7:7)?

What did sin do (7:11)?



"...waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members."

STRUGGLING WITH SIN (7:17-25)

What does Paul's mind want to do?

What does his body want to do?

Is there any good in Paul (7:18)?

How does Paul describe himself (7:24)?

What is the answer to Paul's trouble (7:25)?

BY THE SPIRIT (8:1-17)

In ME!

"the Spirit of God lives in you." (8:9)

"Christ in you" (8:10)

Why is there **no** condemnation? Who? How? (8:1-3)

Where is my mind set? What does that mean? Who controls me? (8:5, 6, 9)

How do I know if I belong to Christ? (8:9)

Who is living in me? (8:11)

What three things does the Spirit do in my life? (8:13-16)

A BRIGHT FUTURE (8:1-30)

What is not worth comparing? (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

What are we waiting for? How are we waiting? (8:19, 22-25)

What is creation subject to or in bondage to? (8:21; Genesis 3:17-19; Psalm 39:5-7; Ecclesiastes 1:2)

Can you see hope? What goes along with hope? (8:24-25)

How else does the Spirit help us? (8:26-27)

WORDS TO MARK:

Spirit
Law
flesh
sin
dead/death
Jesus/Christ
free/freedom
love

MORE THAN CONQUERORS & UNSEPERABLE LOVE (8:31-39)

What does verse 18 mean?

What progression do we see in verses 28-30? Define the words below:

foreknew -

predestined -

called -

justified -

glorified -

Are people predestined to be saved without any choice, or does God know before what choices each person makes and He makes plans based on what He knows?

Who can be against us? (8:31)

How has God proven His willingness to give? (8:32)

What can separate us from God's love?



*"I am sure that **nothing** will be able to separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

CHAPTER NINE – GOD’S CHOICE

Why is Paul so upset? (9:1-4)

Did God’s word fail? (9:6)

Who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring? (9:8)

Why did God choose Jacob over Esau? (9:10-13)

Why did God “raise up” Pharaoh? (9:17-18; Exodus 4:21; 7:3; 14:4, 17)

Does God still move people’s hearts today?

So how can God blame me? (9:19-21)

Does God have a purpose in what He does? (9:22-24)

What happened to Israel? (9:30-32)



*“I will have mercy
on whom I have
mercy, and I will
have compassion on
whom I have
compassion.”*

CHAPTER TEN – BELIEVE OR NOT BELIEVE

What was lacking in Israel’s zeal? (10:1-4)

How are we justified and saved? (10:5-9; Deuteronomy 30:11-14)

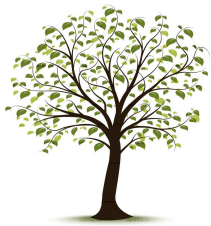
Romans 10:13 & Matthew 7:21

Who has beautiful fee? (10:15)

From where does faith come? (10:17)

What is God’s position towards unbelieving Israel? (Romans 10:21)

CHAPTER ELEVEN – ISRAEL’S CHOICE & OURS



*“they were broken
off because of
unbelief, and you
stand by faith.”*

Did God reject Israel? (11:1)

Who was hardened? (11:7-8)

Why were they hardened? (11:11-12)

To what does God compare His people? (11:17-21)

What keeps Israel and us on God’s vine, in His kindness? (11:20-23)

What happens as a result of disobedience? (11:30-32)

Can we know the mind of God? (11:34)



"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us."

LIVING SACRIFICES (12:1-8)

How does God want us to respond to the mercy He has shown us? (12:1)

How am I transformed? What am I transforming into? (12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18)

How do I renew my mind?

How do I know God's will for me? (12:2)

How should I think of myself? (12:3)

Has God given me faith?

Who has been given a gift? (12:4-8; Ephesians 4:7; 1 Peter 4:10) Is this a miraculous gift?

What are we suppose to do with our gift?

Do you know what your gift is? Do you have more than one? Can it change?

PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS (12:9-21)

List specific instructions :

What guidelines are we given on how to treat others? (12:9-13)

How would living by Romans 12:12 change your life?

How should we treat those who are:

- persecuting us or evil to us –
- rejoicing –
- mourning –

What attitude should we have about ourselves?

Who should we associate with?

How do we overcome evil? (12:21) To what areas of our lives does this verse apply?

AUTHORITY, DEBT, & LIGHT (CHAPTER 13)

How should we act toward the government? (13:1)

Who establishes governing authorities? All of them? What about the bad ones?

What power has God given the government?

What two reasons are given for our submitting to the government? (13:5)

What does God say about owing taxes or debts?

What one type of debt are we allowed to remain outstanding?

What can a person do to fulfill the law? What is the “law” referring to? (13:8-10)

What is Paul’s last admonition? What reason does he give for it? (13:11-14)



“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another.”

WEAK OR STRONG (CHAPTER 14)

What two things should we do to those who we disagree about “disputable” matters? (14:2)

What example of a disagreement is given in verse 3?

What example is given in verse five?

Who do we belong to? (14:8)

What should we stop doing? (14:13)

What is a stumbling block? (14:13)

Where should you put your effort? (14:19)

What does verse 23 say about following your conscience?



“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.”

HOW TO TREAT OTHERS (15:1-13)

How should we treat others who are weaker? (15:1)

Who should we please? (15:2)

What do we get from the Scripture (The Old Testament)? (15:4)

What comes when we are united and follow Christ? (15:5-6)

What results from us accepting each other? (15:7)

What do we need to do to be filled with joy and peace? (15:13)

*“May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and
peace as you **trust** in
him, so that you may
overflow with hope by
the power of the Holy
Spirit.”*



PAUL'S MINISTRY (15:14-33)

About what is Paul reminding the Romans? (15:14-15)

To who was Paul a minister? (15:16)

Who does Paul give credit to for the work he is doing? (15:18-19)

What are Paul's plans to come to Rome? (15:24-25)

How do things turn out differently for him? (Acts 25:8-12; 27:1)

How does Paul ask the Romans to join with him in his work? (15:30-31)

GREETINGS & CLOSING REMARKS (CHAPTER SIXTEEN)

What are some of the ways Paul describes the people he is greeting?

How do you think would Paul describe you in a letter?

What people does Paul warn the Romans to avoid? (16:17-18)

What had everyone heard about the Romans? (16:19)

What does it mean to be “wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil”?
(16:19)