

1. Romans may be the most important book of the Bible.
 - 1) William Tyndale
 - 2) St. Augustine
 - 3) Martin Luther
 - 4) John Bunyan
 - 5) John Wesley
 - 6) J.I. Packer

2. The two parts of the Book of Romans:
 - 1) Chapters 1-11: Doctrine and Theology

 - 2) Chapters 12-16: Application to our lives

3. The Introduction: Romans 1:1-15
 - 1) Formal salutation: Romans 1:1-7

 - 2) His eagerness to visit them in Rome: Romans 1:8-15

 - 3) The bridge to the main argument of the book: Romans 1:16, 17

4. The Salutation

1) Paul

- a) A servant of Christ

- b) An apostle

- c) One set apart for the Gospel of God

2) The Gospel

- a) It is theocentric.

- b) It was promised beforehand by the prophets

- c) It concerns God's Son Jesus Christ who was "marked out" by the resurrection

- d) The goal of the Gospel is to call people to obedience that comes from faith.

- e) Summary: Romans 1:16, 17
 - i. Salvation is by faith alone.

 - ii. Salvation is offered to all people.

 - iii. This salvation is consistent with what the Old Testament taught.

5. The "Righteousness of God"

- 1) That expression is used eight times in the Book of Romans

- a) It is used three times to refer to God's attribute of justice (3:5, 25, 26)
- b) It is used five more times in 1:16, 17; 3:21, 22; 10:3 (2x)
- c) It means "the righteousness that God imparts or imputes to all who believe in His Son".
 - i. It is apart from works of the Law. (Romans 3:28; 4:1-8, 23-25)
 - ii. It is not our own. (Philippians 3:9)
 - iii. It is the gift of God. (Romans 5:17)
 - iv. It is received by faith. (Romans 1:17; 9:30-10:4; Galatians 2:15-21)
 - v. "Christ our righteousness" sums it up. (1 Corinthians 1:30)

6. Paul is writing to a group of Christians he has not yet met.

- 1) It is written from Corinth.
- 2) Paul's secret of success:
 - a) He knew who he was.
 - b) He prayed all the time.
 - c) He had a clear sense of purpose.
 - d) He felt a heavy obligation - he owed people the Gospel.

1. The doctrinal section is chapters 1-11.

The introduction, the first subsection, is 1:1-15.

The statement of the book's main theme, "the Gospel of God" is 1:16,17.

2. Romans 1:18-3:20 is the second subsection.

2) All people are guilty and without excuse before God.

2) Romans 3:23 sums it all up: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

3. Paul begins by turning his attention to those who have never acknowledged the Lord as their God.

4. Romans 1:18-32 is important because:

3) It tells us that all human beings, by virtue of their creation in God's image, know that their Creator exists and is powerful.

4) We learn that all people are responsible to respond to the light given them by their Creator.

It helps answer the age-old questions, "What happens to people who have never heard the Gospel? Is it fair for God to judge the heathen who have never heard? How can God judge people, even if they are guilty, if they never had a chance to repent? (Jeremiah 29:13)

5) We learn that there is a universal tendency to suppress the knowledge of God that is innate in every person.

5. There is a chilling progression in chapter 1.

- 1) They did not glorify God.
- 2) They did not give thanks.
- 3) They exchanged God's glory for that of corruptible things.
- 4) They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and God gave them over.
- 5) They exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones and God gave them over to a depraved mind.
- 6) His Spirit stops striving with man, and man is given over to "reprobation".

6. Homosexuality is not an acceptable lifestyle in God's view in the Old or New Testament.

7. The terrible list of sins on Romans 1 includes: murder, strife, deceit, malice, disobedience to parents, envy and gossip.

8. A solid evangelistic principle: Before we can welcome the good news, we must first understand the bad news.

9. Chapter 1 proves that the Gentiles are living under the curse of sin and can do nothing to merit God's acceptance. Chapter 2 draws the same conclusion about the Jews.

10. Romans 2:4: "Or do you show contempt for the riches of His kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?"

11. What is needed is an inner circumcision - a circumcision of the heart.

1. Romans 3 is a monumental “great chapter” of the Bible.

- 1) It tells me why Christ had to die.
- 2) It explains what really happened on the cross.

2. Romans 1:18-3:20

- 3) All people are under the wrath of God because of sin.
- 4) Gentiles cannot use the excuse of ignorance of special revelation.
- 5) Jews are held accountable because they hold the very words of God.
- 6) Having the Law exposes you to greater condemnation.
 - a) The first objection to this statement that Paul deals with: Then what is the advantage in being a Jew?
 - b) The second objection: How can God punish the Jews - He has promised to be their God - that would make Him unfaithful?
 - c) The third objection: If the wickedness of the Jews shows God’s justice, then it would be unfair to punish them for it.
- 7) The conclusion of the matter, bolstered by many Old Testament proof texts is that everyone - Jew and Gentile - is under the power of sin and has failed to keep God’s law.

3. Justification

- 1) “Justification is a legal sentence or declaration issued by God in which He pronounces the person in question free from any fault or guilt and acceptable in His sight.”

- 2) Justification is a “forensic” or “legal” term.
- 3) Justification by works means perfectly keeping all the law. This is not possible.
- 4) Justification by faith is the Gospel method.

4. The Doctrine of Total Depravity

- 1) It does not mean that individuals never do anything good.
- 2) It does mean that we are totally unable to contribute anything to our own salvation.

5. The Gospel - The Good News (Romans 3:21ff)

- 7) “BUT”
- 8) “A righteousness from God has been made known.”
 - a) It comes FROM God.
 - b) It comes through faith.
 - c) It comes to all who believe.

6. Our interpretive scheme: (From passages we have already read...)

- 1) Prophecy: Jesus Christ’s death (Psalm 22; Christ’s own words in the Gospel of Luke)
- 2) Fact: Dr. Luke, the historian
- 3) Interpretation: Romans 3:21-26 explains His death and educates us in terms of its significance.

7. Words to notice:

- 1) Justified
- 2) Redemption
- 3) Sacrifice of Atonement or Propitiation
- 4) Grace

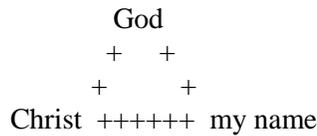
1. What really happened on the cross?

1) Justification

a) It is a “forensic” or “legal” term.

b) Since we cannot be justified by a personal righteousness, we need an “imputed” or “credited” righteousness.

c) The triangle illustration



2) Redemption

a) This is a “commercial” or “financial” term.

b) It means to buy something back.

c) It contains the idea that a price has been paid for that which was held captive.

d) Redemption is well illustrated in the Book of Hosea.

e) I Peter 1:18, 19: “For you know it was not with perishable things such a silver and gold that you were redeemed...but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without defect or blemish.”

3) Propitiation

a) It is a “religious” word.

b) It means “to turn away the wrath of” (God, in this case.)

c) God cannot allow sin to go unpunished without ceasing to be perfect.

- d) The difference between “Christian” and “pagan” propitiation is that God Himself took the initiative - He paid the price. (John 3:16)

2. These three transactions all occurred the moment Christ cried out, “It is finished!”

3. The “why” of the cross is explained in verse 26 - so that He might be both “just and the justifier”.

4. Two last things:

- 1) The work of Christ on Calvary’s cross is appropriated to any individual on the basis of faith.
- 2) All I can do is simply “believe” and “receive”.

1. Outline of Romans thus far

- 1) Introduction (1:1-15)
- 2) Bridge verses; statement of theme (1:16,17)
- 3) No one will be justified by works (1:18-3:20)

2. From 3:21 through the end of chapter 5, Paul explains what “justification by faith” really means.

- 1) The end of Chapter 3 - explanation of what it means
- 2) Chapter 4 - Abraham as an example
- 3) Chapter 5:1-11 - Blessings that come to us because of it
- 4) Chapter 5:12-21 - Parallel between Adam and Christ as representatives of the human race

3. God’s method for offering salvation to mankind has never really changed.

- 1) Credited or imputed righteousness

Abraham, the friend of God

David, the man after God’s own heart

- 2) Christianity, in the mind of the people, was not a totally new thing from the Jewish religion of the Old Testament.

- 3) The last part of Chapter 4 illustrates the Gospel method of “justification by faith” through Abraham’s life.

- a) Object of his faith
- b) Strength of his faith
- c) Ground of his faith
- d) Result of his faith
- e) Record of his faith

4. It is impossible to over-emphasize the importance of faith

- 1) God has taken the initiative but we must believe.
- 2) The key to activating the promise is faith.
- 3) We are saved BY grace THROUGH faith.
- 4) “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” (Hebrews 11:6)

5. Romans Chapter 5

- 1) The results of justification by faith:
 - a) Peace
 - b) Hope
 - c) Joy
- 2) The comparison between Adam and Jesus Christ:
 - a) Both represented all of mankind.
 - b) The meaning of “As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” (I Corinthians 15:22)
 - c) Adam was our “federal head.” Christ represents us in righteousness.