

## 45 – Romans: What We Believe and Why

- Romans contains a **powerful message**, the most important message we will ever hear, yet the world does not want to hear it. It is the Christian's book of doctrine. It solidly presents the main points of our faith:

- **God is holy, man is corrupt**
- **Man cannot change his nature, or save himself**
- **The Law cannot save, it merely points out sin**
- **God has a plan to save us, through His Son Jesus**
- **We are justified (made right, or righteous, with God) by Jesus**
- **We can now lead a holy life, by the power of the Holy Spirit**
- **God has not rejected the Jews; He has a plan to save them, too**



### COMMENTARIES:

- Every great spiritual revival in the church is linked to a deeper knowledge of Romans (*Godet, Swiss comm.*)
- "the true masterpiece of the NT and the very purest Gospel..." (*Martin Luther*)
- Chrysostom, early church father, had the book read to him twice a week.
- Coleridge said it was the most profound writing that exists (anywhere).
- Brought Michael Faraday (English physicist) to salvation
- Saved John Bunyan (author of *Pilgrim's Progress*)
- "Romans IS the Gospel" (*Newell*)
- "The book of Romans is the most complete and penetrating statement of God's divine plan for the redemption God has given us." (*Missler*)
- The only remedy for man's sin is the perfect remedy that we have in Christ, that which God has provided for a lost race. This is the great message of Romans. (*McGee*)
- This book is addressed to "all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints." Did not address to the "church in Rome," may indicate several churches, several bodies of believers here. There were both Jews and Gentiles in the Roman church, but the majority are Gentiles. Paul saw himself as an apostle mostly to the Gentiles (11:13). The letter to the saints in Rome was **written at the close of Paul's 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey**, during his time in Greece, and before his return to Jerusalem, probably 57-58 AD.
- There were likely **several reasons** for this letter. Having never been to Rome, Paul wanted to minister to this church from afar. He wanted to announce his plans to visit soon. He wished to present a complete and detailed record and account of the good news of Jesus that he proclaimed wherever he went. He also wanted to address the mounting tension between Jews and Gentiles, and set a permanent record of God's desires for both. This is a declaration of God's plan of salvation by grace, through faith.
- **Serious issues tackled head on.** This book will most likely challenge the reader, and even **offend** some. Remember it is God speaking through Paul. This is not just a man's letter, but God's Word. If you are challenged, don't get angry at me or at Paul. You can take your anger directly to God. Ask God what He means, and why this angers you. To others, it will be a profound book that defines their beliefs and their faith in our awesome God. To most it is life changing.
- Theme is "**The grace of God revealed.**" It is about His righteousness and grace, and our sin. **GRACE = God's Riches At Christ's Expense**

## Highlights

### MAN IS SINFUL, GOD IS HOLY, JEWS ARE GUILTY, GENTILES ARE GUILTY, THE WHOLE WORLD IS GUILTY, MAN CANNOT CHANGE HIS NATURE, HE NEEDS TO BE SAVED (Ch 1-3)

Greetings, 1:1-7; Desire to visit Rome 1:8-15; just live by faith, 1:16-17; God's wrath on unrighteousness (Gentiles guilty before God), 1:18-32; God's righteous Judgment, man not excused, 2:1-16, Jews just as guilty as Gentiles, 2:17-24; Circumcision won't save them, 2:25-29; advantages to being Jew, but doing evil does not glorify God, 3:1-8; Everyone (whole world) is sinner, knowledge of law reveals sin but does not save from it, all fall short of God's glory, but obtain His righteousness, justification and redemption through Jesus, 3:9-20; no one can boast, 3:27-31

### WE ARE JUSTIFIED (Declared righteous!) BY JESUS, THROUGH FAITH IN HIM (Ch 4-5)

Abraham justified by faith, David described this, 4:1-8; Abraham justified before circumcised, so circumcision didn't matter, all about faith, 4:9-25; Because we are justified, we are at peace with God through Jesus, can even rejoice in trials that work for our good, our hope will not disappoint us, 5:1-5; Jesus died in our place, justified by His blood, saved from wrath, now reconciled with God, 5:6-11; Man's judgment entered through one man, salvation is also through the sacrifice of one Man, obedient unto death, it is a free gift, 5:12-21

## SALVATION, SANCTIFICATION, VICTORY, LIBERTY IN JESUS (Ch 6-8)

We are dead to our old lives of sin, alive to God, put to death old sinful nature, 6:1-14; Instead of being slaves to uncleanness, unrighteousness and sin, we are now slaves of God, wages of sin are death, but the gift of God is eternal life, 6:15-23; The Law has dominion over man for life, but we are now delivered from the law, we do not serve in old letter of the Law, but in new Spirit of the Law, 7:1-6; Law exposes/teaches about sin, no sin before the Law, knowledge of Law stirred up desire to sin, but Law itself is holy, 7:7-12; Law can't save us, just points out great need to be saved, flesh continuously battles with spirit to conform to Law, but I will never meet the Law so I am thankful for Jesus who does on my behalf, 7:13-25; No condemnation in Jesus, we are free from the law of sin and death, God sent His Son to save us, life of the flesh leads to death, life in the Spirit leads to peace. God's indwelling Spirit brings life 8:1-11; We are debtors to live by the Spirit, not the flesh, those led by the Spirit of God are sons of God, spirit of bondage vs spirit of adoption, "Abba, Father." We are also heirs with God and Jesus, 8:12-17; Suffering of today can't be compared to glory to come, whole creation subject to futility, groans for redemption, we eagerly wait for it, Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we are destined to be conformed to the image of Jesus, 8:18-30; No one can be against us, God justifies us, no one can condemn us, nothing can separate us from God's love, we are more than conquerors already, 8:31-39

## GOD IS NOT THROUGH WITH ISRAEL...HE HAS A PLAN FOR THEIR SALVATION (CH 9-11)

Paul sorrows over Israel's rejection of Jesus, relates God's plan for Israel past to present, Gentiles achieved salvation through faith, Israel rejected because they sought salvation through the Law, Jesus has become a stumbling stone to the Jews, Israel needs to find salvation through Jesus, who is the "end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." Moses spoke of righteousness in the Law, the OT speaks of salvation through faith in the Lord's anointed, 10:1-13; Israel can't find salvation apart from Jesus, they need to hear the Gospel, need people to tell them, but Israel should have known through Moses and the prophets, 10:14-21; God has not cast away His people, there is a present remnant that believes, but Israel cannot be saved by works only by grace, but now Israel has not found what it was looking for, but the "elect" have. All others are blinded (Israel is blinded currently), 11:1-10; Israel's rejection is not final, although for the moment salvation has come to the Gentiles, and Israel has stumbled. Paul wants to provoke the Jews to jealousy over what the Gentiles have obtained, he wants the fullness of salvation for the Jews, who are the "holy root," Gentiles are grafted into the root (Israel), remember that the root supports us, recalls prophecies that indicate Israel will be saved, the Deliverer will come out of Zion and take away all ungodliness. Jews are Christian enemies right now, but God will show mercy to all. Israel is currently blinded, "**until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**" God's ways are beyond our understanding. Everything has its meaning/being in Him. 11:11-36

## LIVE LIKE BELIEVERS (Ch 12-14)

Live for God, our are lives living sacrifices to God. Not conformed to this world, transformed, renewed, 12:1-2; We've been given gifts to use to serve Him, 12:3-8; Life holy lives, love good, hate evil, be affectionate, kind, loving, honoring, in prayer, meeting needs of saints, rejoicing, of same mind with one another, not vindictive or having need of vengeance, humble, overcome evil with good, 12:9-21; Submit to authorities (all are from God), pay taxes, love your neighbor, live right (not like deeds of darkness and night), put on Jesus, don't give in to the flesh, 13:1-14; Do not judge each other, be convinced of what you believe, there may be different ways of expressing faith so don't judge how someone else does it. We are free from the Law, but don't judge someone who is still bound by it. Live and do unto the Lord, and die to the Lord. Alive or dead, we are the Lord's. Do not judge or show contempt to brothers in the faith. We will all stand before the judgment seat of Jesus one day, 14:1-14; Clean and unclean, freedom from the law, don't cause a brother to stumble, your ways are between you and God. 14:14-23

## CLOSING THOUGHTS AND REMINDERS (Ch 15)

Bear each other's burdens, please your neighbor before yourself, build him up, be patient, be of one mind and glorify God together, 15:1-6; Accept each other, Jew and Gentile, Jesus came for both, 15:7-12; Be filled with hope, joy and peace (in believing), empowered by the Holy Spirit. Paul knows they are aware of these things, but chose to write boldly to remind them, and to enable their lives to be sanctified by the Holy Spirit, Paul does not preach where others have gone before him, he wants to visit them, but has been delayed, he is taking an offering to the Jews from the Gentiles in Macedonia and Achaia to Jerusalem and planned to go to Rome after this. He closes by asking for their prayers and his safekeeping, and the will of God. 15:13-33

- The main themes of include not only just the good news of salvation by grace, but also **God's righteousness, our imputed righteousness, justification, indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit which causes our regeneration and sanctification, our coming glorification, our adoption and redemption, and the certainty of our completed faith, ending in transformation and conformation in Jesus.** This book lays the foundation for God's relationship with man. Details our required response to Him.
- Paul spends three whole chapters (9-11) detailing **God's plan for the Jews**, who were not cast aside by Him in favor of the "Church" but have also been promised restoration and salvation through His Son. The Jews are experiencing temporary "blindness" until the veil is lifted. Refutes the prevailing theory in many churches called "replacement theology" (*that the church has replaced Israel in the covenant relationship with God...NO!*)