

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF ROMANS

The book of Romans has repeatedly played important roles through the history of the church. Augustine, a theologian of the fourth century, was converted by reading Romans. Similarly, in the sixteenth century the book of Romans inspired Martin Luther to confront the Roman Catholic Church on 99 teachings of the church at that time.

This is the only letter of Paul's to a congregation that he did not have personal knowledge and experience with. Therefore, Paul writes the most detailed account of the gospel of God, as was delivered to him and he taught, in part, I would assume, because of the many accusations about what he was teaching (Acts 21:17-25).

The Author

There is overwhelming agreement among biblical scholars that the apostle Paul wrote the book of Romans. The vocabulary, style, logic, and theological development are consistent with Paul's other epistles. Paul dictated the letter to a secretary named Tertius (16:22), who was allowed to add his own greeting.

Internal Evidence

1. Paul introduces himself in the salutation (1:1). This harmonizes with his salutation in all of his other letters to congregations or individuals.
2. The letter references accounts that correspond perfectly with the accounts in the book of Acts.
 - a. In Rom 15:30, 31 Paul asks for prayers on his way to Jerusalem; In Acts 20:22-23 the Spirit warns him of the dangers that await in Jerusalem.
 - b. In Rom 15:31 Paul references his service to the Jerusalem saints; in Acts 24:17 and other verses chronicle his efforts to bring a service to Jerusalem.
 - c. Paul mentions his desire to visit Rome 1:10-13; 15:23-28; in Acts 19:21 Paul's desire to go to Rome is recorded by Luke and Luke records that the Lord told Paul he would go to Rome, Acts 23:11.

External Evidence

1. Early Christian writings also support Pauline authorship.
 - a. Clement, Ignatius, and Polycarp all mention Paul as the author of Romans.
 - b. Even the Gnostic heretic Marcion ascribed the book to Paul.

The Date and Place of Composition

It could not have been written early in Paul's missionary travels since his work in Asia and Greece was almost complete, Rom 15:23. Also, Paul could not yet have visited Rome, 1:13, and 15:25 indicates Paul's trip to Jerusalem is imminent. Paul remained in Corinth three months before journeying to Jerusalem, Acts 20:2-3. When he wrote 2 Corinthians, as he was traveling from Ephesus to Corinth, the collection was still incomplete (2 Cor. 8:1-9). At the time he wrote to the church at Rome, this collection seems to have been completed (15:26-28). Therefore we assume the letter was written at the end of his third missionary journey in Corinth about AD 57

when he had finished the collection for the church in Jerusalem, but before he had begun his travel to Jerusalem.

The letter was probably carried by Phoebe as Paul also gave her a recommendation for the church in Rome to accept her.

The Purpose for Writing Romans

Paul's first purpose seems was to announce his intention to visit Rome and his desire that they help him move on to more mission work in Spain, 15:22-24. But if this were his only purpose a brief note would seem to have been sufficient.

A second reason appears to be that Paul wanted to help establish them, 1:9-15. He wanted to encourage them and impart some spiritual gift.

A third reason seems that Paul wanted to explain and defend "his gospel" against the detractors who sought to discredit him everywhere he went, Acts 14:19; 17:13; 21:21- 25; Rom 3:7-8.

A fourth reason seems to be to exhort Jew and Gentile Christians to live in unity with each other. He emphasizes that he is the God of Jews and Gentiles, both are under sin, 3:9 and both are saved by faith, 3:30. Also, chapters 14 & 15 appear to deal with the practical aspects of being united in one body and learning to deal with the inherent differences between two very different cultures.

As Paul presents God's plan of salvation, He moves from condemnation (3:23) to justification (5:1-2) and from theological truth to practical behavior in chapter 12 on. Key words, such as righteousness, faith, law, all, and sin, each appear at least sixty times in this epistle.

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF ROMANS

INTRODUCTION: 1:1-17

1. Paul's obligation to preach the gospel in Rome, 1:1-15
2. The theme of the epistle: "He who through faith is righteous shall live"
RSV, 1:16-17

I. HE WHO THROUGH FAITH IS RIGHTEOUS, 1:18 - 4:25

A. Under the wrath of God, 1:18-3:20

1. The wrath of God against unrighteousness, 1:18-32
 - a. The unrighteousness of the heathen
 - b. The reaction of God's wrath
2. The wrath of God against the righteousness of the Law, 2:1-3:20
 - a. The Jews are without excuse,
 - b. The law does not protect against the wrath of God
 - c. Circumcision does not shield from the wrath of God
 - d. The result: the whole world lies in guilt before God.

B. The Righteousness of God, 3:21-4:25

1. The righteousness of God revealed through Christ, 3:21-31
 - a. The righteousness of God is not by the law
 - b. The righteousness of God is the righteousness of faith
 - c. How the righteousness of faith was revealed
 - d. The righteousness of faith excludes boasting
2. The righteousness of God witnessed to by the Law and the Prophets, 4:1-25
 - a. Abraham's righteousness was the righteousness of faith
 - b. Not through circumcision was Abraham righteous
 - c. Not through the Law was Abraham righteous
 - d. Abraham is the type of him "who through faith is righteous"

II. HE WHO THROUGH FAITH IS RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE, 5:1 - 8:39

A. Free from the wrath of God, 5:1-21

1. Saved from the wrath of God by God's love, 5:1-11
 - a. Peace with God
 - b. God's love
 - c. Saved through Christ from the wrath to come.
2. Adam and Christ, 5:12-21
 - a. Adam the prototype of "him who should come"
 - b. The kingdoms of death and of life
 - c. The intervention of the law

B. Free from sin, 6:1-23

1. Free from sin through baptism, 6:1-14
2. Free from sin to serve righteousness, 6:15-23

- C. Free from the Law, 17:1-25
 - 1. "Dead to the Law" through Christ, 7:1-6
 - 2. The power of the Law to provoke and increase sin, 7:7-13
 - 3. The weakness of the Law to call forth the good, 7:14-25

- D. Free from death, 8:1-39
 - 1. Free from death through the Spirit, 8:1-11
 - 2. Free from death that we may have life, 8:12-17
 - 3. The suffering of the present age and the glory of future, 8:18-30
 - a. the groaning of creation
 - b. The Christian's groaning
 - c. The intercession of the Spirit
 - d. The consummation of God's eternal purpose
 - 4. Conclusion: Victory through the love of God in Christ, 8:31-39

- III. THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF FAITH IS NOT AGAINST THE PROMISE OF GOD. 9:1-11:36
 - A. The promise only to believers, 9:1-29
 - 1. The sad state of the Jews, 9:1-5
 - 2. In the very promise of God shows his sovereignty, 9:6-29
 - 3. God's sovereignty in mercy and in wrath, 9:14-29
 - B. Israel's rejection her own fault, 9:30-10:21
 - C. Israel's rejection not final, 11:1-36
 - 1. Even now there is a remnant, 11:1-10
 - 2. Israel's fall became the Gentile's salvation, 11:11-24
 - 3. Rejection is God's way to Israel's possible salvation, 11:25-36

- IV. THE LIFE OF HIM WHO THROUGH FAITH IS RIGHTEOUS, 12:1-15:13
 - A. Conduct in the Christian Age, 12:1 -13:14
 - 1. The basic rule of Christian living, 12:1-2
 - 2. To walk in Christ, 12:3-8
 - 3. To walk in love, 12:9-21
 - 4. The conduct of the Christian in the orders of this world, 13:1-7
 - 5. Love, the fulfillment of the Law, 13:8-10
 - 6. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, 13:11-14
 - B. The weak and the strong, 14:1-15:13
 - C. Conclusion, 15:14-16:27
 - 1. Paul's travel plans, 15:14-33
 - 2. Greetings and concluding words, 16:1-27

*This outline is adapted from Anders Nygren, Commentary on Romans,

CLASS SCHEDULE

Class: Romans
Day & Time: Sundays from 11:00am to Noon
Beginning: January 6th
Ending: June 30th

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Week</u> | <u>Lesson Covering</u> |
|-------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Jan 6 | 1 | Romans Introduction |
| Jan 13 | 2 | Romans 1:1-17 |
| Jan 20 | 3 | Romans 1:18-32 |
| Jan 27 | 4 | Romans 2:1-29 |
| Feb 3 | 5 | Romans 3:1-20 |
| Feb 10 | 6 | Romans 3:21-31 |
| Feb 17 | 7 | Romans 4:1-12 |
| Feb 24 | 8 | Romans 4:13-25 |
| Mar 3 | 9 | Romans 5:1-11 |
| Mar 10 | 10 | Romans 5:11-21 |
| Mar 17 | 11 | Romans 6:1-14 |
| Mar 24 | 12 | Romans 6:15-23 |
| Mar 31 | 13 | Romans 7:1-12 |
| Apr 7 | 14 | Romans 7:13-25 |
| Apr 14 | 15 | Romans 8:1-17 |
| Apr 21 | 16 | Romans 8:18-39 |
| Apr 28 | 17 | Romans 9:1-29 |
| May 5 | 18 | Romans 9:30-10:21 |
| May 12 | 19 | Romans 11:1-18 |
| May 19 | 20 | Romans 11:19-36 |
| May 26 | 21 | Romans 12:1-21 |
| Jun 2 | 22 | Romans 13:1-14 |
| Jun 9 | 23 | Romans 14:1-23 |
| Jun 16 | 24 | Romans 15:1-13 |
| Jun 23 | 25 | Romans 15:14-33 |
| Jun 30 | 26 | Romans 16:1-27 |

Romans 1:1-17

Verses 1-7

1. How does Paul introduce himself to the Roman Christians?
2. Why do you think he took 6 verses to introduce himself?
3. How was Jesus declared to be the Son of God?

Verses 8-15

4. Why did Paul thank God for the Christians in Rome?
5. What request did Paul continually make to God for the Christians sake?
6. Why did Paul long to go to Rome?
7. Why did he want them to know he been hindered from going to Rome in the past?
8. Why was Paul ready now ready to preach in Rome?

Verses 16-17

9. What is the gospel?
10. Why is Paul saying he's not ashamed of it?
11. How is the gospel message powerful to save Jews and Gentiles?
12. What does the gospel reveal about God?
13. How do the just live by faith?

Romans 1:18-32

Verses 18-23

1. How is the wrath of God revealed from heaven against ungodliness?
2. What people are under consideration in verses 18-25; Jews, Gentiles, Others, All?
3. How is the evidence of God manifested?
4. What two things did they not do even though they knew God?
5. Are these two things required of everyone to do?
6. Why did they become fools?

Verses 24-32

7. What was God's response to the willful rejection by those who knew Him?
8. What does it mean that they worshiped and served the creature?
9. How did their passions and behavior relate to each other?
10. What does it mean that God gave them over to lusts of their heart, vile passions, depraved mind?
11. What resulted among the people when God gave them over to their impurity?

Romans 2:1-29

Verses 1-11

1. In 1:18-32 Paul writes of God's wrath on the unrighteous, who is Paul talking about in 2:1-11 that will not escape the judgment of God?
2. What are the standards by which everyone is judged by God?

Verses 12-16

3. What difference does the law make in the righteous judgment of God?
4. How many ways does Paul use the word "law" in these verses?
5. Which law is primarily under consideration here?

Verses 17-24

6. List the advantages that Paul says the Jews rest on and boast in?
7. If the Jews had these advantages what was their problem before God?

Verses 25-29

8. How is circumcision profitable to the keeper of the law?
9. How do the uncircumcised judge the circumcised?
10. What circumcision really matters? Does this disagree with the Old Testament? See Duet 10:16 and Jer 4:4.

Romans 3:1-20**Verses 1-8**

1. What advantage or profit did the Jew have?
2. Who are the “some Jews” who did not believe?
3. How did the Jews unrighteousness demonstrate God’s righteousness?
4. Why was Paul being judged a sinner?
5. What was slanderously reported about Paul?

Verses 9-20

6. So are the Jews better than the Gentiles? Why Not?
7. Who does Paul say these Old Testament passages were for?
8. What was the law for?
9. What wasn’t the law for?

Romans 3:21-31**Verses 21-26**

1. What is the righteousness of God that was revealed?
2. How did the law and prophets witness to this righteousness?
3. Who needs redemption in Christ?
4. What is a propitiation?
5. Why did God pass over the previous sins?

Verses 27-31

6. Why can no one boast?
7. Does the law become worthless because of faith?
8. How is the law established?

Romans 4:1-12

Verses 1-4

1. If Abraham were justified by works why could he boast? Why not before God?
2. What would have to be true of Abraham's works to be justified by them?
3. How was Abraham reckoned to be righteous?
4. If we only received that for which we worked, what would we earn? See 6:23.

Verses 5-8

5. If we want to be justified before God what do we need from Him? See 3:24.
6. What does it mean to be accounted or reckoned to be righteous?

Verses 9-12

7. Does the blessing of forgiveness from God come to the circumcised only? How does Abraham prove the answer?
8. How can Abraham be the father of the Gentiles?
9. How is Abraham the father of the circumcised?

Romans 4:13-25**Verses 13-15**

1. What does it mean that Abraham was promised to be heir of the world?
2. Why does this promise come by faith and not by law?
3. What does it mean that “where there is no law there is no transgression”?
4. Is transgression and sin the same thing?

Verses 16-22

5. To whom does God’s promise to Abraham fall upon?
6. How did Abraham believe in contrary to hope?
7. What did Abraham not consider?
8. What was Abraham’s response to God’s promise?
9. What was accounted to Abraham for righteousness?

Verses 23-25

10. How then would we believe like Abraham?

Romans 5:1-11

Verses 1-5

1. How is it possible to have peace with God?
2. What does it mean to have peace with God?
3. What is the grace in which we stand?
4. Explain how hope is produced from tribulations, perseverance and character.
5. Why does hope not disappoint? Could we have false hope? Would it disappoint us? If so, what is the difference between false hope and this hope we ought to rejoice in?

Verses 6-11

6. For whom did Christ die?
7. Why did we need Christ to die for us?
8. How do we receive justification?
9. How are we reconciled to God?
10. What do you think it means that we shall be saved by His life?

Romans 5:12-21**Verses 12-17**

1. How did sin and death enter the world through one man?
2. If sin is not imputed without the law, how did people sin and death reign?
3. How was Adam a type of Christ?
4. How does the one man's offense differ from the one Man's free gift?

Verses 18-21

5. What is the result of the one man's sin?
6. What is the result of the one Man's righteousness?
7. Is Paul saying that Christ will save everyone just as Adam's sin condemned everyone?
8. Are there any conditions for condemnation or justification?
9. What was the purpose of the law then?
10. Why did grace abound even more than sin?

Romans 6:1-14

Verses 1-4

1. Why is the question of continuing in sin that grace may abound anticipated by Paul?
2. How do we die to sin?
3. In what way does burial in baptism unite us with Christ?

Verses 5-11

4. What does our unity in the likeness of Jesus' death and resurrection, help us know?
5. Why do we reckon ourselves dead to sin and alive to God? How?

Verses 12-14

6. How can sin reign in our mortal body?
7. Why should we present ourselves alive to God? How do we do this?

Romans 6:15-23

Verses 15-19

1. What is the difference between Paul's questions in vs. 15 and vs. 1?
2. What point is Paul making about obedience?
3. In the previous chapters of Romans has Paul made similar points about obedience? If so, note them.
4. What is the "form of doctrine" which we are supposed to obey?
5. What does Paul mean that he speaks in human terms because weakness of flesh?

Verses 20-23

6. How are slaves of sin free from righteousness?
7. What is the fruit of slavery to sin?
8. What is the fruit of slavery to God?
9. Why isn't the wages of slavery to God eternal life?

Romans 7:1-12

Verses 1-6

1. Who is Paul talking to in chapter seven?
2. Why does Paul use the law of marriage as an example?
3. Is divorce under any consideration in Paul's example?
4. Why did the Jews have to become dead to the law to marry another?
5. What is the newness of the spirit and the oldness of the letter?

Verses 7-12

6. In verse 7 we have Paul's third rhetorical question he answers with "Certainly Not!". What is Paul anticipating with this question?
7. When was Paul alive apart from the law?
8. How did he die after the commandment came?
9. Why did the law bring death rather than life?
10. If sin came by the law, why is the law holy, just and good?

Romans 7:13-25

Verses 13-16

1. In Verse 13 we have the fourth in a series of rhetorical questions answered by “Certainly Not!”. What issue is Paul anticipating?
2. What does Paul mean that he was “sold under sin”?
3. How do we agree with the law that it is good?

Verses 17-22

4. Is Paul saying that sin is responsible for his sin and not himself?
5. What is the sin that dwells in us?
6. Why is the will to do good present but not the how to do good present?
7. Why does the inward man delight in the law of God?

Verses 23-25

8. What law is at work in our bodies?
9. What is the body of death that I need deliverance from?
10. Is Paul saying it is okay to serve God with your mind and serve sin with your flesh?

Romans 8:1-17

Verses 1-4

1. Does 8:1 give a conclusion to the end of chapter seven? If so, how do they fit together?
2. How can we be free from the law of sin and death?
3. With what result in mind was God sending His Son to condemn sin in the flesh?

Verses 5-11

4. How do we know if we are walking according to the flesh or according to the spirit?
5. What is the difference between living towards death or towards life and peace?
6. Whose spirits should dwell in us?

Verses 12-17

7. To whom or what are we debtors?
8. How does the Spirit bear witness with our spirit?
9. List all the conditions written in this section for us to be glorified with Christ?

Romans 8:18-39

Verses 18-25

1. Why does Paul turn to the issue of suffering?
2. What does the creation have to do with our suffering?
3. How will the creation be delivered from corruption?
4. What is the hope are we saved in?

Verses 26-30

5. What does intercession mean? How does this help our weaknesses?
6. How does everything work together for good to the called ones?
7. What happens to those whom are the called ones?

Verses 31-39

8. Who can bring a charge against God's elect?
9. Who can condemn God's elect?
10. Who can separate us from the love of God?

Romans 9:1-29

Verses 1-5

1. Why does Paul swear to be telling the truth and not lying about his sorrow?
2. What blessings did Israel, according to the flesh, have?

Verses 6-13

3. What does it mean that they're not all Israel who are of Israel?
4. Why was Jacob chosen over Esau before they were born?

Verses 14-21

5. Why is God's election on whom He wishes not unrighteous?
6. Do we have any say in whom God shows mercy or whom He hardens?
7. Who has the authority over the clay to make what He wishes? Are there any scriptures that tell us how He chooses to make vessels of honor or dishonor?

Verses 22-29

8. Is there a problem with God showing wrath on some people who are prepared for destruction and showing mercy on some He prepared for mercy?
9. How do you think some are prepared for destruction?
10. How are people prepared for God's mercy?

Romans 9:30-10:21

Verses 30-10:4

1. How can Jews, who pursued the righteousness of the law, not attain righteousness but the gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, can?
2. What good does Paul testify to about Israel? What problems does he testify to as well?

Verses 5-12

3. How is the righteousness of the law different from the righteousness of faith?
4. Read Deuteronomy 30:11-14. How is Paul applying these verses in a new yet similar way?
5. So then how is the righteousness of faith realized?

Verses 14-21

6. What do people need in order to call on the name of the Lord?
7. Why don't some people call on the name of the Lord, if they have what they need to call on Him?
8. Did Israel know that not all of Israel would be saved or call on the name of the Lord?

Romans 11:1-18**Verses 1-6**

1. How does Paul prove that God has not cast away His people?

2. Who is the remnant that Paul refers to at the time he wrote this?

Verses 7-10

3. How is the righteousness of the law different from the righteousness of faith?

4. Why was Israel (not the elect) blinded?

5. How were they blinded?

Verses 11-18

6. What was the purpose of Israel's stumbling?

7. If they (Israel) have been cast away how shall they receive acceptance?

8. Identify all of the following:
 - a. The Firstfruit:

 - b. The Lump:

 - c. The Root:

 - d. The Branches:

 - e. The Wild Branches:

Romans 11:19-36

Verses 19-24

1. Why were some branches broken off? Who were they?
2. Why were the gentiles grafted into the olive tree?
3. What are we (gentiles) to learn from God's judgment of the natural branches?
4. How can we continue in God's goodness?
5. Why are Jews more likely to be grafted into the cultivated olive tree than gentiles?
6. How can Jews who were cut off be grafted back in to the cultivated olive tree?

Verses 25-32

7. What is the mystery that Paul does not want us to be ignorant of?
8. Define who is "all Israel". How will all Israel be saved?
9. If the gifts and calling of God is irrevocable why were some Jews cut off?
10. Is God going to have mercy on all people?

Verses 33-36

11. Can we, who have the complete word of God, know God's judgments or His ways?

Romans 12:1-21

Verses 1-2

1. How do we present our bodies a living sacrifice?
2. If we need to be transformed, what are we transforming from and what are we transforming into?
3. How do we renew the mind?

Verses 3-8

4. Why does Paul say not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to?
5. What are we to understand about the body of Christ?

Verses 9-21

6. What is love with hypocrisy? How can we avoid it?
7. Name the different kinds of love mentioned in verses 9-13?
8. Why should we behave towards one another and all men in the way this section describes?
9. What does it mean to avenge yourself, and why shouldn't we do it?

Romans 13:1-14

Verses 1-7

1. Why should we be subject to government?
2. If the government is God's minister for good, does that mean all governments are good?
3. What good is this minister of God supposed to do?
4. Why are we required by God to pay taxes to our government?
5. Whom do we owe taxes, customs, fear, and honor? What is each of these?

Verses 8-10

6. How can we owe no one anything except love?
7. What does love do?

Verses 11-14

8. Why should we love our neighbor? What is the time he says to know?
9. What is the difference between walking by day and walking by night?
10. How were they to put on the Lord Jesus Christ?

Romans 14:1-23

Verses 1-13

1. How is one weak in the faith? How do we receive them?
2. How does a person have faith to eat all things?
3. Are there any exceptions to eating all things? Read Acts 15:29 & 1Cor 8:1-13
4. Explain what it means to esteem one day above another and to esteem them the same?
Is one right over the other?
5. What principles is Paul urging us to follow, when it comes to opinions and conscience?

Verses 14-23

6. What does it mean that nothing is unclean of itself?
7. If we are free to partake of all clean things what guides our use of them?
8. In what do we serve Christ? Does food have anything to do with serving Christ?
9. What kind of eating is evil?
10. How can we be happy and faithful in all things?

Romans 15:1-13

Verses 1-6

1. How do we bear with weak brethren?
2. What does Paul mean to please your neighbor and not yourself? What does the world say about this?
3. What is the purpose of what is written before?
4. What mind is Paul asking God for us to have?
5. What does Paul hope we do with this mind?

Verses 7-13

6. How do we receive each other?
7. Why should we receive one another?
8. Who wrote the passages Paul quotes about the Gentiles glorifying God?
9. How will God and the power of the Holy Spirit fill us with joy and peace?

Romans 15:14-33

Verses 14-21

1. What confidence did Paul have in the Roman brethren? Would he have that same confidence of us?
2. Why did Paul write boldly on some points?
3. How could an apostle like Paul also be a minister (deacon)? What was he supposed to minister and to whom?
4. Where had Paul fully preached the gospel up to the point of writing this letter to the Romans?
5. Where was Paul aiming at preaching the gospel?

Verses 22-33

6. Why did Paul no longer have a place in his present regions?
7. Why did Paul desire to go to Rome?
8. How was Paul ministering to the saints in Jerusalem?
9. What did Paul want the Romans to pray for on his behalf?

Romans 16:1-27**Verses 1-16**

1. Why is Paul commending Phoebe to the church in Rome?
2. Where did Paul work with Priscilla and Aquila?
3. Write down the names of Paul's relatives (kinsman or countryman) he mentions to greet?
4. What was a holy kiss? Is this a command we ought to practice?

Verses 17-27

5. How does the church note and avoid those who cause divisions and offenses?
6. Who are divisive people serving?
7. Who wrote the words of the Roman letter for Paul?
8. What did Gaius do for Paul and the church in Corinth? Extra Credit: What did Paul do for Gaius and only a few others in Corinth?
9. Who are the final words of Paul addressed to?