

Romans

SPOTLIGHT

IN JAIL, OUT OF JAIL

WHAT'S THIS BOOK ABOUT? Romans is the Bible's most orderly and thorough presentation of the gospel message.

The apostle Paul traveled widely spreading the gospel—whenever he wasn't locked up. He wrote letters in both situations.

✦ **WHO WROTE IT?** The apostle Paul.

✦ **WHEN DID IT HAPPEN?** Just before A.D. 60.

✦ **WHERE DOES THIS BOOK FIT?** Paul wrote Romans during his third missionary journey.

✦ THE BREAKDOWN

- Chapters 1–3: All have sinned
- Chapters 4–5: Justification by grace through faith
- Chapters 6–8: Living in the Spirit
- Chapters 9–11: The church and Israel
- Chapters 12–16: Practical Christian living

✦ KEY CONCEPTS

- God's Good News
- Grace
- Faith
- Being made right with God
- Righteousness

✦ READING TIME



WHAT'S THE POINT OF Romans?

+++
Everybody has offended God—but God has a solution.

WORTH MEMORIZING

- **3:23-24** Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God freely and graciously declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.
- **6:23** The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **8:28** We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.
- **8:38-39** I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **10:9-10** If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

THE MASCULINE PERSPECTIVE

- **JUSTIFICATION.** What's the real score with God? Where do you and I stand? Will we make heaven, or not? This book lays out all the facts on what it takes to be acceptable to a holy God.

Written on the Road (8)

- Romans
- 1 Corinthians
- 2 Corinthians
- Galatians
- 1 Thessalonians
- 2 Thessalonians
- 1 Timothy
- Titus

Written from Prison (5)

- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- 2 Timothy
- Philemon

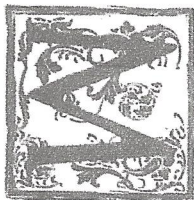
TEACHING POINTS

The Doctrine of Romans 1–16

The Book of Romans comprehensively deals with a number of great theological issues. Almost every chapter has a doctrinal theme.

- The doctrine of the Resurrection (1:4)
- The doctrine of Christ's deity (1:3; 9:5)
- The doctrine of Christ's humanity (1:3; 8:3)
- The doctrine of faith (1:17)
- The doctrine of judgment (1:18, 24)
- The doctrine of sin and depravity (3:20–23)
- The doctrine of justification (3:24–5:2)
- The doctrine of reconciliation (5:10, 11)
- The doctrine of sin (5:12–14)
- The doctrine of grace and eternal life (5:15–21)
- The doctrine of sanctification (6–7)
- The doctrine of security (8)
- The doctrine of election (9)

The doctrine of the second coming of Christ and the judgment of believers (14). Romans also contains some of the keys for the spiritual life: the reality of sin and the extent to which it has damaged our lives; what it means to be redeemed and related to God; how to be filled with and led by the Holy Spirit; how to live a holy life through identification with Jesus Christ; how to live a life of loyalty, love, and obedience to Jesus Christ; how to know Christ and love Him with all of our heart (the Lord Jesus Christ appears in every chapter of the book, nearly 70 times in all!)



any church-goers today don't want much doctrine to seep into their thinking. They want nice stories, uplifting platitudes, and fluffy comments on favorite verses. Well, they'd better not open the book of Romans! In the sixteen chapters of this epistle, the apostle Paul sets forth the core theology of Christianity. This is the first great doctrinal book in the New Testament, and a first-century course in biblical doctrine. It's a vital follow-up to the historical facts in the Gospels.

In its broad outline, Romans is easy to follow. Its first eleven chapters explain how God justifies us or makes us righteous through Christ. Working our way through these chapters, we see how humanity is corrupted beyond human remedy, how God makes us righteous through Christ, how we have freedom from the power of sin through the Holy Spirit, and how God offers the blessings of righteousness to Gentiles by grafting us into the living promises given to Israel.

The word "therefore" in chapter 12, verse 1, serves as the transition to the last part of Romans, which talks about our duty to live righteously: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God." These final chapters are as practical as any portion of Scripture, giving us instructions for Christ-like living.

I love Romans, and I think you will too. It explains our doctrine and our duty as those who are justified by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus.



KEY THOUGHT:

Because we could not become righteous by our own efforts, God provided justification for us by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.



KEY VERSE:

"For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ."

Romans 5:17



KEY ACTION:

We must receive the abundance of God's grace, which saves us and enables us to reign in life through Christ Jesus.



KEY PRAYER:

Father, I am thankful that nothing can separate me from Your love!

INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS

BACKGROUND

In the first century, Rome was the Western world's greatest city. When Paul wrote this letter, he had not yet visited the church there. The church at Rome may have been begun by "strangers" in Jerusalem at Pentecost, converted in response to Peter's speech (Acts 2:10). From early on, the Epistle to the Romans was attributed to Paul. Paul dictated this epistle to his scribe, Tertius, who wrote his own greeting at the end (16:22).

MESSAGE

Romans is Paul's longest epistle, laying out a systematic treatise that theologically explains the gospel message of salvation as a gift of God provided through Jesus Christ, received by faith alone. Writing to a capital city

obsessed with power, Paul emphasizes God's power to save. In chapters 1-11, Paul lays out the story of humanity, covering the sinfulness of Jews and Gentiles alike, God's righteousness, and God's love and forgiveness. Paul describes the freedom available only in Christ. Paul gives a shortened recounting of the story of Israel, demonstrating God's righteousness and saving power. In chapters 12-16, Paul shows how a believer's faith can be applied in the world. Having faith in Christ is more than theological knowledge; it is about living in the fullness of Christ in our everyday lives.

TIME

Paul wrote the Epistle to the Romans in A.D. 57 while on his third missionary journey, more than likely while in Corinth (Acts 20:2-3).

OUTLINE	
I. Introduction	1:1-17
II. The Need for Righteousness	1:18-3:20
III. The Gift of Righteousness	3:21-5:21
IV. Defending Grace	6:1-7:25
V. The Spirit's Ministry	8:1-39
VI. God's Purposes in Israel's History	9:1-11:36
VII. Christian Conduct	12:1-15:29
VIII. Messages and Greetings	15:30-16:27

BASIC SURVEY

ROMANS

AUTHOR: The apostle Paul (1:1), with the secretarial assistance of Tertius (16:22).

DATE: Approximately AD 57, near the conclusion of Paul's third missionary journey.

IN TEN WORDS OR LESS

Sinners are saved only by faith in Jesus Christ.

DETAILS, PLEASE

Some call Romans a "theology textbook" for its thorough explanation of the Christian life. Paul describes God's righteous anger against human sin (chapters 1-2), noting everyone falls short of God's standard (3:23). But God Himself provides a way to overcome that sin: "the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all that believe" (3:22 KJV). Being justified (made right) through faith in Jesus, we can consider ourselves "to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (6:11 KJV). God's Spirit will give life to all who believe in Jesus, allowing us to "present [our] bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God" (12:1 KJV).

QUOTABLE

- > And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (8:28 NIV).
- > Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law (13:10 NASB).

UNIQUE AND UNUSUAL

Unlike Paul's other letters, Romans was addressed to a congregation he'd never met. He was hoping to see the Roman Christians personally while traveling west to Spain (15:23-24).

SO WHAT?

In Paul's own words, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (5:1 KJV).

READ ROMANS 1-2.

- One-Month Course: your next reading is on page 215. →
- Three-Month Course: your next reading is on page 210. →
- Six-Month Course: your next reading is on page 210. →

HEART OF THE BOOK

SALVATION BY GRACE

The Bible tells us that we're "saved by grace," but what does that mean? Well, grace means several things in the New Testament. When we say that someone is "gracious" or "full of grace," we mean that they're good, kind, and merciful. This is what John meant when he said that Jesus was "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14 KJV).

In New Testament times, "grace" also meant the kindness and mercy of a master toward a servant. The Bible says, "By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8 NKJV). Paul emphasizes this teaching in the book of Romans. First he writes, "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23 KJV). Then he tells us, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23 KJV).

We've been saved from spiritual death by God's grace—His kindness and mercy. He doesn't expect us to work for eternal life or to do enough good deeds to earn it as a reward. We couldn't earn it no matter how hard we worked, so God graciously gave us salvation free, as a gift. All we need to do is open our hearts and receive it.

God offered this gift of grace before we were even seeking Him: "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8 NKJV).

READ ROMANS 3 AND 6.

- Three-Month Course: your next reading is on page 215. →
- Six-Month Course: your next reading is on page 211. →

SALVATION: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE • 1:16, 17

To be saved means to be set free from the greatest evil (the consequences of the Fall) and placed in possession of the greatest good (the blessings of salvation—past, present, and future). The following chart demonstrates the meaning of salvation for the believer.

Time	Title	Work	Sequence	Scripture
Past	Justification	Frees the believer from the penalty of sin	Immediately	10:9-13
Present	Sanctification	Frees the believer from the power of sin	Progressively	Phil. 2:12
Future	Glorification	Frees the believer from the presence of sin	Ultimately	13:1

CLOSER LOOK

ABRAHAM—THE FATHER OF FAITH



Abraham had great faith in God and is considered the father of both Jews and Gentiles. He is depicted in this painting by Rembrandt (1606–1669) titled *The Sacrifice of Abraham*.

promise that God made to Abraham was that his barren wife, Sarah, would bear a son, and that nations would come from that son (Genesis 17:15–22). Again Abraham believed God. Both these promises were given *before* Abraham was circumcised.

This took great faith. Abraham, "contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, 'So shall your descendants be.' . . . He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God" (Romans 4:18, 20 NKJV). Then Paul brings out his final point: since Abraham was considered righteous while he was still uncircumcised, he is the father of both the circumcised Jews and the uncircumcised Gentiles. All men are made righteous by putting their faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

READ ROMANS 4-5.

- Six-Month Course: your next reading is on page 212. →

CLOSER LOOK

OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD

In Romans 12:21 (KJV) Paul writes, “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” What exactly does he mean? Paul goes into detail in the verses leading up to this. First he states, “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse” (Romans 12:14 NIV). This is an excellent way of overcoming evil with good. In writing this, of course, Paul is quoting Jesus who said, “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you” (Luke 6:27–28 NIV).

Paul then gives another example of how to overcome evil with good, saying, “Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, ‘I will take revenge; I will pay them back,’ says the LORD. Instead, ‘If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink’” (Romans 12:19–20 NLT). To treat your enemies so kindly, you have to be following Jesus’ command to love them.

Many people feel that this is simply too idealistic. They think that only Jesus and holy saints can actually love their enemies, but that surely God doesn’t expect ordinary people to do that. But even in the Old Testament, God commanded *everyone*, “You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18 NKJV). And Jesus explained that your “neighbor” was anyone you came across (Luke 10:25–37).

READ ROMANS 12 AND PSALM 67.

● Six-Month Course: your next reading is on page 215.



HIDDEN TREASURE

GOD WORKS FOR OUR GOOD

Many Christians are comforted by the following promise: “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28 NKJV). A good example of this was when Joseph’s brothers maliciously sold him into slavery in Egypt, but then God used Joseph to save many nations from famine. Joseph told his brothers, “You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive” (Genesis 50:20 NASB). Of course, not everything believers experience is good in *itself*, but God is able to redeem any situation and use even suffering and hardship to produce beneficial results.

READ ROMANS 7-8.



While Joseph suffered greatly at the hands of the brothers, God redeemed him by using him to save nations. Giovanni Andrea de Ferrari (1598–1669) depicted Jacob’s grief when he learned of Joseph’s fate in the painting *Joseph’s Grief* brought to *Arch*.

HIDDEN TREASURE

CONFESSING CHRIST

Paul writes, “If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved” (Romans 10:9–10 NLT). We understand that it’s vital to believe in Jesus to be saved, but why must we also confess our faith with our mouths? As 2 Corinthians 4:13 (KJV) says, “I believed, and therefore have I spoken.” And Jesus explained, “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34 NKJV). He also promised that He would personally acknowledge whoever confessed faith in Him (Luke 12:8).

READ ROMANS 10 AND PSALM 119:57–96.

HIDDEN TREASURE

SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNMENT

When Jesus sets up His kingdom, it will be a perfect government. But until that day, nations will be ruled by imperfect rulers. Even the best leaders sometimes make poor decisions. But the Bible tells us, "Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God" (Romans 13:1 NLT). Paul goes on to say that there are two reasons to obey the law: to avoid being punished by the authorities and because it's the right way to live. Some of the only times we should *not* obey a government are when it commands us to deny our faith and forbids us to tell others about Jesus (Daniel 3:1–18; 6:1–13; Acts 4:18–20).

READ ROMANS 11 AND 13.

HIDDEN TREASURE

THINKING OF OTHERS



Paul's writings tell us to love, honor, and help one another rather than think only of ourselves.

Paul wrote to the Romans, "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10 NIV). He expounded on how to do this, saying, "We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up" (Romans 15:1–2 NIV). How can we honor others above ourselves? By having God's love. "Love is patient and kind. . . . It does not demand its own way" (1 Corinthians 13:4–5 NLT). This goes against the grain of demanding our rights. Most people are so determined to not let others take advantage of them that they won't put up with anything. But God has a different way of operating.

READ ROMANS 14–15.

someone you
should know:

Paul

Apostle Extraordinaire

WHAT CAN BE SAID about the man God used to write one-fourth of the New Testament? How can one describe the church's first great missionary? Perhaps the best descriptions of the apostle Paul can be found in the way he described his own role. Aside from the book of Acts, nearly everything we know about this apostle comes from his own letters to the churches he planted across Asia Minor and Greece. Consider the following excerpts: Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus . . . (1 Timothy 1:1). Paul saw himself as a man "chosen by the will of God" (1 Corinthians 1:1), sent for a specified purpose, commissioned by Christ to broadcast the Good News. Immediately after his dramatic conversion, "he began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is indeed the Son of God!'" (Acts 9:20). He continually risked his life in his apostolic labors (2 Corinthians 11:23-28) and organized churches throughout the Mediterranean world (Acts 14:23). God did many miracles through him (Acts 14:9; 28:8) and Paul wielded great influence, yet as he said to one church, "I want to use the authority the Lord has given me to strengthen you, not to tear you down" (2 Corinthians 13:10).

Paul saw himself as a man "chosen by the will of God," sent for a specified purpose.

At this point on, the Greek name dominates. Paul himself would write, "The same God who worked through Peter as the apostle to the Jews also worked through me as the apostle to the Gentiles" (Galatians 2:8).

I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle (1 Corinthians 15:9). Paul could never forget that he had persecuted the church and attempted to destroy it (Galatians 1:13). It took a dramatic encounter on the road to Damascus to change the man's spiritual direction. He never forgot the Lord's question to him: "Saul Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" (Acts 9:4). This is why Paul could label himself among "the worst sinners" (1 Timothy 1:16).

I am not at all inferior to these "super apostles," even though I am nothing at all (2 Corinthians 12:11). But don't think Paul had an inferiority complex! Even while admitting his sinfulness, he could celebrate his apostleship. So it is no surprise to see him rejoicing in God's work in his life, saying, "If you want to boast, boast only about the Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:31).

THE POINT: To become great, yield to the greatness of God.

ROMANS

- A. GREETINGS AND THANKS (1:1 – 15)
- B. THE THEME OF THE LETTER (1:16 – 17)
- C. OUR NEED FOR GOD'S GRACE (1:18 – 4:25)
- D. GOD'S POWER FOR OUR DELIVERANCE (5:1 – 8:39)
- E. QUESTIONS ABOUT ISRAEL'S RESTORATION (9:1 – 11:36)
- F. CONDUCT THAT REFLECTS SPIRITUAL RENEWAL (12:1 – 15:13)
- G. CONCLUSION (15:14 – 16:27)

THE BIG PICTURE

The church in Rome was a testimony to God's power. This church had flourished despite the obstacles posed by the surrounding pagan culture. Yet the Roman believers were not perfect; they had some serious problems. Though they were well established in their faith, racial and cultural division threatened their convictions and unity as a group.

The main topic in this letter is the gospel message—the Good News that salvation from sin is available through Jesus Christ. At the core of this message is the truth that God is bigger than our sin. No matter who we are or what we have done, we can be saved by grace (undeserved favor from God) through faith (complete trust) in Christ. We can stand before God justified—declared “not guilty.” That’s the Good News!

In the book of Romans, Paul explains four major points. First, God makes no distinction between us as individuals—we are all guilty, and we are all offered his free gift of salvation (see Romans 1:18—4:25). Second, we can all be freed from sin’s power through God’s grace and the Holy Spirit inside us (see Romans 5:1—8:39). Third, we are dependent upon God and have no grounds for arrogance (see Romans 9:1—11:36). And finally, because of God’s mercy, we all must respect one another, despite the differences between us (see Romans 12:1—15:13).

Many people have called this letter to the Romans the greatest theological treatise ever written. But Romans is really a practical letter that tells us how to live, how to deal with our sinful behavior and how to get back on the right track. Paul’s letter has direct application to us, illustrating how to overcome the effects of sin and let God redirect the course of our lives to align with his will for us.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL THEMES

OUR UNIVERSAL NEED

All of us have sinned; we have each fallen short of God’s standards (see Romans 3:23). Regardless of how great or terrible our lives have been, we are all in need of forgiveness and cleansing from sin. Ever since Adam and Eve rebelled against God, our natures have been flawed, bent on disobeying God. Sometimes we simply seek our own way instead of following his. Sometimes we blatantly violate his commands. And at other times we fail to fulfill what he has told us to do. Whether our transgressions are sins of commission or omission, we do not have the power to live sinless lives. We all need God to save us and forgive us our sins.

GOD'S POWER TO DELIVER

Our need for spiritual renewal involves our need to be forgiven and to forgive, as well as to be cleansed from the effects of our sin. We are unable to help ourselves and have no grounds on which to demand divine help. And yet God, in his love, reaches out to us, offering to forgive us, cleanse us and empower us to become what he wants us to be. This is truly good news! Our part is to see the truth of our need for God’s power and to surrender our lives and will to this loving God.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL LEADS TO FREEDOM

Because God has attacked our sin problem at the roots, he has made it possible for us to be freed from the grip of sin. Through God’s power, our lives can come under his righteous rule. Though the process is never easy, we can become more and more like Christ as we walk with God each day. The better we get to know him, the more his Holy Spirit can empower us. By continuing to reflect on our spiritual condition, confessing our sins to God and seeking to make restitution to those whom we have wronged, we can experience true freedom and ongoing spiritual renewal.

THE ROLE OF FAITH

Much of this letter is a description of the importance of faith and trust in God: “The righteous will live by faith” (Romans 1:17). There is no other way to be renewed by God; the role of faith is central to spiritual growth. Our spiritual renewal began with faith when we sought God and surrendered to him. Each key to spiritual renewal requires faith. There is no magic formula for this—it is a daily act of trusting God by surrendering our wills and our lives to him. By doing so, we put ourselves in the hands of the all-powerful God, who promises never to forsake us and always to love us, no matter how unlovable we feel (see Deuteronomy 31:8).

Essential Facts

PURPOSE:

To introduce Paul to the church at Rome and summarize his message before his arrival there.

AUTHOR:

The apostle Paul.

AUDIENCE:

The church at Rome.

DATE WRITTEN:

Just before Paul’s return to Jerusalem from Corinth in AD 57.

SETTING:

Paul wrote this letter in anticipation of a future visit to the believers in Rome.

KEY VERSES:

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (8:38–39).

KEY PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS:

Paul with the believers in Rome and with Phoebe, who helped Paul in his ministry.

ROMANS

“How could a loving God send anyone to hell for eternity?” Your classmate’s question takes your breath away. How do you explain it without being brushed off or rejected? And besides, why *would* God send anyone to hell forever, if He’s truly a God of love? “Can I get back to you on that one?” you reply. You need to do some research for your friend . . . and you!

Apart from Jesus, perhaps no one has impacted the Christian faith as deeply as the Apostle Paul. During his third missionary journey, Paul spent three months in Corinth. While there, he penned this, his longest epistle, in hopes of preparing the way for a trip through Rome and possibly on to Spain (1:5;2:24,28).

In the letter to the Romans, Paul articulates the heart of Christian belief, beginning with the essentials of salvation: all people are born in sin (3:23), which makes everyone deserving of death and eternal separation from God (6:23). But God proved His love by sending Jesus to die for us while we were still entrenched in sin (5:8). God offers this gift of salvation to everyone, with “no distinction” (3:22-24). All we have to do to receive this gift is believe in Jesus and confess Him as Lord (10:9-10).

In addition, the letter explains some of the Bible’s toughest questions, like why so many laws appear in the OT (3:20); why believers shouldn’t sin, even though God knows in advance what people are going to do (chap 6); and how we can live by the Spirit despite our sinful condition (chap 8). Most importantly—for your friend at least—this letter explains why anyone would end up in hell (1:18-32).

Beyond that, Paul also wrote about Christians’ responsibility in society. They should be loving and united (12:1-8) and they should be ethical, kind to the needy, and dutiful to their government (12:9–13:10). Paul also expanded on the issue of unity in the church. The church in Rome was a cosmopolitan mix of wealthy, poor, slaves, free, Jewish believers, Gentile believers—all with

various idiosyncrasies and concerns that could potentially cause major problems as they tried to become this new entity called “church” (chaps. and 13-15).

Finally, Paul greeted a long list of people—26 in chapter 16—despite never setting foot in Rome. How could this be? Throughout his travels in the Roman world, Paul met numerous people. Because Rome was the principal city of the Roman Empire—and by far its most international—many of his acquaintances eventually settled there. Priscilla and Aquila serve as good examples. This couple, known for their teaching and preaching ministry, served alongside Paul in Asia and Greece (Ac 18:1-3; 18-19; 1Co 16:19; 2Tm 4:19), but by the time Paul wrote this letter, they were living in Rome (Rm 16:3-5).

People will always ask tough questions about Christianity. Paul knew this, and received his share of them. He never apologized for his faith or backed down from the truth. You may not always have all the answers for your friends’ tough questions, but commit yourself to studying God’s Word and more about Him and how He works. Like Paul, you too can say, “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is God’s power for salvation to everyone who believes” (1:16).

Author: Paul (Saul of Tarsus)

Date: Written in A.D. 57 from Corinth during Paul’s third missionary journey

What in the world is going on?

73–71 B.C.

Spartacus, a gladiator from Thrace, leads his fellow slaves in a revolt against the Republic of Rome

44 B.C.

Julius Caesar is assassinated on the Ides of March (March 15)

27 B.C.–A.D. 476

The era of the Roman Empire

27 B.C.–A.D. 14

The reign of Augustus Caesar (Octavian, the adopted son of Julius Caesar) is also *Pax Romana*—the era of peace in the Mediterranean world

A.D. 8

The Julian calendar, established by Julius Caesar, is finally in use

A.D. 26–30

Years of Jesus’ ministry

A.D. 33

Saul of Tarsus converts and is later known as Paul

A.D. 37–41

Caligula is the Roman emperor

A.D. 41–54

Claudius is the emperor of the Roman Empire; he marries his niece Agrippina in A.D. 48

A.D. 43

The Romans begin to invade Britain

ca. A.D. 44–46

Jewish rebel Theudas claims to be the Messiah and leads a revolt against Rome

A.D. 47–49

Ostorius Scapula leads the Romans against tribes living in Wales (the Silures and Ordovices) for control of Wales

A.D. 49

The Roman emperor, Claudius, forces the Jews out of Rome; Priscilla and Aquila leave Rome and wind up in Corinth where they meet Paul

A.D. 50
ca.A.D. 50
A.D. 54
A.D. 54-68
A.D. 56
A.D. 57
A.D. 59
A.D. 60
A.D. 60
ca.A.D. 60-64
A.D. 61
ca.A.D. 62
A.D. 64
A.D. 64-65
ca.A.D. 64-65
A.D. 70-72
A.D. 70
A.D. 73

In an effort to get along with the Romans, German tribes along the Rhine use Roman money and trade with Roman goods
The *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea*, a Greek navigational manuscript describing Roman ports and first-century trade, is written
After Emperor Claudius is poisoned (possibly by his wife, Agrippina), Nero becomes the emperor
Nero rules the Roman Empire
Famed Roman historian Tacitus is born
Paul writes the letter to the Romans from Corinth on his third missionary journey
The young Roman emperor, Nero, has his power-hungry mother, Agrippina, murdered
Paul is shipwrecked on the island of Malta en route to Rome
Paul writes the letters to the Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon from prison in Rome
Paul is free from Roman prison and writes letters to Timothy and Titus
Suetonius Paulinus, the governor appointed by Rome, invades the island of Anglesey in a campaign against the Druids
Roman author Pliny the Younger is born
Fire breaks out in Rome and burns for nine days, destroying most of the city
Christians experience great persecution in Rome
Paul the apostle is executed in Rome
The Colosseum is built in Rome, but dedicated a decade later
Jesus' prediction of the destruction of the temple comes to pass when the Romans destroy Jerusalem and burn the temple
The Jewish fortress at Masada is captured by the Romans

ROMANS 16:1-16



Is it essential for a church's name to include the word "Christ" in its title? Mormons (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) and many members of the Church of Christ believe so. However, Romans 16:16 is the only biblical reference specifically using the term "churches of Christ." If it were really necessary to include "Christ" in the name of our churches, why does the phrase appear only this one time? Further, why does the same author (Paul) use a variety of titles, such as "the churches of Galatia" (Gal 1:2), "the church of the Thessalonians" (1Th 1:1; 2Th 1:1), the "church of God" (1Co 10:32), and "God's church" (Gal 1:13) in several of his letters? Rather than having "Christ" in its name, Paul emphasizes that true churches live by the doctrinal truths of the gospel of Christ. Titles mean nothing. It's the reality of following the authentic Christ that matters.

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE
ROMANS

ROMANS, PAUL'S GREATEST WORK, IS placed first among his 13 epistles in the New Testament. While the four Gospels present the words and works of Jesus Christ, Romans explores the significance of His sacrificial death. Using a question-and-answer format, Paul records the most systematic presentation of doctrine in the Bible. Romans is more than a book of theology; it is also a book of practical exhortation. The good news of Jesus Christ is more than facts to be believed; it is also a life to be lived—a life of righteousness befitting the person, "justified freely by [God's] grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (3:24).

Although some manuscripts omit "in Rome" in 1:7, 15, the title *Prox Romanicus*, "To the Romans," has been associated with the epistle almost from the beginning.

WATCH WORDS

- justification (acquittal, declaration of righteousness)—4:25 (also 5:18)
- law (an inward principle of action)—6:14 (also 7:21; 8:2)
- predestine (mark out beforehand)—8:29
- transform (change form)—12:2
- flesh (the lower nature of a person)—13:14 (also 7:25; 8:4-9)

Historically Speaking

Sisters in Christ • 16:1, 2

As adopted sons and daughters of God the Father, all Christians become brothers and sisters in Christ. The frequency with which Paul uses the words *brethren*, *brother*, and *sister* indicates the normalcy of the practice [16:14; 1 Cor. 7:15; and 99 uses of *brethren* in Paul's epistles]. It is certainly fitting that Paul calls Phoebe "our sister." She is only one of many faithful women of influence recorded in Scripture, in biography, and in the history of the early church.

An influential group of women were followers of Jesus: Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and others (Luke 8:2, 3). They used their resources to support Him and His ministry. When Jesus entered His ministry, women intuitively responded to His teachings and then sympathized with Him in His darkest hours. Women were the last to leave the cross, the first at the tomb on Christ's resurrection day, and the first to proclaim the glorious news of His victory over the grave.

Lydia was Paul's first recorded convert in Philippi, and she opened her home to Paul and his companions (Acts 16:11-15). Not only that, her home became a base of operations for Paul in Philippi. Another example of a faithful woman is Dorcas (Acts 9:36).

The church owes more than it realizes to the prayers, loyalty, and gifts of its female members.

Romans

BOOK INTRODUCTION

On his third missionary journey, while spending three months in Corinth, Paul found himself at an important crossroads. As he was so far west, it would have been the perfect time to go on to Rome and visit the church there—a church he did not plant and had never visited. But he also had a more immediate responsibility: to safely ferry the financial contributions made by the Macedonian Christians to the suffering church in Jerusalem (15:25–27).

What should he do? Which direction should he go? Southeast . . . or northwest? In God's providence, Paul's decision to send a letter to the Roman church and go in person to Jerusalem resulted in one of the most magnificent books of the NT. He told the Romans of his genuine desire to visit them as soon as possible, posted the letter, and then turned his eyes toward Jerusalem (1:8–13; 15:23–30).

And what a letter it was! This was no quick note jotted on the back of an envelope. Many today consider the letter to the Romans to be Paul's *magnum opus*, his greatest work.

Paul's desire was to prepare the church at Rome to be his partner as he reached Spain and the regions beyond for Christ—and he wrote a letter appropriate for the task (15:24, 28).

The NT reveals how Paul ultimately arrived in Rome—in chains, under arrest for an alleged insurrection in Jerusalem. Nonetheless, the letter he wrote has served for almost two millennia as a benchmark for Christian theology—and a guide for all who would be grounded in the truth as they go forth with the message of the gospel.

WHAT IT SAYS | *Believing and Doing*

For someone who had never visited the Christians in Rome, Paul seemed to possess an amazing store of knowledge about the men and women on the church rolls. He greets, *by name*, almost 30 individuals in the closing section of his letter (16:3–15), while offering well wishes from eight fellow believers with him in Corinth (16:21–24). His greetings follow his commendation of Phoebe, the deaconess who hand-delivered the letter from Paul to the church in Rome (16:1, 2). Paul was a consummate networker, always seeking through his letters to connect and build up believers by name.

Following the pattern in several of his NT epistles, Paul took a clear, two-pronged approach in Romans: doctrine followed by duty; theology followed by practice; understanding followed by application; and believing followed by doing.

Romans is easily divided into two such parts, both of which center on the righteousness of God (1:16, 17): Romans 1–11 shows how God has revealed His righteousness in the world, and why that good news needs to be proclaimed. Chapters 12–16 contain directives on how those who have responded to God's righteousness should demonstrate it in their daily lives and in the church as a witness to all.

The apostle's "therefore" in Romans 12:1 serves as a mighty hinge in his letter. With all the force of 11 weighty chapters of teaching behind him, Paul pivots to application in five user-friendly chapters of instruction for everyday, Spirit-led life. But this is more than a dull recitation of duty; the apostle is *passionate* about the need to apply these great, foundational truths. He "peseeches" or pleads with these brothers and sisters to live out their faith and to resist the powerful pressure to conform to their culture, instead renewing their minds with the life-shaping truths he had just declared to them (12:1, 2).

If the Gentiles in the regions beyond were to be transformed into the image of Christ, it would be because the Christians in Rome had refused to be molded by the world and had given their lives instead to proclaiming and living out the righteousness of God in the world.

WHAT IT MEANS | *Magnificent, Incomparable Grace*

Romans is an important follow-up to the multitude of historical facts presented in the four Gospels and the Acts of the apostles, offering a sweeping presentation of the gospel message. As the first doctrinal book in the NT, Romans reads like a first-century course in biblical theology, with an essential attribute of God (righteousness) at the core of the curriculum:

- **God's Righteousness:** Yes, all humanity is corrupted beyond human remedy (1–3), but God has made righteousness possible through the living, resurrected Christ (3–5). The benefit of God's righteousness is freedom from the power and guilt of sin through the power of the Holy Spirit (6–8). God offers the blessings of righteousness to the Gentiles by grafting them into the living promises given to Israel (9–11). This indwelling righteousness of God, however, brings obligations: individually, in the church, and in the world (12–16).

- **Justification by Grace through Faith:** The word *faith* occurs 55 times in Romans. It is the great principle of this epistle, for every blessing is received by faith (14:23). Paul goes to great lengths in chapters 3–5 to demonstrate that a right standing with God will never come through an external adherence to human standards of righteousness or strict obedience to laws (God's or the world's) but rather, by grace through faith.

- **The Family of God:** Nowhere in his other writings does Paul extol the Fatherhood and family of God as he does in Romans. God has called His children out of the world and is conforming them, through every circumstance of life, into the very image of Christ, His firstborn Son (8:28, 29). The Holy Spirit—the believer's ever-present Counselor and Teacher—confirms that he or she is a child of God and that God is a holy, loving Father (8:12–17).

- **Israel and the Gentiles:** Israel's temporary disobedience toward God had resulted in something most of the Jews of that day would not have predicted or even conceived: God's mercy to the Gentiles (11:30, 31). Nevertheless, God worked out His sovereign purposes among His chosen people as Gentiles were grafted into the living tree of faith.

- **Living in the World:** Romans 13:1–7 presents the NT's longest instruction about the Christian's relationship to civil government. Chapter 14 lays out significant guidelines relating to "matters of choice" in life—protecting the life and liberty of all His followers.

Those who have trusted in Christ Jesus for salvation were never meant to live defeated, despairing, boxed-in, unhappy lives. In Romans 5:17, Paul writes that the "abundance of grace" we have received—and receive every day—along with the gift of righteousness, enables us to "reign in life" through Jesus. To reign means nothing less than to rule as royalty. The apostle is speaking not only about that future day when the faithful will "rule and reign with Christ" in glorified, resurrected bodies, but right here . . . right now. As princes and princesses in the kingdom of heaven, we are to reign in the midst of any and all circumstances.

Life certainly presents an abundance of troubles, but those who belong to God have been given an abundance of grace—the unlimited, unbounded favor of God in Christ—with which to deal with those troubles. We may sometimes be disappointed with how often and how far we fall short of the life we long to live, but God has deposited the radiant, priceless gift of His own righteousness into our account. To reign and rule in life means that no situation—including death itself—can ultimately defeat us as sons and daughters of the Great King.

SPEAK THE TRUTH

Freedom Through Confession

Romans 2:12–15

In order to put the past behind us, we must stop rationalizing our failures and start telling ourselves the truth. All of us struggle with our consciences, trying to make peace within our own hearts. In order to gain this peace, we may deny what we have done, find excuses or try to squirm out from under the full weight of our sin. We may work hard to be "good," attempting to counteract our wrongs. We will try everything we can to even up the score. But until we confess our sins to God, we will get nowhere.

God holds everyone accountable since "they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them" (Romans 2:15). We are like people who have committed crimes but who refuse to accept the charges brought against them. We may have spent our energies constructing alibis, coming up with excuses and trying to plea-bargain. But if we sincerely seek spiritual renewal, now is the time to admit what we know deep down inside to be true: We are guilty.

By speaking the truth about our sinfulness, we stop fighting and admit that we are wrong. We agree with God and our own consciences that we have done wrong, and we confess these sins to him. With our confession there is no real freedom. But what a relief it is to finally admit our sinfulness to God. When we do confess, we regain internal peace, and our spirits will be renewed.

Turn to Galatians 6.

ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY

Unable to Remove Sinfulness

Romans 6:5–11

We must take responsibility for our lives and stop passing the blame for our sins to others. Yet we are not responsible for transforming our sinful nature. Most of us have made numerous attempts at self-improvement. Perhaps we have consciously tried to improve our attitudes, our education, our appearance or our habits. All these improvements are good. We may even have experienced some success in these areas. However, when it comes to our struggle with our sinful natures, chances are we have only experienced deep frustration whenever we have tried to change ourselves.

There is a reason for our failure to transform our lives by our own power: Only God can transform our sinful nature. The Bible tells us that our sinful nature must be put to death, as Jesus was, if we hope to find new life. The apostle Paul wrote, "Our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin" (Romans 6:6). And again, "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24).

There is no quick fix for our sinful nature, and we are not responsible to improve it. We are only responsible to repent and allow God to put our old nature to death daily. When we stop trying to improve that part of us that cannot be improved, God can crucify our old nature and resurrect a new life in its place. That is true spiritual renewal.

Turn to 1 Corinthians 13.

Serving the Creature or the Creator?

Romans 1:15-32

PAUL BEGAN HIS AMAZING LETTER to the church in Rome by summarizing Christian theology in broad, bold strokes. Reduced to its simplest expression, the message of chapter 1 is this: God is God, and you're not. So worship God instead of yourself.

People who refuse to worship God lose their senses, Paul wrote, becoming foolish and confused. One of the ways this foolishness shows is in the area of sexuality. Specifically, Paul pointed out the sin of homosexual behavior, where women turn "against the natural way" by pursuing other women, and men do "shameful things with other men" (Romans 1:26-27).

The problem begins with lust, something that Jesus condemned in Matthew 5 by equating it with adultery. Runaway sexual desire can combine with confusion and foolishness, leading to sexual sins of many sorts. Uncontrolled sin becomes a tidal wave that washes over everything in its path, destroying God's moral boundaries.

In the last five verses of this opening chapter of Romans, Paul made it clear that God isn't concerned only with sexual sin. Once people give up on following God's will, they will be targets for all kinds of other sins: greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, and so on. In other words, there are many ways to sin. But all sins, including sexual sin, have one thing in common: the choice to ignore God's ways and make up our own rules as we go along.

A Roman Roll Call

Romans 16:1-23

ROMANS IS OFTEN VIEWED as Paul's most powerful theological essay. But this document was originally a letter to the Christian community in Rome, and Paul spends the last chapter sending personal greetings. Many of the people Paul mentions are women.

First there's Phoebe, who is described as a deacon. Phoebe probably supported Paul financially, helping to fund his many lengthy missionary journeys. Next come Priscilla and Aquila. As in Acts 18:26, the wife's name is listed first. This couple "risked their lives" for Paul, and he was thankful for their dedication (Romans 16:4).

Paul also greets a woman named Mary, followed by Junia, who Paul says is "highly respected among the apostles," along with a man named Andronicus (16:7).

On and on Paul goes, thanking women such as Tryphena, Tryphosa, Persis, and the mother of Rufus, then Julia and the unnamed sister of Nereus.

What's interesting about Paul's Roman roll call is that it shows how important women were in the life of the early church. At a time when men dominated culture, and most institutions observed strict gender roles, the church welcomed women's gifts.

REMEMBERING WHAT WE HAVEN'T DONE

Romans 7:15

any liturgical prayers of confession include the admission that we have not done those things we should have done. By confessing this, we affirm that sin consists not only of those things we do that are wrong, but also of those things we neglect to do that are right. In other words, there are sins of commission and sins of omission. It isn't enough simply to avoid the evil things of life. We must also do the right things.

Paul gives us a clear picture of this in Romans 12. We are exhorted not only to avoid conflict with our enemies but also to feed them. We are supposed to defend ourselves against evil but also go on the offensive for doing good.

As we examine our lives, we must look not only at our mistakes but also at the times when we had an opportunity to do right and didn't do it. Confessing these sins of omission helps make us more aware of such opportunities in the future so that we might serve God and others more faithfully.

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Reflect on the commands outlined in Romans 12. Also consider the great commandments to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself (see Matthew 22:37-39). In light of these commands, assess your recent behavior. What good things do you often neglect to do? Confess these sins of omission to God and ask his forgiveness. Then consider how you can stimulate yourself to do such things the next time an opportunity arises.

For more on repentance and confession, turn to James 5.

YOUR ALTAR EGO

Romans 12:1

Service is a way of saying thanks to God for all that he has done for us. We can never truly pay back the overwhelming love and support our friends and family may have shown us, but we can pass their love on to others. In the same way, we can never repay God for granting us life in Christ and for blessing us, but we can pass his love on to others in practical ways.

One of the greatest barriers to service, however, is pride. Sinful pride causes us to scoff at the thought of putting others first. Pride teaches us to calculate how every action will further our own reputation or advance us toward our goals. Pride carefully keeps records of who is next in line for something good.

Paul's letter to the Romans leaves no room for pride. Those who understand their unworthiness and sinfulness, as well as the priceless sacrifice of Christ and the new life of faith he gives by grace, will place their ego on the altar. Sinful pride must die when faith comes alive.

Romans 12 illustrates several specific areas in which we can be living sacrifices and serve God in the world. As living sacrifices, we surrender the use of our gifts solely for our own advancement. We seek to bless others instead and sacrifice our time and resources for their benefit. In the process, our lives are shaped into the image of Christ.

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Have you determined to offer your life as a living sacrifice to God? What will this entail? Where do you sense God is calling you to serve? Let your motivation for service flow from a heart that is thankful to God for the grace he has shown you.

For more on service, turn to 1 Corinthians 12

THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES : WORSHIP

WORSHIP ISN'T JUST FOR CHURCH

Romans 12:1-2

Worship is a way of life. Worship is not simply what we do for God in church; it is also who we are for God in the world. Our behavior can inspire others to praise and thank the Lord (see Matthew 5:16; 2 Corinthians 9:11-13).

This entire chapter demonstrates how we can bring worship into our daily lives. Worship becomes our way of life as we:

- Allow God to transform our minds. In this way our allegiance is transferred from the world to God.
- Serve others with our gifts. God is honored by the full exercise of our gifts, for it displays his glory as our Creator. We should rejoice in these gifts and use them to accomplish God's purposes.
- Reflect God's love and grace to those around us. This is the second great commandment: that we love others as ourselves (see Matthew 22:39). In Romans 12:9-21, Paul gives us numerous examples that illustrate how we are to obey this commandment. Note that these are not simply humanitarian gestures. They are acts of worship, acts that please and honor God.

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Review Romans 12. Have you offered your entire self for the daily worship of God? If not, what has kept you from doing so? This is the starting place for our walk with God. Spiritual renewal begins with giving ourselves completely to God. Consider the three primary ways mentioned here to bring worship into daily life. Which of these ways least characterizes your behavior? Make specific plans for worshiping God more fully in this area in your life.

The "Romans" Road to the Gospel of Jesus Christ

The Problem of Sin

Romans 3:23

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."

The Wages of Sin

Romans 6:23a

"For the wages of sin is death..."

The Love of God

Romans 5:8

*"But God demonstrates His own love toward us,
in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

The Free Gift of Salvation

Romans 6:23b

"But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Accepting the Free Gift

Romans 10:9 & 13

*"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart
that God has raised Him from the dead,
you will be saved.*

*(13) For whoever calls on the name of the LORD
shall be saved."*

The Roman Road to Salvation

The book of Romans is an amazing letter which Paul wrote to the gentile church in Rome. He didn't plant the church himself, and when he wrote, he was hoping to visit soon. Romans is very theological and deep, sometimes requiring reading and re-reading to grasp Paul's important concepts. However, this great book doesn't have to be difficult. In fact, Romans provides for us one of the best and simplest ways to share the gospel through Scripture ... just by learning a few verses.

We call these verses the Romans Road to Salvation!

Romans 8:38-9 – “Neither death nor life, angels or demons, the present nor the future, nor any powers, height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to SEPARATE US from the LOVE OF GOD that is in CHRIST JESUS our Lord!”

Romans 8:1 –
“There is now NO CONDEMNATION for those who are in Christ Jesus”

Romans 5:1 – “Since we have been JUSTIFIED through faith we have PEACE with God”

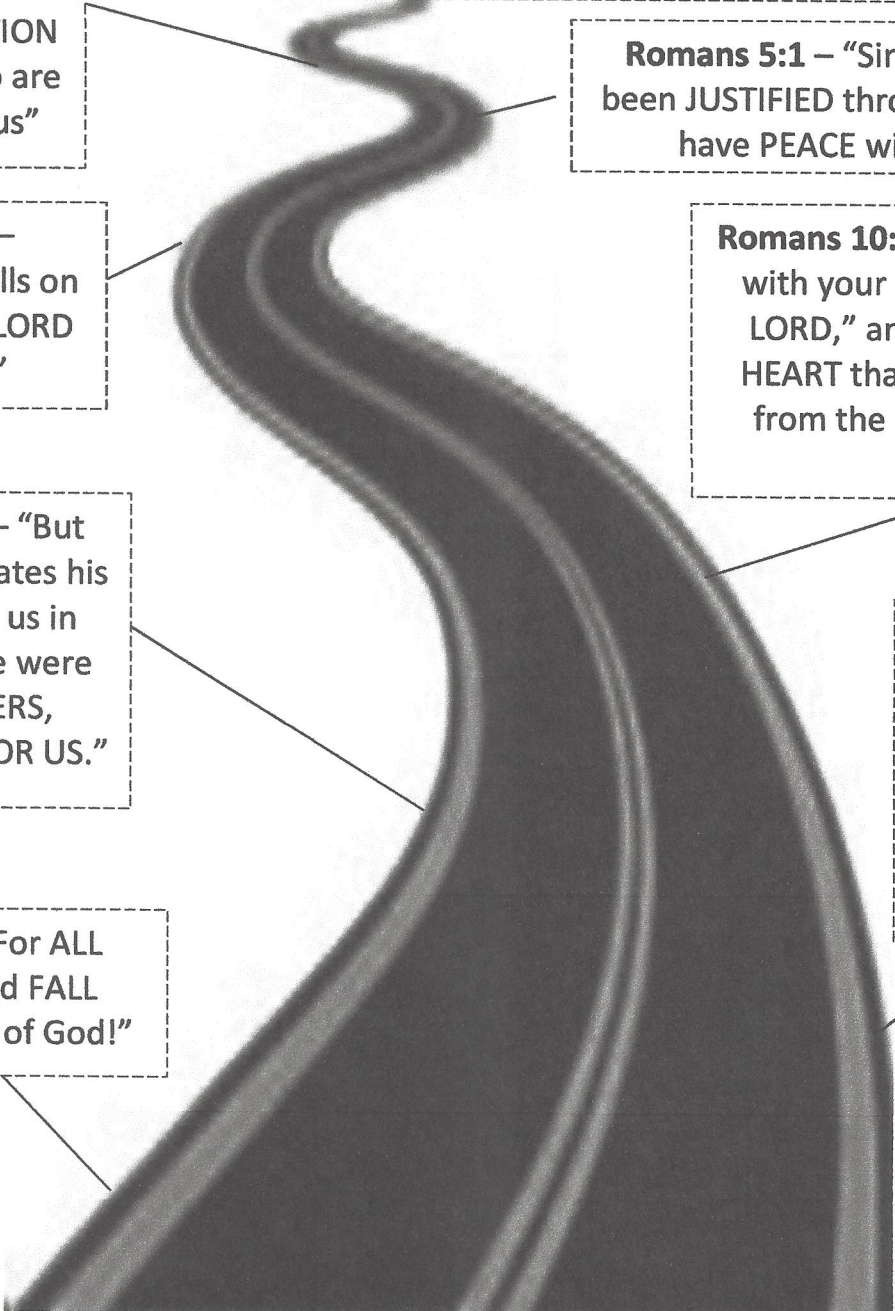
Romans 10:13 –
“EVERYONE who calls on the NAME OF THE LORD will be SAVED.”

Romans 10:9 – “If you DECLARE with your MOUTH, “JESUS IS LORD,” and BELIEVE in your HEART that God RAISED HIM from the DEAD, you will be SAVED.”

Romans 5:8 – “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.”

Romans 6:23 –
“For the WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH ...
But the GIFT of God is ETERNAL LIFE!”

Romans 3:23 – “For ALL HAVE SINNED and FALL SHORT of the glory of God!”



ROMANS

Romans is a letter that has good news for you and every believer. You can have God's approval! But you can't earn it. You need to put your trust in Jesus. Then God will forgive your sins. He will give you the Holy Spirit to help you grow and live a good life. Sometimes he will give you Christian friends to help you grow in your faith.

Romans also reminds us that God is in charge. He will do everything that he has promised, and when Jesus returns, we will be the perfect people he wants us to be!

Headlines

PAUL WANTS ROMAN HOLIDAY

Romans 1:8-17, page 1532

ABRAHAM KEPT THE FAITH

Romans 4, page 1536

ADAM LOST, JESUS WON!

Romans 5:12-21, page 1537

SLAVES SET FREE!

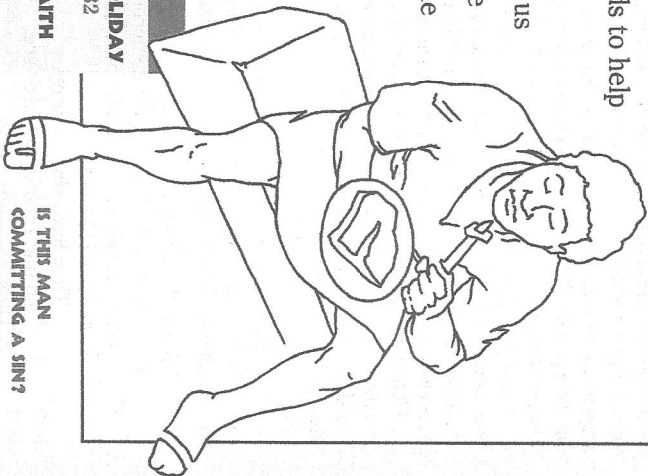
Romans 6, page 1537

ADVICE FOR CONQUERING EVIL

Romans 12, page 1545

DON'T CRITICIZE OTHERS' FOOD

Romans 14:1-4, page 1547



IS THIS MAN COMMITTING A SIN? SEE ROMANS 14.

Why Didn't the Law Work?

The Jewish people believed that by keeping God's law they could win God's approval. God gave the law to Moses and told the Jews to obey it. But in Romans, Paul says that the law failed to make the Jews righteous. What went wrong?

Suppose you have two teachers. Both teachers want you to do the same thing. Mr. Got-To yells at you, "You'd better do what I say or else!" Your favorite teacher, Mr. Want-To, encourages you, saying, "I know you can do this for me."

Mr. Got-To is like the Teachings of Moses. The rules of the law tell what is right, but they don't help you want to obey. Mr. Want-To is like the Holy Spirit. He also teaches you what's right. But because you don't want to disappoint him, you want to obey what he says!

The law did not change people's hearts. That's why it did not make them change the way they thought and acted. Faith in Jesus changes people's hearts so they want to please God.

The Holy Spirit Helps Us

Before Jesus returned to heaven, he told his disciples that in a few days they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5). On the day of Pentecost, a Jewish holy day, Jesus' promise came true. The Holy Spirit arrived with a loud, violently blowing wind. Flames of fire came to rest on each believer. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to speak about Jesus in different languages.

Romans tells us that the Holy Spirit makes us God's children and helps us please God (Romans 8). The Holy Spirit brings us close to God and helps us to live and grow as Christians.

What's In It For Me?

FAITH IN JESUS GIVES ME . . .

- A NEW POWER—OVER SIN.
- A NEW PEACE—WITH GOD.
- A NEW FREEDOM—TO BE RIGHTEOUS.
- A NEW CONFIDENCE—ETERNAL LIFE.
- A NEW LIFE—IN JESUS CHRIST.

ROMANS

KEY VERSE

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (10:9).

BY THE NUMBERS

16 CHAPTERS
433 VERSES
9,880 WORDS

WHEN IN ROME

Historians calculate that at the time of Paul's writing, Rome had a population of over four million. It was the capital of the Roman Empire and included some of the most impressive structures and features of its time. The book of Romans was written to the growing church in Rome to equip the believers for evangelism and discipleship.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ The book of Romans is sometimes called "The Gospel According to Paul."
- ▶ The book of Acts records Paul as a prisoner in Rome, awaiting an audience with Caesar and other prominent leaders of the Roman Empire.

In the Word

The word sin (or transgression or trespass) appears over 70 times. The word righteous (or righteousness) appears 45 times; mercy appears 14 times; holy appears 14 times; faith (or faithfulness) appears 42 times.

LIFE LESSONS: Faith in Jesus saves people from sin (3:21–24). Be careful not to slow others' spiritual growth (14:13).

ROMANS IN REVIEW

- MINUTIAE & MISCELLANY**

1. What does Paul say he delights in?

WHO SAID IT?

2. "So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge."

A. Isaiah
B. Hosea
C. David
D. Micah
- MINUTIAE & MISCELLANY**

3. What does Paul say we will also do if we die with Christ?

TIME TRAVELER

4. You are the one who wrote the letter at Paul's dictation. Who are you?
- MINUTIAE & MISCELLANY**

5. "At the present time, there is a remnant chosen by grace. And if by grace, then it cannot be based on _____" (Fill in the blank.)

WHO SAID IT?

6. "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" Which prophet does Paul quote?
- MINUTIAE & MISCELLANY**

7. What does Paul tell us never to be lacking in?

A. Courage
B. Faith
C. Zeal
D. Sleep
- HOT SEAT**

8. Paul quoted me by saying, "The righteous will live by faith." Who am I?
- HOT SEAT**

9. What does Paul compare the Gentiles to in Romans 11?

A. Newborn children in need of proper nourishment
B. Weeping willows blowing in the breeze
C. Ripened figs waiting to be picked
D. Grafted branches on an olive tree
- TIME TRAVELER**

10. You are the man whose mother Paul said had been a mother to him too. Who are you?
- "?" CRYPTIC PHRASES**

11. What phrase does Paul write that was used to describe the full legal standing of an adopted heir in Roman culture?

A. Adoption to sonship
B. Becoming of princship
C. Acceptance of successorship
D. Derriving of stance
- MINUTIAE & MISCELLANY**

12. According to Paul, "Everything that does not come from faith is _____" (Fill in the blank.)

ANSWERS:

1. God's love with which we live (1:15–17). 2. C (3:21–22). 3. C (3:21–22). 4. C (3:21–22). 5. word by grace (3:21–22). 6. A (1:18). 7. C (1:18). 8. Habakkuk 2:4. 9. D (11:23–24). 10. Paul (1:9–19). 11. A (1:18). 12. sin (1:4:23).