

I. Introduction to the book of Romans.

A. Why study Romans?

1. Romans is the most widely influential letter ever written.
2. Romans sets forth the fundamentals of the Christian faith.
3. We need a deeper understanding of the gospel.
4. In the midst of bad news there is good news: Gospel!

B. Our approach to Romans: depth and pace.

C. An overview of Romans.

1. Prologue. 1:1-15 Salutation and introduction.
2. God's righteousness revealed in the gospel. Justification by faith. 1:16-8:39
 - a. The theme of the gospel. 1:16-17
 - b. The need of the gospel: The universality of sin. 1:18-3:20
 - c. The saving righteousness of God which comes by faith. 3:21-5:21
 - d. The way of holiness. 6:1-8:39
3. God's righteousness to Israel and the Gentiles. 9:1-11:36
4. God's righteousness in everyday life. 12:1-15:13
5. The extension of God's righteousness through the Pauline mission. 15:14-16:27

II. The preacher of the gospel. v. 1, 5-6

A. The circumstances of the author.

1. Who wrote Romans? 16:22
2. He is probably writing from Corinth in about 57 AD. 16:1,23 I Co. 1:14.
3. Paul prepares them for his (late) visit. 1:10-15 15:25f

B. Paul's introduces himself. v. 1

1. A bond-servant of Christ.
 - a. His humble attitude towards Christ. Ex. 21:5-6
 - b. His employment as a servant of the LORD, in the line of the prophets of old. Gen. 26:24 Ps. 105:6,42 Num. 12:7-8 Deut. 34:5 Ps. 116:16 105:26
Josh 1:1 24:29 II Sam. 7:5,8 Jer. 29:19 Isa. 42:1 37:35 20:3
2. Called as an apostle. Ga. 1:1,12 Eph. 2:20 Acts 1:21-26 2:32 II Co. 12:12 Jer. 1:5
3. Set apart for the gospel of God. Acts 9:15 13:2 22:14-15 26:16-18 I Ti. 1:13-15
Gal. 1:13-16a I Co. 15:9f

**C. Paul's commission is to preach the gospel to all the nations. v. 5-6 Gal. 1:16 2:7
Acts 9:15 22:21**

III. The promise of the gospel. v. 2

A. God is the author of the good news. v. 1d Gal. 1:11-12

B. While the gospel is good news, it is not new news.

1. The way of salvation was planned and revealed by God long ago. Gen. 3:15
Nu. 24:17 Dt. 18:15 I Pe. 1:10f Acts 2:14f Lu. 24:44 John 12:16 Amos 3:7 Ti. 1:2
2. Paul's gospel in Romans is rooted in the theology of the Old Testament. 1:17 3:21
4:3,6-25 8:4 10:5-20 15:9-12,21 Mt. 5:17-18

IV. The Person of the gospel is Jesus Christ our Lord. v. 3-4

- A. There is no gospel without Jesus Christ. Heb. 1:2
- B. He is God the Son from eternity. v. 3a 8:3,32 9:5 Phil. 2:6 Col. 1:15f 2:9 Gal. 4:4 John 8:58 1:1-2 17:5 10:30 20:28
- C. He humbled Himself by being born as a man. v. 3b 9:5 John 1:14 Gal. 4:4 Phil. 2:6-8 II Co. 8:9 I Ti. 3:16 I Jo. 4:1
 - 1. Without laying aside His divine nature He assumed our human nature (*flesh*).
 - a. He became something that He wasn't before. *Subtraction by addition*
 - b. He is fully man. Yet He is also fully God.
 - 2. He is of the seed of David: the Messianic King. II Sam. 7:12ff Isa. 9:6f 11:10 Jer. 23:5f Ezek. 34:23f 37:24f Rev. 5:5 22:16 Acts 2:29f 13:22f Mt. 1:1 II Ti. 2:8 Mk.10:47-48 12:35-37
- D. He is exalted being designated the Son of God by the resurrection. v. 4 Phil. 2:9-11 I Tim. 3:16 II Co. 13:4
 - 1. Notice the contrast between His humiliation and His exaltation. v. 3-4
 - a. Born/Appointed (declared).
 - b. Seed of David/Son of God.
 - c. According to the flesh/According to the Spirit.
 - 2. In what sense is Jesus appointed (declared) Son of God by the resurrection? Acts 10:42 17:31 2:23,36
 - a. He did not become Son of God because He is eternally the Son. John 1:1-2
 - b. His humiliation has ended and He is exalted to a new level of power and glory by virtue of His finished work. Phil. 2:9-11 Acts 17:31
 - c. The age of the Spirit is inaugurated. I Ti. 3:16 John 7:37-39 I Co. 15:44

V. The purpose of the gospel is that God will be glorified as multitudes believe. v. 5

- A. Paul's immediate goal is that people will respond to the gospel with faith. v. 5b
 - 1. What is the *obedience of faith*? 16:26 I Pet. 1:22 Acts 6:7
 - a. Paul is not saying that you are saved by your obedience. 3:21 Eph. 2:8-9
 - b. Unbelief is sinful disobedience. Acts 17:30-31
 - c. At conversion you are transformed from the rebellion of unbelief to the obedience of faith. You submit to God by believing the gospel. 10:3
 - 2. The obedience of faith, continues after conversion. 15:18 16:19 He. 11:8
- B. The ultimate aim of the preaching of the gospel is not humanitarian, but Divine. v. 5c Eph. 1:6,10-12 Phil. 2:9f I Pet. 2:9

VI. Concluding Applications: Grace to you! v. 6-7

- A. Paul writes to those in Rome who have embraced this Gospel. v. 6-7a
 - 1. Not much is known about the founding of the church in Rome. Acts 2:10 Apparently it was predominantly Gentile. v. 6 11:13 15:16,18
 - 2. We do know they were established by God. 8:28-30 Jer. 31:3 I Jo. 4:19
 - a. What happened to Paul has happened to them!
 - b. They are beloved of Him from before the foundation of the world.
 - c. They have been effectually called out of the world to be saints. I Co. 1:26-27 I Pet. 1:15-16.
- B. The blessing: Grace and Peace. v. 7b

Discussion Questions for Family Worship.

- 1. Who wrote Romans? From where?**
- 2. What do we know about the founding of the church at Rome?**
- 3. Why is the book of Romans so important?**
- 4. How does Paul describe himself? Why?**
- 5. How does the gospel relate to the Old Testament Scriptures? v. 2**
- 6. What does Paul proclaim about Jesus in verses 3 and 4?**
- 7. What is the nature of the contrast in the description of Jesus between verses 3 and 4?**
- 8. What is the proper response to the gospel? v. 5**
- 9. What business does Paul have in writing to the Romans?**