

I. Prologue. 1:1-17

A. Greetings. 1:1-15

1. Paul introduces himself. 1:1-6
2. Paul offers thanksgiving and prayer. v. 8-10
3. Paul desires to visit Rome. v. 11-15

B. The theme: God's righteousness is powerfully revealed to all in the gospel. 1:16-17

KEY TEXT: SUMMARY OF ROMANS 1:16-17

II. God's righteousness is revealed in the gospel. 1:18-8:39

A. All mankind lacks the righteousness God requires: Grace needed. 1:18-3:20

1. The Gentiles are guilty and without excuse. 1:18-31
 - a. God has revealed Himself in creation and conscience. 1:18-20
 - b. Man has chosen to suppress the knowledge of God and to worship the creature rather than the creator. Idols. 1:21-23.
 - c. God has given man over to sinful hardness. 1:24-31
 - d. Deep down man knows he stands condemned. 1:32
2. The Jews are guilty and without excuse. 2:1-3:8
 - a. They try to plead their ancestry, privileges, and law keeping but they are hypocrites who have abused their privileges. 2:1-5
 - b. The Jew also stands condemned under God's impartial judgment. 2:6-16
 - c. Religious heritage and ceremonies will not deliver you. 2:17-24
 - d. What matters is the heart. 2:25-29
 - e. God's judgment upon the Jew is just. 3:1-8
3. The Scriptures confirm all are unrighteous (totally depraved). 3:9-20
 - a. By nature we lack spiritual righteousness, understanding, and ability. 3:10-12
 - b. Our actions are vile: words, thoughts, and acts. 3:13-18
 - c. All of us are without excuse and deserve judgment. 3:19
 - d. No one can be justified by works. 3:20a
 - e. What then is the purpose of the law? 3:20b

B. God supplies the righteousness we need through faith in Jesus Christ: Grace provided (Justification). 3:21-5:21

1. You are justified (declared righteous) by faith in Christ. 3:21-31

KEY TEXT: JUSTIFICATION 3:21-26

 - a. The sole source of justification is God's grace, not man's works. v. 21-24a
 - b. The nature of justification is forensic (a change of legal status). v. 24a
 - c. The sole ground of justification is the propitiatory death of Christ by which our redemption was accomplished. v. 24b-25a Rev. 5:9 Mark 10:45
 - d. The object of justification is the demonstration of God's righteousness. v. 25b-26
 - e. The sole means by which justification is received is personal faith. v. 22, 25, 26 5:1 Eph. 2:8-9
 - f. This gospel leaves no basis for human pride. v. 27-28
 - g. This gospel eliminates distinctions among people. v. 29-30
 - h. This gospel of justification by faith is consistent with God's law. v. 21b, 31
2. God has always justified people by faith alone. 4:1-25
 - a. Abraham and David were justified by faith. 4:1-8 Gen. 15:6 Psalm. 32
 - b. Justification has always occurred apart from religious rites or the law. v. 9-12
 - c. God graciously saves us in the same way he saved Abraham. v. 13-25

3. Justification brings abundant blessings. 5:1-11
 - a. Peace with God. v. 1
 - b. Access to God. v. 2a
 - c. Hope, even in afflictions. v. 2b-5
 - d. Security in God's great love. v. 6-11
 4. Justification is rooted in the obedience of Christ, the New Adam. 5:12-21

KEY TEXT: IMPUTATION 5:12-19

 - a. Our representative Adam's sin is imputed to all of us resulting in condemnation and death. v. 12-14
 - b. Our representative Jesus brings justification in the same way Adam brought condemnation. v. 15-21 Christ has gained for us more than Adam lost.
 - (1) The sins of all who are identified with Christ by faith are imputed to Him who was condemned in our place.
 - (2) Christ's perfect righteousness is imputed to all who are identified with Him by faith. 4:23-24 Phil. 3:9 II Co. 5:21
- C. God continues to produce righteousness in those who are united to Christ. 6:1-8:39 (Sanctification and glorification).
1. Because we are united with Christ, our lives are transformed. 6:1-23
 - a. Baptism symbolizes how we are dead to sin and alive to God. 6:1-14
 - b. We are freed from bondage to sin and slaves to righteousness. 6:15-23
 2. Though we are freed from the law, we are not yet sinless. 7:1-25
 - a. You have been released from the law and you are married to Christ. 7:1-6
 - b. The law exposes, arouses, and condemns sin. 7:7-13
 - c. The believer still struggles against the flesh: a war within. 7:14-25
 3. God enables us to overcome sin by the work of the Holy Spirit. 8:1-17
 - a. God has done for you what the law could not do. 8:1-4
 - b. Now you walk according to the Spirit, not the flesh. 8:5-11
 - c. The Holy Spirit helps you to mortify sin. 8:12-14
 - d. You are adopted sons of God. 8:15-17
 4. We are secure in Christ and look forward to glorification. 8:18-39
 - a. We yearn for future glory which surpasses present suffering. 8:18-27
 - b. God works all things together for our good. 8:28
 - c. We are predestined to glory. 8:29-30

KEY TEXT: GOD'S WORK IN SALVATION IS OUR SECURITY 8:29-30
 - d. Nothing can separate you from God's love. 8:31-39

III. God's righteousness is displayed in His plan for Israel and the Gentiles. 9-11

- A. God has dealt righteously with Israel: Divine sovereignty. 9:1-33
1. Paul is passionately concerned for his countrymen. 9:1-5
 2. God's purpose in election is being fulfilled. 9:6-13
 - a. God's Word has not failed. 9:6a
 - b. Mere physical descent does not make one a child of God. v. 6b-10
 - c. God's sovereign election determines who will be blessed. 9:11-13
 3. God's sovereign election is just. v. 14-23

KEY TEXT: GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IN SALVATION 9:16

 - a. God sovereignly bestows mercy apart from human merit or effort. v. 14-18
 - b. No creature has the right to challenge Almighty God. v. 19-24
 4. Israel has fallen away according to God's sovereign purpose. v. 25-33
 - a. Israel's stumbling was foretold by the Prophets. v. 25-29
 - b. Israel's present condition is her own fault. v. 30-33

B. God has dealt righteously with Israel: Human responsibility. 10:1-21

1. The gospel is freely offered. 10:1-15
 - a. God's way of salvation is not man's way. 10:1-4
 - b. God freely offers His righteousness to all who will believe! v. 5-13
 - c. This Word is being sent to the ends of the earth. v. 14-15
2. Israel has inexcusably rejected this gospel. 10:16-21

C. God's righteous rejection of Israel is neither total nor final. 11:1-36

1. God's rejection of Israel is not complete. v. 1-10
 - a. He is, by grace, presently preserving a remnant. v. 1-6
 - b. He has given the majority over to hardness. v. 7-10
2. God's rejection of Israel is not permanent. He has a plan for her future. v. 11-32
The figure of the olive tree.
 - a. Israel's loss is the Gentile's gain: They were cut off so we could be grafted in. v. 11a, 17-22
 - b. God's blessing upon the Gentiles will provoke the Jews to jealousy leading to their being grafted back into their own tree. v. 11b,13-14, 23-32
 - c. The recovery of the Jews will result in even greater blessing for the Gentiles. v. 12, 15 .
3. To God be the Glory! v. 33-36

IV. God's righteousness is practiced in the everyday lives of believers. 12:1-15:13

A. Summary statement: Consecrate yourselves to God. 12:1-2

B. Live righteously in relation to others. 12:3-13:14

1. Live righteously and lovingly in the church. 12:3-16
 - a. Use your spiritual gifts to serve the body. v. 3-8
 - b. Love the brethren. v. 9-16
2. Live righteously and lovingly with your enemies. 12:14,17-21
3. Live righteously under human government. 13:1-7
4. Live righteously by fulfilling God's law of love. 13:8-10
5. Live righteously in light of the Lord's return. 13:11-14

C. Live righteously when dealing with matters of Christian liberty. 14:1-15:13

1. The strong and the weak should not despise one another. 14:1-4
2. Each should serve God with a clear conscience and not judge others. 14:5-13
3. Exercise your liberty with Christlike love. 14:14-23
4. Bear one another's burdens in a Christlike way. 15:1-6
5. Accept one another and Glorify God together. 15:7-13

V. The extension of God's righteousness through Paul's mission. 15:14-16:27

A. Paul's writes this epistle as a reminder. 15:14-15

B. Paul is called to pioneering missions. 15:16-21 15:20

C. Paul plans to visit Rome after he completes his mission to Jerusalem, so they can send him on to Spain. 15:22-33 15:28-29

D. Greetings. 16:1-16,21-24

E. Final warnings. 16:17-20

F. Doxology. 16:25-27

VI. Concluding applications.

Discussion Questions

- 1. What is the purpose of the book of Romans?**
- 2. What are the major divisions of the book of Romans?**
- 3. Where would you go in Romans to demonstrate that all people know about God?**
- 4. Where would you go in Romans to demonstrate that all people are sinners?**
- 5. Where would you go in Romans to find a summary of justification by faith?**
- 6. Where would you go in Romans to find the explanation of our identity with Adam and with Christ? What are the three imputations?**
- 7. Where would you find the first imperative in Romans? Why is this significant?**
- 8. Where would you go in Romans to exemplify compassion for the lost?**
- 9. Where would you go in Romans to teach God's absolute sovereignty in salvation?**
- 10. Where would you go in Romans to show that God's plan for Israel has not failed?**
- 11. Where would you turn in Romans to show how we should love one another?**
- 12. Where in Romans do you learn about loving your enemies?**
- 13. Where in Romans does Paul teach about our relationship to human government?**
- 14. Where would you turn in Romans to learn about how Christians should handle matters of "Christian Liberty"?**