

Paul's Letter to the

Romans



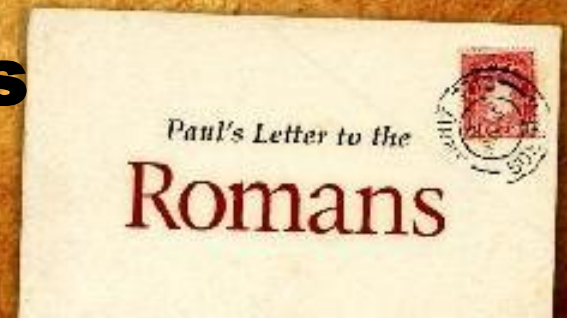
INTRODUCTION

Writer: **Paul**

Written to: **The Church in Rome**

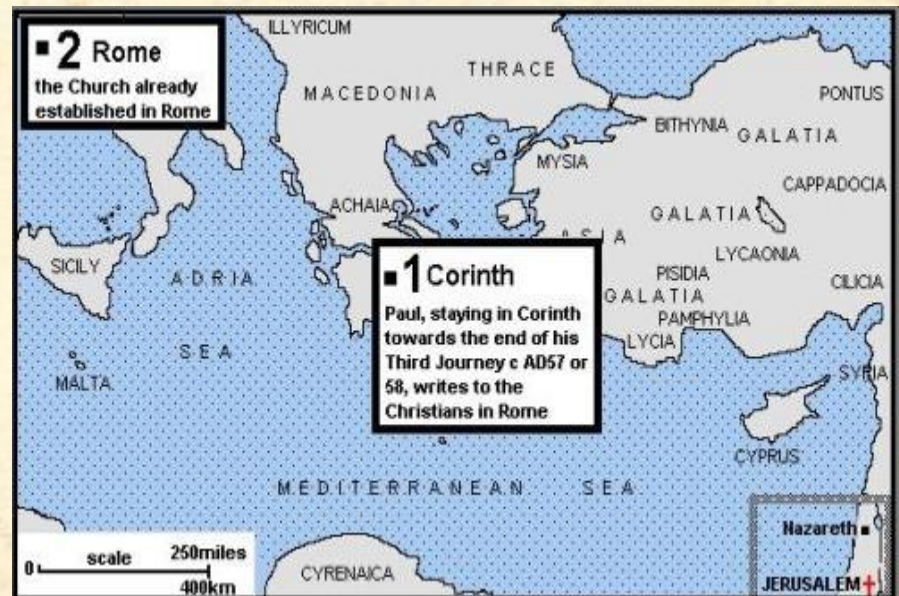
When: **57 - 58 AD**

Length: **16 Chapters**



Background

- Rome was the most important city in the world at the time of Paul. It had a vast army that controlled all the countries that surrounded the Mediterranean Sea.
- The first church began in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost- when Peter converted 3000 Christians. Among them were visitors from Rome.
- The Roman church comprised many Gentile as well as Jewish Christian members.



Background (cont ...)

- Paul wrote this letter to Tertius while he was in Corinth
- On Paul's third missionary journey he had two desires:
 - (1) To go to Jerusalem, and
 - (2) To go to Rome.
- Romans is considered to be the greatest book in the New Testament because of its content.
- Romans is an epistle or letter written to the Christian church. The book is not the first epistle, but is placed first
- due to its teaching on SALVATION.



Background (cont ...)

The Key Theme is:

- God's righteousness is only through faith in Jesus, rather than obeying laws
- The gospel is sufficient for both Jews and Gentiles

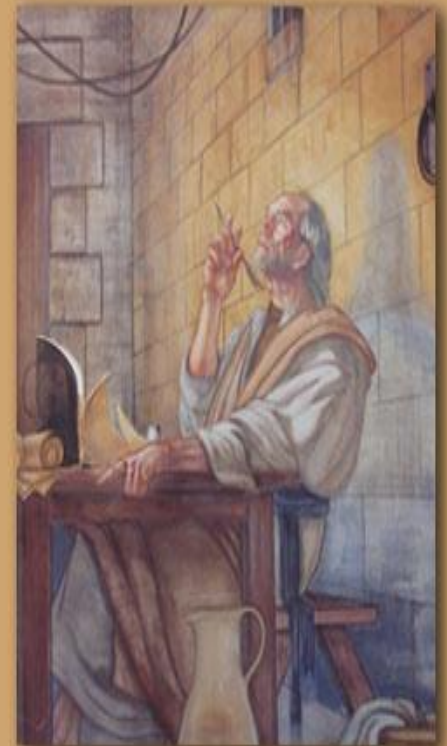
Main Purpose for writing the book:

TO SET STRAIGHT THE DESIGN AND NATURE OF THE GOSPEL!!

The Message of Romans:

How a person can be saved and know it. The book of Romans sets forth some basic Christian truths;

- (1) Settles forever the question on Salvation by faith;
- (2) Sets forth truth on the sovereignty of God;
- (3) Shows the overcoming power of God;
- (4) and establishes the truth about practical Christian living



Brief Outline (cont ...)



I. JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH (1:18-11:36)

A. SIN - THE "NEED" FOR SALVATION

1. The Need Of The Gentiles (1:18-2:16)
2. The Need Of The Jews (2:17-3:8)
3. The Universal Need For Salvation (3:9-20)

B. JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH - THE "PROVISION" MADE FOR SALVATION

1. God's Righteousness Through Faith (3:21-31)
2. Abraham As An Example (4:1-25)

C. FREEDOM - THE "RESULT" OF SALVATION

1. Freedom From Wrath (5:1-21)
2. Freedom From Sin (6:1-23)
3. Freedom From The Law (7:1-25)
4. Freedom From Death (8:1-39)

D. JEW AND GENTILE - THE "SCOPE" OF SALVATION

1. God Chooses To Save Believers (9:1-33)
2. Israel Chose To Trust In Their Own Righteousness (10:1-21)
3. Both Jew And Gentile Can Have Salvation Through Faith (11:1-36)

II. THE TRANSFORMED LIFE (12:1-15:13)

A. IN RELATION TO OVERALL CONDUCT (12:1-21)

B. IN RELATION TO CIVIL AUTHORITY (13:1-7)

C. IN RELATION TO FELLOW MAN (13:8-14)

D. IN RELATION TO WEAK BRETHREN (14:1-15:13)

I. JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH:

A. *SIN - THE "NEED" FOR SALVATION*

1. The Need Of The Gentiles (1:18-2:16)
2. The Need Of The Jews (2:17-3:8)
3. The Universal Need For Salvation (3:9-20)

- Paul demonstrates that both the Jews and the Gentiles are both in need for salvation because both have been exposed to God's wrath and Judgment because of their sinful nature.
- The Gentiles → because of their un-cleanliness, immoral and vile actions (e.g. homosexuality). And even though they DON'T have the Written law, they are not exempt from judgement since they have their conscience to guide them. God therefore Judges the secrets of their heart!
- The Jews → because even though they DO HAVE the Written Law and Scriptures and preach it to others, they themselves dishonour it, and fail to adhere to the Law perfectly, and so, face God's wrath and Judgement accordingly! St Paul explains that, a true Jew is one who is circumcised in his heart and not just in the flesh!!
- Therefore all are in need of Salvation!



I. JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH:

B. JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH - THE "PROVISION" MADE FOR SALVATION

1. God's Righteousness Through Faith (3:21-31)
2. Abraham As An Example (4:1-25)

- Now that Paul has shown that all of mankind are sinners and deserving of God's wrath and judgement- he begins to explain the "good news" of God's plan of Salvation, that God's way of making man right is available through faith to all who believe in Jesus Christ!
- This justification of man is through redemption, and is made possible through the blood of Christ and offered to those who have faith. This shows how God can be both "just" (i.e. takes seriously the sins of mankind) and a "justifier" (who is able to forgive sinners). God is able to do this through by offering Christ's blood as propitiation to those who have faith.



I. JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH:

B. JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH - THE "PROVISION" MADE FOR SALVATION (cont..)

- Paul illustrates using an Old Testament reference- to show how we receive righteousness through faith. He explains how God accepted Abraham not because he was circumcised or followed any laws, but because of his faith.
- Abraham believed God's promise to him that he would have a son and would have 'more descendants than there are stars in the sky'! Even though this promise may have seemed ridiculous since Abraham and Sarah were very old and past the age for conceiving, Abraham still had hope because he had FAITH in God!!
- This reference to Abraham-demonstrates that God's righteousness by faith is offered to all believers (Jews and Gentiles). As Abraham was justified by faith prior to being circumcised!



JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH:

C. FREEDOM - THE "RESULT" OF SALVATION

1. Freedom From Wrath (5:1-21)
2. Freedom From Sin (6:1-23)
3. Freedom From The Law (7:1-25)
4. Freedom From Death (8:1-39)



- Paul now discusses the blessings of justification through faith. He says such blessings include:
 - 1) Peace with God
 - 2) Access to this free gift of grace
 - 3) Rejoice in hope so that even in our tribulations we can glory God
 - 4) Salvation from God's wrath
- He compares Christ to Adam- Through one man (ADAM), Sin and death entered the world and the consequence has led to the death of many. In a similar way through one man (CHRIST), many may now become righteous and justified.
- Through this grace we have now become freed from sin!

I. JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH:

C. FREEDOM - THE "RESULT" OF SALVATION (Cont...)

1. Freedom From Wrath (5:1-21)
2. Freedom From Sin (6:1-23)
3. Freedom From The Law (7:1-25)
4. Freedom From Death (8:1-39)

- Some people were suggesting that they were giving God honour by continuous sin. That they were providing God with the opportunity to show more of his Grace. Paul here reminds all Christians of the meaning of baptism. When we become baptised as Christians we leave behind our sinful nature and by faith begin a new relationship with Christ.
- As Christians our attitude to sin must change. If anyone is in Christ then he/she is a completely new person (2: Corinth 5:17)



II. THE TRANSFORMED LIFE :

A. IN RELATION TO OVERALL CONDUCT (12:1-21)

B. IN RELATION TO CIVIL AUTHORITY (13:1-7)

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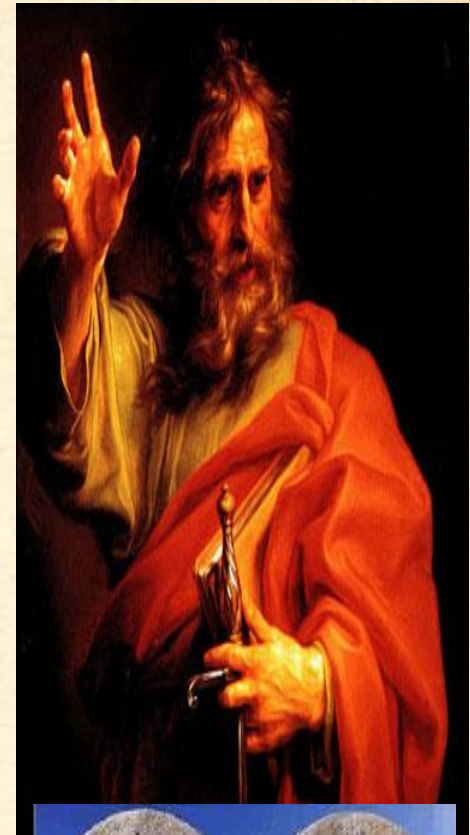
- Present your bodies as living sacrifices
- Serve god as members of one body with humility (no matter what our gifts)
- Responsibility to the government (respect authority and give what is due)
- Cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light (11-12)
- Walk properly putting on the lord Jesus (Baptism) and making no provision to fulfill fleshly lusts (13-14)
- Don't despise the weaker or less educated/less spiritual
- Don't judge others who are more educated
- Don't put stumbling blocks in your brother's way

TAKE- HOME MESSAGE 1: JUSTIFICATION COMES THROUGH FAITH

Key Verse:

"For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes-Jews first and also Gentiles. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life." (1:16-17)

The Jews believed that by obeying the law and scriptures this made them righteous but Paul emphasises strongly that the law cannot make people righteous. Nobody deserves righteousness because of our sinful human nature. The only way we become righteous is through faith in Jesus Christ. This is God's free gift to us by means of the price paid by his Son, so we may all be made righteous again!



TAKE-HOME MESSAGE 2:

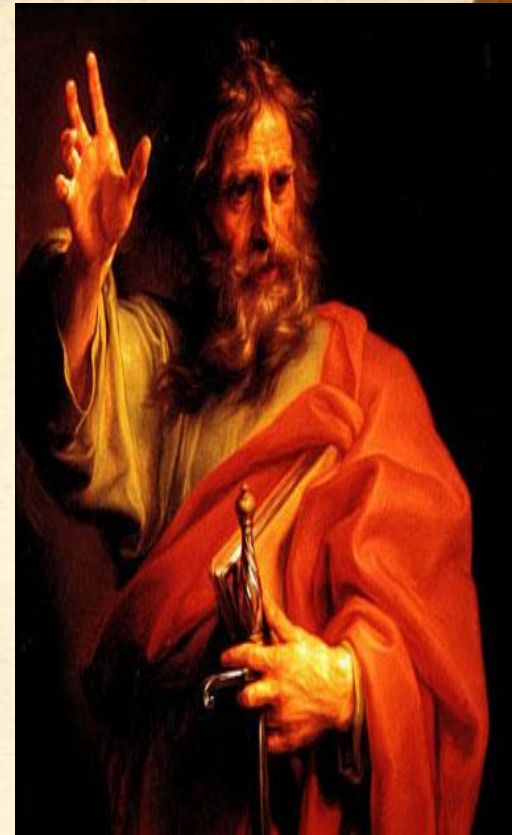
BAPTISM FREES US FROM SIN!

Key Verse:

" In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires." (Rom 6: 11-13)

Some people were suggesting that they were giving God honour by continuous sin. That they were providing God with the opportunity to show more of his Grace. Paul here reminds all Christians of the meaning of baptism. When we become baptised as Christians we leave behind our sinful nature and by faith begin a new relationship with Christ.

As Christians our attitude to sin must change. If anyone is in Christ then he/she is a completely new person (2: Corinth 5:17)



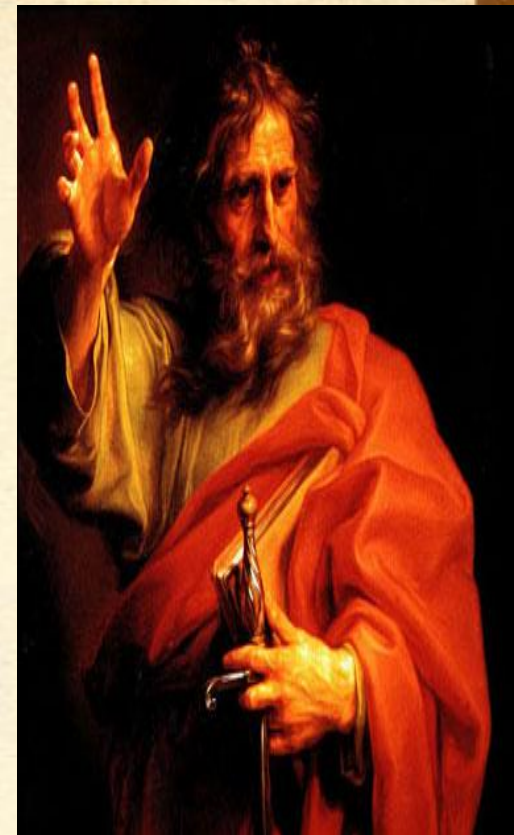
TAKE-HOME MESSAGE 3: **THE GIFTS OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Key Verse:

" For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Rom 6: 23)

1. God's gift of righteousness frees us from a life of sin. Being united in Christ, our old sinful nature was crucified with Christ.

2. God's gift of righteousness also frees us from the law. We died to the law through Christ, that we may belong to him and serve him through faith rather than in the old way of the written law. (The law itself makes our sins evident to us, but only faith frees us from our sins)



TAKE-HOME MESSAGE 3: (cont..)

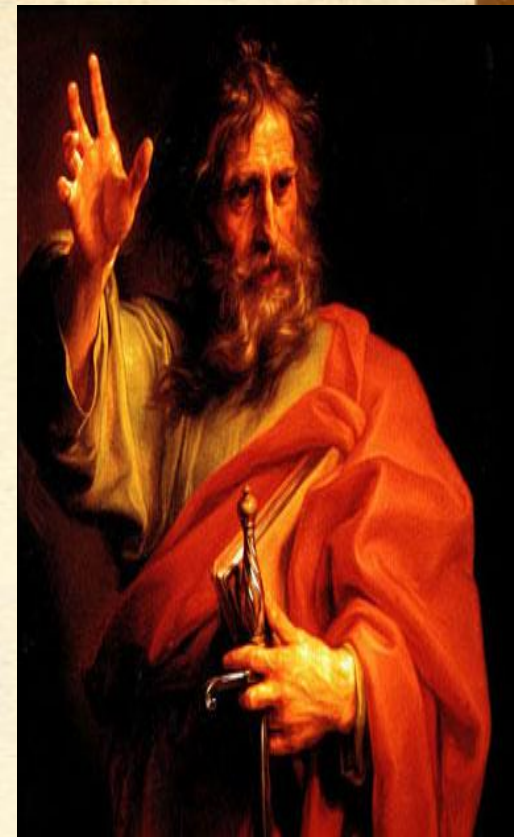
THE GIFTS OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

3. God's gift of righteousness frees us from death through the work of the Holy Spirit which allows us to be brothers and sisters in Christ!

However St Paul warns us we are obligated to live righteously by the Holy Spirit. He says now that we are free from slavery to sin, we have instead become slaves to righteousness!!

Paul teaches us how to practically live righteously:

- accept our brother/sister whose faith is weak without judging him/her
- Do not cause your weak brother/sister to stumble in their faith
- Do not sin against your conscience



not ashamed

I am not ashamed of the gospel,
because it is the power of God for the salvation
of everyone who believes:
first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Romans 1:16

HEARTLIGHT

<http://www.heartlight.org>

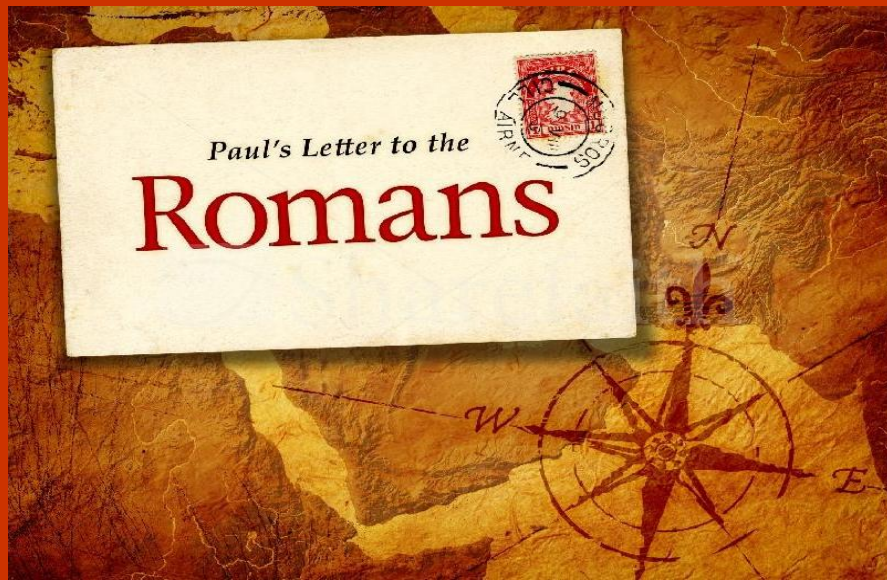
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Key Verses:

1: “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes; (1:16)

2: “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom 6: 23)

3: “In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus” (6:11)



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