

The Letters to the Churches- Gospel to the Saved *Romans 1:1-16:27*

The book of Romans it is said is the book that John Wesley was touched by and God used to start a revival that swept England. May 24, 1738 he sat in a meeting in London a discouraged missionary. He had written just a few months before in his journal, "I went to America to convert the Indians; but Oh! who shall convert me?" That evening the question was answered.

Martin Luther, another church father, was brought out of mere religion to serve God by the book of Romans, and especially **Romans 1:17**. This led to the Protestant Reformation. You and I can read and study the same letter that brought life and power to Luther and Wesley. The same Spirit can teach us as He taught them. Bible scholars have said they never have seen a man tangled up in a false cult religion who knew accurately the book of Romans.

Preparatory Facts:

1- Writer: Paul is unopposed as writer of this book. May I say God chose him to write Romans. How well fitted he was to write a book of this magnitude. As a Greek he was learned in Greek Philosophy. As a Hebrew he knew the OT and its law and the tradition of the Jews. As a Roman he was a member of the greatest Ancient Empire. Still with all of this God took him into Arabia to prepare him to be used. (See **Gal 1:17**)

2- What About the Roman Church? Who founded the Church at Rome? The Roman Catholic's say it was Peter. However this cannot be true because of the following reasons:

A- During the salutation at the end of the book Paul never addresses Peter as he mentions some 27 names.

B- **Romans 15:20** Paul's aim in life was to preach only where others had not been before.

C- Luke, as a careful historian, would have recorded it if Peter had founded the church in Rome.

How was the church at Rome founded? **Acts 2:7-11** records there were "**strangers of Rome...**" present at Pentecost when Peter preached. Some of these may have been there for Passover and stayed for the feast of Pentecost before returning to Rome with their newfound faith. **Romans 16:3-5** records that Priscilla and Aquila were there who had once taught Apollos in Ephesus recorded in **Acts 18**. They had a church in their house, which was probably the rule of the day.

3- Purpose of the Epistle: Paul set forth this letter that contains the great doctrines, and system of Christianity in logical discourse. He shows us that all of mankind is depraved and stands in need of the Savior and how they can be saved.

Paul had a hearts desire to visit the Roman believers and this letter is sent in preparation. (see **Rom 1:11**) The Judaziers Paul knew would be working to discredit His message and he wanted them to know his message prior to arriving.

Paul had a text that he expounds upon as he writes the book of Romans. **Hab 2:4 "The just shall live by faith."** The theme of the book of Romans is the righteousness of God and gospel.

Key Verses: Rom 1:16-17.

Romans was not written, as most of the other books of Paul were, that is to correct doctrinal errors or to exhort to purity or correct some wrong in the church.

OUTLINE:

Romans: "Gospel to the Saved"

I- Introduction Rom 1:1-17

II- All the World Guilty Before Him. "Sin of Mankind" Rom 1:18-3:20

III- How We Are Declared to be Righteous. "Salvation of Believers" Rom 3:21-5:21

IV- Security for the Journey of Life. "Sanctification of Believers" Rom 6:1-8:39

V- History of Israel- Past, Present and Future. "Sovereignty of Dispensation" Rom 9:1-11:36

VI- Reasonable Service to God's Perfect Will. "Set Apart to Righteousness" Rom 12:1-15:33

VII- Conclusion Rom 16:1-27

I- Introduction: Rom 1:1-17

The first seventeen verses is the Introduction section and can be divided into 3 areas of study. We spent the introduction in general discussion of this portion but allow me to suggest the following.

A. 1-7 Salutation. This section is longer than usual for a letter of Paul's because he had neither visited nor founded the church at Rome. In **Rom 1:2** Paul points out that this is not some new message from God but is the before promised Gospel.

B. 8-15 Paul reveals his heart. He "**longs to see you**" (1:11) and had "**purposed to come**" (1:13), and was "**ready to preach Gospel...at Rome.**" (1:15).

Rom 1:15 ends the personal remarks of Paul until **Romans 15:14. 1:16-15:13** is a section of Doctrine and "**The Gospel To the Saved.**"

C. 16-17 Key Verses: Again we note these are the Key Verses of this letter. Paul says that the Gospel, the good news of Christ, "**is the power of God unto salvation.**"

I- All the World Guilty Before Him "Sin of Mankind" Rom 1:18-3:20

In this section there are four lost groups of mankind. You may ask is the world lost that has never heard the Gospel? We are going to see that the following groups are indeed lost:

A. 1:18-32 Heathen world is Condemned. **1:20 "So that they are without excuse."**

B. 2:1-16 Moral Man is Lost. "**Thou that Judgest.**" Some will say, "I am as good as so and so and I don't do this and that which the so called good people do. I'm all right." **1:29-31** Name me one man who has not been guilty of some of these things and I'll show you a man who is a liar. GUILTY!

C. 2:17-3:8 Jews condemned. Paul told them that they have the law and do not do what they should and that they are condemned. **3:1** Being a Jew does not give them an exemption from condemnation.

D. 3:9-20 The whole world is condemned. Paul showed that the heathen are lost and the moral man is lost and the Jews are lost and now just in case you think you may not fit into that category he concludes "**There is none righteous, no not one.**" **3:10** All packaged, all neat and trim we are sinners, friends. Notice **3:19 "that every mouth may be stopped and all the world may become guilty before**

God." This verse summarizes **Romans 1:18-3:20**.

III- How We Are Declared to be Righteous. "Salvation of Believers" Rom 3:21-5:21

You have heard said, "get 'em lost then get 'em saved." Well Paul has certainly done the getting lost part right, Now to the chapters that give us hope. If the Gospel ended at **Romans 3:20** we would be in a fix. We would have to stand before God in silence and be condemned. But my friend there is HOPE.

Justification, Sanctification and Preservation are three aspects of salvation in Romans. The first one is Justification found in **3:21-5:21** The Justification section shows the divine method of Justification by faith and gives an OT illustration of it in Abraham. The results of justification are summed up in **5:1**.

IV- Security for the Journey of Life. "Sanctification of Believers" Rom 6:1-8:39

The next two aspect of our salvation are Sanctification, found in **6:1-7:25**, and Preservation, found in **8:1-39**. Sanctification is an ongoing process of our salvation. Now that I'm saved can I and should I go do concerning sin. (See **6:1**).

Preservation is seen clearly in **8:1 "...No condemnation."** If you think you can be lost again after you are truly saved my friend you do not understand the truth that is clearly taught in chapter 8 of Romans.

V- History of Israel- Past, Present and Future. "Sovereignty of Dispensation" Rom 9:1-11:36

There is no doubt that Israel has been set aside by God but the question is why. The prophets foretold of the time when Israel would be set aside. The Jews might ask what about the promise of the Messiah to the nation of Israel? God shows in **Romans 9** that He is just in His dealing with Israel because Israel rejected the Messiah. The Jews are lost for the same reason everyone else is, rejection of the Messiah. **10:21** makes it plain God had been merciful toward them.

But is God finished with Israel? **11:1 "God Forbid"** because they were merely set aside for a time. This section is seen as parenthetical in nature, an interlude if you will.

VI- Reasonable Service to God's Perfect Will. "Set Apart to Righteousness" Rom 12:1-15:33

The way we walk tells the world what we believe. Since **Romans 9-11** are parenthetical then lets look at the reading of **8:39** and **12:1** if you would allow minus the chapters between.

Romans 8:39; 12:1 "Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.....^{12:1} beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

How we walk is the subject of **Romans 12-15**. **Romans 12** teaches us to be **"transformed by the renewing of the mind."**

Romans 13 deals with subjection to rules. The responsibility to weaker brethren is seen in **Romans 14** and

Romans 15 helps us with examples to be followed.

VII- Conclusion Rom 16:1-27

Paul gives us his list of greetings in this final chapter and speaks of a mystery that he revealed in the book of Ephesians, the mystery of the Church.

Application to Life's Steps:

- 1- We know from the book of Romans that the whole world is lost without Christ.
- 2- We are declared to be righteous by our faith in Christ.
- 3- Justification is past part, Sanctification is the ongoing part and Glorification is the future part of our salvation.
- 4- God requires our reasonable service.

Retracing our Steps:

1- Who wrote the book of Romans?

2- What OT text is expounded in Romans? _____

Quote it here: _____

3- What are the three aspects of our salvation?

1- _____

2- _____

3- _____

4- How are we to be conformed?

PATH THREE SOURCES CITED

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