

Romans Ch 1.

Author: Paul.

Date: mid to late 50's

Universally agreed that Paul wrote Romans from Corinth as he wintered there as described in Acts 20: 2-3. Paul had preached the gospel almost 20 years by the time he wrote Romans, he was planning to visit them on his way to Spain and figured he would send a letter ahead to prepare his way. Paul never made it to Spain, instead he was arrested and killed by Nero who took his head around 60 AD.

Destination: Several Congregations in Rome.

Occasion: Preparation for Paul's journey through Rome to Spain.

Purpose: To promote Jewish-Gentile unity in the church by setting forth Paul's gospel.

Theme: The gospel proclaims that God acquits both Jews and Gentiles who believe in Jesus on the basis of Jesus' sacrificial death.

Thesis Verse: **Romans 1:16-17** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

In August of 1513, a monk lectured on the Book of Psalms to seminary students, but his inner life was nothing but turmoil. In his studies he came across Psalm 31:1: *In Thy righteousness deliver me.* The passage confused Luther; how could God's *righteousness* do anything but condemn him to hell as a righteous punishment for his sins? Luther kept thinking about Romans 1:17, which says, *the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "He who through faith is righteous shall live."* The monk went on to say: "Night and day I pondered until . . . I grasped the truth that the righteousness of God is that righteousness whereby, through grace and sheer mercy, he justifies us by faith. Therefore, I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise . . . This passage of Paul became to me a gateway into heaven." Martin Luther was born again, and the Reformation began in his heart.

In May of 1738, a failed minister and missionary reluctantly went to a small Bible study where someone read aloud from Martin Luther's Commentary on Romans. "While he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely

warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for my salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken *my* sins away, even *mine*.” John Wesley was saved that night in London.

G. Campbell Morgan (British Evangelist and Teacher) said Romans was “the most pessimistic page of literature upon which your eyes ever rested” and at the same time, “the most optimistic poem to which your ears ever listened.”

Romans 1-6

Paul, originally known as Saul. Paul means little (I am the least of the apostles)

Bondservant is a servant who serves out of love. (Pierced ear Ex. 21:5-6).

Do you serve God out of duty or out of delight?
Why does it make a difference?

Called to be an Apostle ... One sent to proclaim God’s good news.

Relationship of the OT and the NT. Jesus was always the plan.
Physical side of David... Spirit side He was proven to be God’s Son.

How? Resurrection.

Vs. 6 - Paul states his calling in verse 1 and now includes the Gentiles called in verse 6.

The called... Doctrine of Election but “who so ever will” still is true.

Romans 7-15

Called to be saints (sanctified or Holy) positionally by faith in Jesus... as we live we possess our position.

Grace and Peace, Chuck Smith calls the Siamese twins of the Gospel.

Romans 16-17 Thesis Statement of entire book

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. **17** For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

*Salvation is primarily physical in Old Testament and Spiritual in the New Testament.

Our right standing is due to Jesus death and resurrection. It is a legal right standing not a pardon of sin.

Faith first to last ... its is all faith

Faith is trusting in the faithfulness of God.

Romans 6 vs 18. The Wrath of God.

Is God's wrath righteous? absolutely. It is the basis by which the scales are evened.

Godlessness and Wickedness. Godlessness includes sins against God while wickedness includes sins against men.

Romans 6: 18b-23.

Man Rejected Natural Revelation

Vs. 20 Natural revelation is "the revelation of God in nature". Creation testifies to a creator. Everyone sees Natural Revelation.

Gentiles without the law have no excuse because of Natural Revelation.

Vs. 21 Creation is descending since Babel. They once knew God...

Romans. 1:24-32 God rejects man

God gave men up as a result of men giving God up.

They believed the lie.

Vs 25 - who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator...

2 Thess. 2:11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie.

What is the Lie?

Vs. 26. The most obvious condition of fallen men is sexual perversion. Homosexuality.

How does the church hand the issue of Homosexuality today?
How would Jesus handle it?

vs 27 Due penalty. All in carries a due penalty.

Vs. 28-32 List of the sins of the flesh.

Gentiles stand utterly condemned before a great and awesome God. They are left here with no excuse and no way to ever be made right.