

Romans

Bible Class 1
Introduction and Theme
Romans 1:1-17

Introduction and Theme

1. Some false teachings to be exposed and refuted
2. Some points about the letter
3. Salutation Rom 1:1-7
4. Occasion for writing Rom 1:8-15
5. Theme – The gospel is the power of God for salvation to all who believe Rom 1:16-17

2

Before We Begin

- Paul's letter to the Romans is a wonderful but challenging book
- Understanding it is made harder because of popular false ideas and theories that sometimes seep into our thinking, distorting the meaning and application of the book
- Therefore, I will endeavor, to the best of my ability, to expose and refute these false ideas so the truth may be seen

3

Before We Begin

- If what we believe to be a false idea or theory, when compared to Scriptures, proves to be in harmony with God's Word, then it should be accepted as true
- But, if it is not in harmony with God's Word, it must be rejected
- When possible, I will appeal to the book of Acts to help explain clearly what we read in Romans

4

Before We Begin

- Although we will read the whole letter, we will not focus on each individual verse
- We will try to cover more in depth the key passages that will help us understand the letter
- As with any teacher though, I am not infallible
- I could be and have been wrong in what I teach

5

Before We Begin

- My plea is that we humbly and honestly seek for the truth together always being willing to give, receive and make whatever corrections needed for our belief, teaching and practice to be in harmony with the Word of God

6

Let Us Humbly and Honestly Study The Word of God

Act 17:11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

2Co 13:5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you--unless indeed you fail the test?

7

Correction Lovingly Given and Received

Act 18:24 Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures.

Act 18:25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John;

8

Correction Lovingly Given and Received

Act 18:26 and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

9

Correction Lovingly Given and Received

Act 18:27 And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace,

Act 18:28 for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

10

Some False Teachings To Be Exposed And Refuted

1. People can be saved if they have never heard and obeyed the gospel
2. All are born in sin
3. Imputing of Jesus' perfect righteousness
4. Saved by faith only
5. Once saved always saved
6. Living under grace is a license to sin

11

Some False Teachings To Be Exposed And Refuted

7. Personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit that makes us understand and obey God
8. Unconditional election
9. Romans 14 allows us to fellowship sinful doctrines and practices

12

Some Points About The Letter

1. Author
2. Recipients
3. Place of writing
4. Date
5. Outline of Romans
6. Lessons

13

The Author Is Paul

Rom 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

14

The Recipients Are The Saints In Rome

Rom 1:7 to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

See also Rom 16:3-5, 14-15

15

The Place of Writing Was Corinth

Rom 16:23 Gaius, host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer greets you, and Quartus, the brother.

1Co 1:14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,
2Ti 4:20 Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus.

16

The Place of Writing Was Corinth

Rom 16:1 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea;

Rom 16:2 that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well.

17

The Date of Writing

- Probably 57-58 AD when Paul was in Corinth on his third missionary journey
- This journey would be completed in Jerusalem where he would bring the collection for the needy saints

18

The Date of Writing

Act 20:1 After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and when he had exhorted them and taken his leave of them, he left to go to Macedonia.

Act 20:2 When he had gone through those districts and had given them much exhortation, he came to Greece.

19

The Date of Writing

Act 20:3 And there he spent three months, and when a plot was formed against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

Act 20:16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

20

The Date of Writing

Act 24:17 "Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings;

Rom 15:25 but now, I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints.

Rom 15:26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

21

The Date of Writing

Rom 15:27 Yes, they were pleased to do so, and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to minister to them also in material things.

Rom 15:28 Therefore, when I have finished this, and have put my seal on this fruit of theirs, I will go on by way of you to Spain.

22

Romans

- I. Introduction and theme Rom 1:1-17
 - A. Salutation Rom 1:1-7
 - B. Occasion for writing Rom 1:8-15
 - C. Theme – The gospel is the power of God for salvation to all who believe Rom 1:16-17
- II. The world is condemned by sin Rom 1:18-3:20
 - A. The Gentiles have sinned Rom 1:18-32
 - B. The Jews have sinned Rom 2:1-3:8
 - C. All have sinned Rom 3:9-20

23

- III. Justified by faith Rom 3:21-4:25
 - A. Justified by faith in Jesus Rom 3:21-31
 - B. Abraham was justified by faith Rom 4
- IV. Results of salvation, justification by faith Rom 5:1-8:39
 - A. Freed from wrath Rom 5
 - B. Freed from sin Rom 6
 - C. Freed from the law of sin and of death Rom 7:1-8:17
 - D. Freed from suffering and death Rom 8:18-39

24

- V. God's dealings with Jews and Gentiles Rom 9-11
 - A. Contrast fleshly and spiritual Israel Rom 9:1-29
 - B. Two ways of pursuing righteousness Rom 9:30-10:21
 - C. Both Jews and Gentiles can be saved by faith in Jesus Rom 11

25

- VI. The transformed life Rom 12:1-15:13
 - A. Be transformed Rom 12:1-2
 - B. The use of gifts Rom 12:3-8
 - C. Personal relationships Rom 12:9-21
 - D. Civil relationships Rom 13:1-7
 - E. Relationships in general Rom 13:8-14
 - F. Relationships with weak brethren Rom 14:1-15:13

26

- VII. Conclusion Rom 15:14-16:27
 - A. Paul's plans Rom 15:14-29
 - B. Paul's request for prayers Rom 15:30-33
 - C. Greetings Rom 16:1-24
 - D. Benediction Rom 16:25-27

27

Lessons

1. Introduction And Theme Rom 1:1-17
2. The World Is Condemned By Sin Rom 1:18-3:20
3. Justified By Faith Rom 3:21-4:25
4. Freed From Wrath Rom 5
5. Freed From Sin Rom 6
6. Freed From The Law of Sin And of Death Rom 7:1-8:17

28

Lessons

7. Freed From Suffering And Death Rom 8:18-39
8. Contrast Fleshly And Spiritual Israel Rom 9:1-29
9. Two Ways of Pursuing Righteousness Rom 9:30-10:21
10. Both Jews And Gentiles Can Be Saved By Faith In Jesus Rom 11

29

Lessons

11. The Transformed Life Part 1 Rom 12-13
12. The Transformed Life Part 2 Rom 14:1-15:13
13. Conclusion Rom 15:14-16:27

30

Salutation

Rom 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

Rom 1:2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,

See also Gal 1:15-16

31

The Gospel Promised In The Old Testament

1. Gen 22:18
2. Psa 132:11-12
3. Psa 110:1-4
4. Isa 2:2-4
5. Jer 31:31-34

32

Salutation

Rom 1:3 concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh,

Rom 1:4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

See also Act 13:29-39

33

Salutation

Rom 1:5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,

Rom 1:6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

Rom 1:7 to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

34

Grace

Unmerited favor

35

Paul's God-given Mission Bring Gentiles To Obedience of Faith

1. Act 26:15-20
2. Rom 16:26
3. 2Th 1:7-8

36

Called To Be Saints (set apart To God, holy ones) By The Gospel

1. 2Th 2:13-15
2. 1Pe 1:14-16

37

Paul Thanked God and Prayed For The Roman Christians

Rom 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.

Rom 1:9 For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you,

38

Paul Thanked God and Prayed For The Roman Christians

Rom 1:10 always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.

39

Paul Hoped To Come To Them By The Will of God

1. Jas 4:13-17
2. Act 28:16, 19-20, 30-31

40

Paul Desired and Planned To Visit Rome

Rom 1:11 For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;

Rom 1:12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.

41

Paul Desired and Planned To Visit Rome

Rom 1:13 I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.

See also Act 8:14-20

42

Paul Was a Debtor To Preach The Gospel To All

Rom 1:14 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

Rom 1:15 So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

43

We Are Debtors To Preach The Gospel To All

1. Mat 28:18-20
2. Mar 16:15-16
3. Luk 24:46-47
4. 2Ti 2:1-4
5. 1Pe 2:9-12, 3:14-16

44

Theme – The Gospel Is The Power of God For Salvation To All Who Believe

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

45

Theme – The Gospel Is The Power of God For Salvation To All Who Believe

- The gospel, good news about the kingdom of God and salvation through Christ
- Is the power (strength, ability, word from which we get dynamite), of God for salvation (deliverance from the guilt of sin and God's wrath against sin to come)
- The power also to transform our character
- To all who believe to the Jews first and then all people

46

The Gospel Is God's Power To Save And Transform Us

1. Heb 4:12
2. Act 2:36-38
3. Rom 8:29, 12:1-2
4. Eph 3:16-21
5. Act 8:18-22

47

All Responsible For Understanding Believing and Obeying The Gospel To Be Saved

- The gospel reveals what God has done by His grace to save humanity from sin
- The gospel reveals what man must do by faith (believing, trusting and obeying God's Word) to be saved, receive God's grace through Jesus
- Man only needs to hear believe and obey the gospel to be saved

48

All Responsible For Understanding Believing and Obeying The Gospel To Be Saved

- The gospel is God's only power to save sinners by grace through faith in Jesus
- Whether we obey the gospel or not depends on our free choice

Five Points of Calvinism

- In spite of these truths, many read the book of Romans and believe things that are not written, things that exalt the sovereignty of God to the exclusion of man's free will
- These errors promoted by John Calvin (1509-1564) make God completely responsible for our salvation
- Man is not responsible for being a sinner, being saved or remaining saved

Five Points of Calvinism

1. T = Total Hereditary Depravity – We are born guilty of sin inherited from our parents, from Adam. Our nature is so corrupt we can neither understand nor obey the gospel.
2. U = Unconditional Election – Before Creation, God arbitrarily chose who would be saved and lost, His choices are unchangeable.

Five Points of Calvinism

3. L = Limited Atonement – Jesus died only for those whom God unconditionally chose to be saved.
4. I = Irresistible Grace – Being born in sin, we cannot choose to understand, believe and obey God. But if God has chosen to save us, by the Holy Spirit working within us, He makes us understand, believe and obey His Word whether we want to or not.

Five Points of Calvinism

5. P = Perseverance of the Saints – Since God has saved man against his free will, then man can do nothing on his own to be saved. Therefore, he can do nothing on his own to remain saved. God will make him saved where he can never be lost.

All Responsible For Understanding Believing and Obeying The Gospel To Be Saved

- We are not born in sin, depraved, so we cannot understand and obey the gospel
- There is no need for the Holy Spirit to directly operate on our minds so we can understand, believe and obey the gospel
- The Holy Spirit revealed and confirmed the gospel (by miracles) and people are responsible for understanding, believing and obeying it to be saved

All Responsible For Understanding Believing
and Obeying The Gospel To Be Saved

1. Joh 16:7-15
2. Heb 2:1-4
3. Mat 13:15, Luk 8:15
4. 2Th 2:13-14, Heb 11:1,6, Rom 10:17
5. Act 2:1-6, 21-24, 29-43
6. Act 8:9-13, 32-39
7. Act 10:33-35, 42-48, 11:13-14
8. Act 16:13-15, 29-34

55

The Gospel Reveals The Righteousness of
God From Faith To Faith

Rom 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God
is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written,
"BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE
BY FAITH."

56

The Gospel Reveals The Righteousness of
God From Faith To Faith

- In the gospel, God reveals His plan to
make men righteous
- To be righteous is to be free from the guilt
of sin
- This righteousness comes about through
faith in Jesus which is produced by the
gospel message
- This faith is a trusting, conviction based on
God's Word that leads to obedience

57

The Gospel Reveals The Righteousness of
God From Faith To Faith

1. Hab 2:4
2. Gal 3:10-12
3. Heb 10:35-11:2
4. Rom 10:17
5. Act 6:7
6. Rom 6:17-18

58

Beware of Establishing A Righteousness of Our
Own That Cannot Save

- The Jews rejected the gospel and tried to
establish their own righteousness based
on the works of the Law of Moses
- Many today try to establish their own
righteousness by adding to or taking away
from the gospel

59

Beware of Establishing A Righteousness of Our
Own That Cannot Save

- Many deny that being baptized (immersed
in water) in the name of Jesus for
forgiveness of sins is an act of faith in God
necessary to be forgiven

60

Beware of Establishing A Righteousness of Our Own That Cannot Save

1. Keeping the Law of Moses
2. Infant baptism
3. The sinner's prayer
4. Direct operation of the Holy Spirit

61

Beware of Establishing A Righteousness of Our Own That Cannot Save

1. Rom 10:1-4
2. Gal 2:16
3. Php 3:7-9

62

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63