

Romans

PART 01

GOD'S GOOD NEWS
FOR THE WORLD

Why Romans?

Romans shows the worldview of God: The world is in serious trouble. But there's good news! The gospel is a declaration of freedom in Christ to sinners, bringing us into the righteousness of God. Romans is a letter that reads like a treatise of what the gospel is all about. As a church, we want to be well versed in the book of Romans, because **as we learn and understand its doctrine we will be ignited to walk a Christian walk.**

Historical Context

ROME, THE "ETERNAL" CITY

Rome was the capital city of Caesar's kingdom. It was considered to be "an eternal city giving peace to all;" the center of civilization and the great power of the world. But in truth, the gospel regarding Christ is the great power of God. Its power and influence extends far beyond the fall of Rome, and its king is much greater than Caesar.

For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

I PETER 1:24-25

TENSIONS IN ROME

At this time, the political tension surrounding Christianity was heightened, as Christians in Rome were persecuted by the Roman government. On top of that, there was also tension between the Jews and Gentiles, as the Gentiles were newly invited in God's covenant family, which not all Jews readily welcomed. But under the headship of Christ, God has instituted a new kind of humanity, proclaiming **equality in Christ for all**. Amidst the cultural conflict and prejudice within the church, the book of Romans teaches one faith and one standard of justice. **Loyalty to the gospel is the only way to secure unity in the church.**

Themes of Romans

God is antagonistic to evil. He is love and justice

There is an undeniable need for salvation, as all people fall short of God's glory

God is rescuing the world through His redeeming love, displayed on the cross of Christ

Through faith, we share in newness of life with Jesus as sons of God

Chapter Takeaways

VERSES 1-4

The gospel was promised in the Old Testament Scriptures. The ancient texts speak of a Messiah descended from king David who would save Israel and the whole world. Jesus is that seed of David, the true and better king.

He is the Son of Man, a flesh and blood human being who died to save the world. But it is **the resurrection of Jesus from the dead that marks him out as the Son of God** with power and authority over all heaven and earth. It is the authenticating seal from God: "THIS is the Christ."

The gospel changes everything, and we must see every aspect of our lives, big and small, through the lens of the gospel. We ought not to think, "The gospel is true but it doesn't affect anything in my life today." On the contrary, we should ask, "**How does the gospel affect everything I do?**"

VERSE 5

This verse reflects the scope, purpose, and goal of the gospel.

SCOPE	PURPOSE	GOAL
All the nations	Obedience of faith	For the glory of Jesus' name

VERSES 6-7

We are invited to belong to Jesus as the special and beloved ones of God. Our salvation is relational. In Christ, we finally find where we belong.

VERSES 8-13

Though Paul didn't know them personally, he constantly prayed for the saints in Rome. He wanted to visit them, both to bless them with his ministry and to be encouraged by them. Even Paul needed the Church.

VERSES 8-13

As someone commissioned by Jesus to bring the gospel to all nations, Paul felt **obligated, ready, and unashamed** to preach the good news to the Romans. How could Paul have had such unapologetic, genuine zeal for the gospel? He understood God's worldview. When the gospel is real and precious to us, we won't need to fabricate hype for it. Paul knew its transformative and saving power, so it moved him to action.

In the gospel, the righteousness of God is revealed “from faith to faith” or, “from faith for faith”

This means the gospel is the basis for faith and its express purpose is for people to believe it. The gospel is not for debating or doubting, but it's for believing.

In Jesus' death and resurrection we see God's standard for righteousness revealed. The righteous ones are those who believe in him. **“The just shall live by faith.”**

Conclusion

The gospel changes everything. As we continue in the book of Romans, let us value and treasure the gospel as the powerful, joyful, and ever-enduring Word that it truly is.