



Romans 1-16

GOOD NEWS FOR A BROKEN WORLD

This epistle [Romans] is really the chief part of the New Testament and is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. It can never be read or pondered too much, and the more it is dealt with, the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes.

—Martin Luther, *Preface to Romans* (1522)

Perhaps no other book has changed the course of modern history as the book of Romans. This book was instrumental in the salvation of Augustine, Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, and countless others down through church history. It sits first among the Pauline epistles and is also the longest.

THE THEME OF 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."*

SIN & SALVATION: THE UNIVERSAL TRUTHS (Romans 1-5):

1. All of us have sinned and fallen short of the absolute perfect righteousness of God (1:18-3:20).
2. All of us are spiritually dead, being born in Adam, and deserve eternal death because of our sin (5:12-21).
3. All of us need the free gift of justification through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (3:21-31; 5:12-21).
4. All of us can be declared righteous before God by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone (4:1-25).
5. All those who trust in Jesus Christ are reconciled to God and recipients of all the blessings of salvation (5:1-11).

Romans remains a timeless manifesto, a manifesto of freedom through Jesus Christ. It is the fullest, plainest, and grandest statement of the gospel in the NT. Its message is not that 'man was born free, and everywhere he is in chains' [Rousseau]. ...It is rather than human beings are born in sin and slavery, but that Jesus Christ came to set us free.

—John Stott

If we have gained a true understanding of this Epistle, we have an open door to all the most profound treasures of Scripture.

—John Calvin (1509-64)

Gospel. Greek, *euangelion*, "a good message; good news."

The gospel is an announcement, a declaration. It is not advice to be followed; it is news, good news about what has been done.

—Timothy Keller

All. Greek, *pas*, occurs 71x in Romans. Paul's focus is universal.

Believe. Hebrew, *aman*, "to trust, believe in, stand firm in."
Greek, *pisteuo*, "to be persuaded of, to place confidence in, trust."

Faith is helplessness reaching out in total dependence upon God.

—Robert Mounce

SANCTIFICATION: BECOMING LIKE JESUS (Romans 6-8):

- **Three Imperatives**
 - Know! (6:3-10)
 - Reckon! (6:11)
 - Yield! (6:12-14)
- **Two Dangers**
 - Going back into bondage to sin (6:15-23).
 - Going back into bondage to the law (7:1-25).
- **One Power**
 - The Holy Spirit... who regenerates us, indwells us, empowers us, intercedes for us, and eternally secures us in God's love (8:1-39).

SOVEREIGNTY: GOD'S PLAN FOR ISRAEL (Romans 9-11):

- Israel's Past Election (9:1-29)
- Israel's Present Rejection (9:30-10:21)
- Israel's Future Restoration (11:1-32)

*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!
"For who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has become His counselor?
Or who has first given to Him
And it shall be repaid to him?"
For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things,
to whom be glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:33-36)*

SERVICE: LIVING A LIFE OF WORSHIP (Romans 12-15):

- In Relation to God: Surrender (12:1-2)
- In Relation to Others: Service (12:3-21)
- In Relation to Government: Submission (13:1-7)
- In Relation to Society: Christlikeness (13:8-14)
- In Relation to Other Believers: Love (14:1-15:13)

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

You can still be a slave experientially, even when you are no longer a slave legally. Whatever you may feel, whatever your experience may be, God tells us here, through His Word, that if we are in Christ we are no longer in Adam, we are no longer under the reign and rule of sin. And if I fall into sin, as I do, it is simply because I do not realize who I am.

—Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

"Being in the Spirit" is a power sphere or realm in contrast to the realm of the flesh. A change in dominion has occurred for those who are united with Christ.

—Thomas R. Schreiner

In the simplest possible terms, God's eternal purpose for His people is that we should become like Jesus. —John R. W. Stott

If God lives in the Eternal Now, then He has always had not just the knowledge of but experience with every individual. So there has never been a moment in eternity when God has not had the experience of every elect person being convicted, accepting God's completion of their faith, conversion, sanctification, glorification, and their eternal praise and worship in the new heaven and the new earth.

—Richard Land

Surrender is not the surrender of the external life, but of the will; when that is done, all is done. There are very few crises in life; the great crisis is the surrender of the will. —Oswald Chambers

Q. What is the chief end of man?
A. Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.
—Westminster Shorter Catechism (1647)