

ROMANS: THE GOSPEL FOR ALL PEOPLE

A. Author: Paul

B. Background: Paul had never visited Rome, but he greatly desired to preach there. However, at the time he was headed to Jerusalem on the visit that would lead to his arrest and deportment to Rome (Rom. 15:22-29). He would eventually make it to Rome as a prisoner. Romans is the longest of Paul's letters and was called by Luther "the very purest gospel."

C. Theme: People everywhere can enjoy peace and fellowship with God through faith in Jesus Christ, who gives them the desire and strength to obey gladly the Lord.

D. Outline:

1. Introduction (1:1-17)

- a. Salutation (1:1-7)
- b. Paul's Desire to Visit Rome (1:8-15)
- c. Theme: The Righteousness from God (1:16-17)

2. The Unrighteousness of All Humankind (1:18-3:20)

- a. Unrighteous Gentiles (1:18-32)
- b. Unrighteous Jews (2:1-3:8)
 - God's Impartial Judgment (2:11-12)
 - Inward Jews (2:28-29)
 - The Faithfulness of God (3:1-3)
- c. All Are Unrighteous (3:9-20)

3. The Righteousness Only God Can Provide (3:21-5:21)

- a. No Longer Slaves to Sin (6:1-23)
- b. Abraham, the Great Example of Faith (4:1-25)
- c. The Results of Faith (5:1-21)
 - Peace and Hope (5:1,5)
 - Reconciliation (5:10)
 - Gift of Righteousness (5:17)

4. The Righteousness That Changes Us (6:1-8:39)

- a. No Longer Slaves to Sin (6:1-23)
- b. No Longer Condemned by the Law (7:1-25)
- c. Living in the Spirit (8:1-39)

5. God's Righteousness with Israel (9:1-11:36)

- a. Israel Rejected Jesus (9:1-29)
- b. Israel Needs the Gospel (10:1-21)
- c. Israel's Rejection Is Not Total (11:1-36)

6. God's Righteousness in Practical Living (12:1-15:13)

- a. Among Believers (12:1-21)
- b. Among the World (13:1-14)
- c. Among the Weak and the Strong (14:1-15:13)

7. Conclusion (15:14-16:27)

- a. Paul's Travel Plans (15:14-33)
- b. Commendations and Greetings (16:1-27)

E. Real Life Lessons from Romans

1. None of us have an excuse for living in unrighteousness.
2. All have sinned and fall short of God's ideal.
3. Believing in Christ, not keeping the law, bridges the gap between holy God and sinful man.