

Romans 1

Introduction

- Romans has 16 chapters, 434 verses, and 9,477 words.
- Romans is the **foundational** doctrinal book on salvation in the New Testament.
- Paul writes to seven churches (14 books total): Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colosse, and Thessalonica (Gentile churches in the Roman Empire).
- Paul was the greatest Christian who has ever lived in: 1) proclaiming the gospel of Christ, 2) revealing spiritual understanding, 3) suffering persecution for the truth's sake, 4) winning lost souls to Christ, and 5) setting a good example for all believers to follow. - Rom. 1:14-15; 15:1-19; 1 Cor. 11:1
- 1&2 Thessalonians written **earliest** but they end up **last** in the order of Paul's NT epistles to the 7 churches to which he writes.
- Why? Because Church Age doctrine is in force **before** the Rapture of the Church, and the Rapture is found in 1 Thess. 4:13-18 at the end of the Church Age.
- This order of Paul's epistles in the NT supports the doctrine of the pre-tribulation and pre-wrath Rapture of the church.
- Epistle to the Romans is written around 58-60 A.D around the time of Acts 20-22.
- Paul is the Apostle to the Gentiles - Rom. 11:13; 15:16 cf. Jesus in 15:8; Matt. 15:24
- Historically, the book of Romans is aimed at Gentiles in the Roman Empire, this would have included nearly all of Europe, including England, Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, and France (i.e. Japhethites); today Romans is doctrinally aimed at unsaved Gentiles, as well as providing Bible doctrine for the Church Age today.
- Of course if you are saved today, you are no longer a Gentile but a part of Christ's body, the church of God. - Eph. 1:22-23 (3 groups in Bible - 1 Cor. 10:32)
- Paul never connects NT Christianity with any civil or governmental authority!
- Every Church-State religion in this age is SATANIC! The Church today is all of the born-again believers from the Church Age, which comprise the spiritual body of Christ; the true Church of God is **never** is Roman or Moslem!
- **Theme** of Romans is justification/salvation by grace through faith; plus nothing!
- The key phrase in Romans is "**of God**". (74X in 70 verses; 11X in Chapter 1)

v. 1 - Paul identifies himself

- Servant first, and an apostle (not one of the original 12 apostles - Matt. 10:1-4)
- Of course Jesus Christ is the greatest example for serving. - Mark 10:42-45
- Being a servant of Christ must be our first priority. - 1 Cor. 9:19-23; 2 Cor. 4:5
- Being a servant is **not** an employer/employee relationship; it is having the Lord as our Master and being willing to obey whatever He tells us to do. - Gal. 1:10

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- “separated unto” - called to separated **from** sin and called to be separated **unto** the gospel of God. - Prov. 18:1; Acts 26:15-18; (Five examples. - Eph. 4:22-32)
- Each believer is called to faithfully assemble together with other believers, study the Bible, pray, and witness to lost people. - Heb. 10:24-25
- Paul and Barnabas called for their first missionary trip. - Acts 13:1-5

v. 2 - “gospel of God” was promised by OT prophets

- The “gospel of God” is not stated **as such** in OT, but God promised a Saviour (referred to in the OT as: Prophet, Redeemer, Seed, Root, Branch, Ancient of days, Prince of Peace, Saviour); Jesus Christ was revealed **by name** in the NT.
- “holy scriptures” - written down from the mouths “holy prophets” (Acts 3:21) and “holy men of God” who **spake**... - 2 Pet. 1:20-21
- The book of Romans written down by Tertius, who is Paul’s scribe. - Rom. 16:22

vv. 3-4 - Defines the physical and spiritual lineage of Jesus Christ

- The “gospel of God” concerns Jesus Christ.
- Jesus (physically) is from the **line** (not the literal seed) of David. - Acts 13:22-23
- Jesus was born of a virgin’s seed “made of a woman” - Gen. 3:15; Gal. 4:4
- Jesus Christ (spiritually) declared to be the Son of God (Deity). - Mark 1:1
- Jesus Christ’s resurrection from the dead proves His power and His spirit of holiness. - 1 Cor. 15:12-17
- Jesus Christ’s resurrection (never to die again), proves He is the Son of God.
- Referring to Jesus Christ as “the Son of God” also proves Christ’s virgin birth.
- If Jesus Christ was Joseph’s son, he could not have been resurrected because neither Adam nor any of his descendants physically resurrected on their own.
- Jesus has the power to resurrect. - John 10:17-18

v. 5 - Relationship between faith and obedience

- Obedience is often simply doing what you’re commanded to do. - Col. 3:22
- However, to obey (as relating to the gospel of the grace of God) is to put your faith in (i.e. to trust in or believe on) the person of Jesus Christ. - 1 Cor. 15:3-4; 2 Thess. 1:8; Rom. 16:26 cf. 10:16-17 (quote from Isa. 53:1ff)
- To obey the gospel is **not** adding good works to the gospel (such as cleaning up your act, water baptism, joining the local church, doing your best, living right, reformation, or self-improvement).
- The obedience God requires is to believe on Jesus Christ. - John 6:29

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vv. 6-7 - Believers are called to be saints

- In the Bible, all believers are “saints” (positionally). - Rom. 8:26-27; 1 Cor. 1:1-2
- Believers are called to live out our position in Christ. - 1 Cor. 1:9-10; Eph. 2:10
- A high calling (Phil. 3:14) of God shows there is 1) a need (Luke 10:2), 2) an ability (1 Tim. 1:12), 3) an opportunity (Gal. 6:9-10; 1 Cor. 12:25) to serve God.

v. 8 - Paul commends the Romans for their public and visible faith.

- What do people say about your faith? Do people think you're a hypocrite?
- Being a public witness is EVERY believer's job, not just EVERY pastor or church leader who is getting paid to do it! - Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15
- Words like “whole/all/every” sometimes mean “all within a limited subgroup (e.g. Gen. 9:3-food; Prov. 28:5-needed to properly serve God) and other times they mean “all or everybody without exception” (Gen. 7:17-24; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; 1 John 2:2; 5:19).
- Here the verse means throughout the whole world **known to Paul at the time**, i.e. the Roman Empire (not across the oceans throughout the whole earth).

v. 9 - How Paul served the Lord.

- “my spirit” - With his own regenerated spirit, i.e. whole-heartedly.
- Paul had made a freewill choice to serve and obey the Lord Jesus Christ.
- When you receive Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, your soul gets saved, the Holy Spirit enters your body, regenerating (quickenning, making alive) your dead spirit, which makes your service acceptable to God.
- Paul prayed without ceasing for the Roman Christians. - 1 Thess. 5:17
- Paul is setting a good example to be people of continual prayer.

v. 10 - Paul's lesson to us concerning prayer.

- Paul made a specific request, not a demand.
- “by any means” - Paul is willing to accept God's means for answering his prayer.
- “at length” - Paul was willing to continue to pray a long time and patiently wait.
- Notice his prayer request is specific → “a prosperous journey” and “to come”
- Notice Paul is willing to accept God's will. - Luke 22:40-42

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vv. 11-12 - Paul's desire and motive was unselfish.

- Paul had a longing in his heart to give out "some spiritual gift".
- This could have been to give spiritual comfort, encouragement, help, teaching of Bible doctrine, show a burden for souls, or even relate his personal experience.
- Paul undoubtedly wanted to visit the people that were saved under his ministry.
- Paul's purpose was that the church at Rome would become more established (stable), i.e. rooted and grounded in the faith and have a greater influence.
- Knowing the scriptures is always the basis for being rooted and grounded.
- Believers need to grow in their faith. - 2 Pet. 3:18; Eph. 4:11-16

v. 13 - Paul was hindered from coming earlier.

- Notice it is possible for the "brethren" to be "ignorant" (1 Cor. 14:37-38) and in some cases "willingly ignorant" (2 Pet. 3:5-8)
- "let" has 3 meanings in the Bible: 1) **to stop/hinder** - here, like in tennis, 2) **to allow** - Gen. 34:21 (opposite of #1), and 3) to rent out or lease - Mark 12:1
- "hitherto" → up to (until) now
- Paul had a burning desire to bear fruit and to be productive for the Lord in the lives of **both** the saved and the lost (so should we).
- "fruit" → souls saved (Prov. 11:30); a Christian's personal righteousness and holiness (Rom. 6:22; James 3:18); giving (Rom. 15:28); fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:22-23), voicing praise and giving thanks to God (Prov. 12:14; 13:2; 18:20; Heb. 13:15)

vv. 14-15 - Paul's perspective: A debtor to the whole world for sake of the gospel.

- Paul was "soul-conscious" and clearly saw it was his personal responsibility to preach the gospel to all lost people. - Mark. 16:15
- Paul realized that each and every soul is going to spend eternity somewhere.
- Every believer is a debtor to **all** lost people around the world!
- Paul was willing to give up everything he had in an effort to reach the lost. - 1 Cor. 9:16; Rom. 9:1-3
- Your attitude, availability, and dependability is **more** important than your ability.
- Paul's was also eager to show the believers at Rome all the Lord had revealed to him concerning the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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v. 16 - Paul's view of the gospel.

- Paul was not ashamed of the gospel (are you?). - 2 Tim. 1:11-12
- Paul saw himself as being sent by God to proclaim the gospel. - 1 Cor. 1:17, 9:16
- Paul saw the gospel as the power of God to **everyone that believeth**. - 1 Cor. 1:18
- The Jews got the gospel first in Acts, but they rejected it (Acts 7:54) so God turned to the Gentiles and they were willing to receive it. - Acts 13:46; 18:6; 28:28
- At the end of the Church Age the Gentiles become wise in their own conceits and start rejecting the gospel. - Rom. 11:25-26 (this is happening right now!)
- In 1918 Israel got back her land; in 1948 Israel became a recognized Jewish state.
- The Jews who reject Christ in the Church Age go into the Tribulation and are given another chance under the ministries of Moses & Elijah and the 144,000 sealed Jewish witnesses. - Rev. 7:4-8, 11:1-12 (cf. Zech. 4:3, 11-14), Rev. 14:1-5

v. 17 - "The just shall live by faith" - Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38

- Here (and in Heb. 10:38), Paul modifies Habakkuk 2:4 (the word "his" is omitted).
- The Holy Spirit can write, change, or apply OT quotes anyway He chooses.
- The **faith** to believe in Jesus and our **salvation** are **both** gifts of God. - Eph. 2:8-9
- **NT faith** for salvation **stands alone** (as in Rom. 3:28, 4:5, 5:1; Gal. 2:16, 3:26), whereas **OT faith** is an **active obedient faith** such (as in Heb. 11:4, 7, 8, 17-19).

v. 18 - God's wrath shall be poured out on the lost Gentile world. (v. 15)

- It will be against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold (have or possess) the truth (KJB) in unrighteousness.
- "hold" has been changed in all new Bibles to "suppress", "stifle", "push away".

vv. 19-20 - God has clearly shown (revealed) the truth He places inside all people.

- God has revealed that truth is found in the King James Bible and many people do not want to submit or be subject to it. Nearly all people want to be their own God, hoping they will not be held accountable to anything. - John 1:9-10; 3:18-20
- The physical world (natural visible world from creation) shows the invisible things of God, including His eternal power (Rev. 19:6) and Godhead (Col. 2:9).- Ps. 8:3-4; 19:1; 98:2-3; 148:1-14
- The "**Sun**" represents the Son of God. - Judges 5:31; Mal. 4:2; Ps. 19:4, 72:17, Ps. 84:11, 104:19-22; Matt 13:43
- Sunsets are red, representing the blood of Christ shed at the Cross of Calvary for all mankind's sins at the 1st Advent. - 1 Tim. 2:4-6; Col. 1:14

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- Sunrises are also red, and they represent Christ's second coming with His garments dipped in blood. - Isa. 63:1-2; 2 Pet. 1:16 (context), 19; Rev. 19:13-16
- The "moon" represents the Body of Christ (church) - Job 31:26
- The "moon" doesn't produce any light of its own, but reflects the light of the sun "Son". - Ps. 148:3; Isa. 30:26; Matt. 5:14; John 8:12
- But God is the source of **all light** and is the source of **all increase**. - 1 Cor. 3:6-7
- The earth rotates **against** the sun and the moon; representing that Christians ought to be living contrary (opposite direction) to the world! - Gal. 5:16-18
- The animals and the earth show us many truths. - Job 12:7-8
- **Lost men** are likened to fish (Matt. 4:19) or a wild ass's colt (Job 11:12) or a dog returning to his vomit. - Prov. 26:11; 2 Peter 2:22a
- Lost women are likened to a pig wallowing in the mire. - 2 Pet. 2:22b)
- Jesus Christ is a **Lamb** (1st Advent) - John 1:29 and a **Lion** (2nd Advent) - Rev. 5:5
- Stars represent soul-winners. - Dan 12:3; Prov. 11:30
- This means all people are without excuse before God. - Rom. 2:14-15; 14:12; Tit. 2:11
- God has clearly revealed Himself in natural and physical things.

v. 21 - Why are the ungodly and unrighteous (lost) without excuse? - 2 Reasons:

- 1) Failure to glorify God (i.e. brag on, elevate, magnify, praise, worship, obey).
- 2) Failure to thank God. This is **caused** by selfishness, covetousness, and greed; and is **manifested** by murmuring, grumbling, griping, and complaining.
- Some people forget that it is God who gives us **EVERYTHING!!** - 1 Cor. 4:7
- God sends the rain & sunshine, grows & provides food, shelter, clothes, health, transportation, gives the ability to hold down a job and earn money, provides protection & safety, has allowed us to be born & live in the USA, gave us a perfect Book → KJV, makes a way to be saved and go to Heaven, AND thousands more!!
- What happens when men fail to glorify God and are unthankful?
- When a nation forgets God, God will forget them! - Deut. 8:11-20; Ps. 9:17; 50:22
- Men are vain in their imaginations, and it's getting worse & worse. - Gen 6:5; 8:21
- Lost men have always had evil imaginations that are unrestrained. - Gen. 11:6-7
- A darkened heart always leads to sinful/evil/wicked deeds.- John 3:19-20
- Solution for the believer. - 2 Cor. 10:5-6 → The 1st step towards victory over sin!
- Everything begins in the heart and mind. - Rom. 15:6; 1 Cor. 2:16
- An old saying goes: "Sow a thought, reap an action; sow an action, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; so a character, reap a destiny."

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v. 22 - Contrast worldly (earthly) wisdom with God's wisdom. - James 3:15-17

- Professors are those who want you to **think** they know the truth when they in fact do **not** know the truth themselves. - 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Tim. 3:14
- Many people today profess to be seeking after God and truth, but really they are fools seeking after money, fame, and notoriety among men. - Rom. 3:11
- If you are wise towards God, you will be a fool to this world; if you are wise according to this world, you are a fool in God's sight. - 1 Cor. 3:18-19; James 4:4
- Bible description of a fool. - Ps. 14:1; Prov. 1:7; 10:18,23; 14:9; 17:10,24; 26:11; 28:26; Luke 12:16-21; 24:25; 1 Cor. 15:35-36; Eccl. 5:3
- The greatest fools are lost people and those who fail to study/know their Bibles.

vv. 23 & 25 - Fools change the glory of God into worship of His creation.

- Modern perversions change the word "change" to "exchange".
- Fools make a serious error when they worship/serve the creature (man) and the things God created more than the Creator Himself.
- v. 23 - "corruptible man" is listed **FIRST** → humanism, i.e. man is the measure of all things; believing there is only the here and now. - Isa. 22:12-14; 1 Cor. 15:32
- Fools change the truth into a lie. - Prov. 12:19; 24:21; Isa. 59:1-4
- Fools put spiritual power upon physical things, i.e. idolatry. - Ps. 106:19-22

v. 24 - "God gave them (those in v. 18) up" - 3X (also in vv. 26 & 28)

- God's patience with evil and unrighteousness will soon come to an end.
- Here in v. 24, God abandons a person's body. - 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 3:16-17
- Uncleaness and evil lusts of their **own** heart. - Jer. 6:19
- The worst thing that could ever happen is for God to turn you over to yourself!
- It would lead to all kinds of sin and perversion that would dishonour your body.

v. 25 - (already covered with v. 23)

vv. 26-27 - God abandons a lost person's soul (conscience and will)

- "vile affections" - to love those things that are filthy, dirty, unclean (defiled).
- The inability to discern (distinguish) between what's filthy and clean. - Isa. 5:20
- Today anything goes in America, sexual immorality and perversion, including sodomite marriages and abortion on demand. - Lev. 18:22-24; 20:13
- Sodomites don't want tolerance, they demand acceptance with no criticism.
- Queers and sodomites don't reproduce; they recruit and demand special rights.
- They want to stifle free speech and make it a hate crime to speak Bible truth.

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- They want to indoctrinate the whole nation, including your children in school.
- God has a suitable judgment for sodomites: disease and death (STDs, AIDS, etc.)
- Sodomy is not an alternate lifestyle, but a “deathstyle” (most don’t live past their 40’s).
- Believers are to cleanse themselves and walk in holiness. - 2 Cor. 7:1
- **A LESSON IN MODESTY:** Modest (defined) - Not forward, restrained, not loose or lewd, not promiscuous, reserved, respectful, decent, humble, lowly, temperate, showing moderation and good judgment, chaste, pure, undefiled. - Deut: 22:5; Matt. 5:27-28 (notice “with her”); Rom. 12:2; 1 Pet. 3:1-6; 1 Tim. 2:9-14

v. 28 - God abandons a lost person’s mind (spirit)

- This is the Gentile world who does not want to retain God in their knowledge.
- God turns these people over to a reprobate mind. What is that?
- “reprobate” DOES NOT mean God has completely given up on these people because they have sinned so much they are damned eternally and there is no chance for them to ever be saved. - 1 Cor. 6:9-11
- “reprobate (put on probation again)
- “reprobate mind” is a mind that has been tested by God at least twice and has failed the test. It is simply not properly responding to God when convicted of sin.
- It is the time when God turns them over “to do those things which are not convenient” and no longer deals with these people as a group.

vv. 29-32 - The Bible (God’s) definition of depravity (note “filled with”). Here listed are 23 specific things with God says makes people “worthy of death” - v. 32

- v. 29 - “all unrighteousness” - 1 John 5:17
- “fornication” - 1 Cor. 6:13, 18
- “wickedness” - Prov. 21:4; 24:9
- “covetousness” - Luke 12:15; Eph. 5:3-5
- “maliciousness” (hateful revenge) - Tit. 3:3
- “full of envy” - Prov. 14:30; 27:4; Rom. 13:13; Gal. 5:26; James 3:14-16; 1 Pet. 2:1
- “murder” - 1 John 3:15 (Moses - Heb. 11:23-29; David & Samson - Heb. 11:32)
- “debate” (fight/wrestle/argue/negotiate with God) - 2 Cor. 12:20
- “deceit” (to lie, trick, beguile, or defraud) - Ps. 5:6; 10:7; 101:7; 109:2; 120:2; Prov. 11:18; 12:5,17,20; 14:8,25; 26:24; Jer. 17:9; 2 Cor. 11:13; Eph. 4:22; Col. 2:8; Heb. 3:13 (Give credit where credit is due →The devil! - John 8:44)
- “malignity” (extreme malice or bitter enmity; a deep rooted spite, hatefulness with extreme evil intentions) - Eph. 4:31-32
- “whisperers” - Ps. 41:7; Prov. 16:28; 2 Cor. 12:20

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- v. 30 - “backbiters” (with evil and hurtful intentions, to talk about other people behind their backs) - 2 Cor. 12:20; Ps. 15:3 (definition); Prov. 25:23
- “haters of God” - Ex. 20:5; Luke 16:13; Prov. 13:24
- “despiteful” (full of spite, malice, contempt, scorn, and hatred) - Prov. 11:12, 13:13; 14:21; 15:5,32; 1 Thess. 4:8
- “proud” - Job 41:34; Ps. 10:4; 31:18; Prov. 8:13; 11:12; 13:10; 14:3; 16:18; 29:23
- “boasters” - Ps. 10:3; 49:6-7; 94:4; Prov. 25:14; 27:1; James 4:16
- “inventors of evil things” (striving to ever greater evil) - Ps. 106:29,39
- “disobedient to parents” - Prov. 4:1; Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20
- v. 31 “without understanding” - Prov. 6:32; 9:10; Matt. 15:16-20; Job 28:28
- “covenantbreakers” - Ps. 119:101; Prov. 11:3; 20:7; 2 Tim. 3:1-5
- “without natural affection” - 2 Tim. 3:3; Gal. 5:24; Col. 3:5 (Note: God used the phrase “**male and female**” 7X (7 is the number of perfection or completion) - Gen. 1:27, 5:2, 6:19, 7:16, Num. 5:3; Matt. 19:4, Mark 10:6
- “implacable” (irreconcilable/stubborn hatred, enmity, anger, spite, or malice that cannot be pacified, calmed, appeased, or satisfied; an unforgiving spirit) - Study comparison of Matt. 18:35 with Luke 17:3-4
- “unmerciful” - (ungracious, cruel, unforgiving, hot-headed; unwilling to withhold judgment/just punishment & give another person a break) - Prov. 11:17; James 2:13
- God is merciful. - Ex. 34:6; Neh. 9:17, 31; Ps. 116:5, 117:1-2; Luke 6:36

v. 32 - These sins are worthy of God's judgment of death. - Rom. 6:23

- Other lists of sins. - 1 Cor. 6:9-10 and Gal. 5:19-21
- A person is worthy of death for committing any of these sins, but is **equally** worthy of death for taking “pleasure in them that do them” (like the pleasure of watching people on TV who openly commit these same sins).
- People often justify their own sins while at the same time they condemn others people's sins. - Rom. 2:1-3 (coming up shortly!)
- Have you ever noticed that other people's sins seem far worse than your own?!?
- Anytime you point your finger at somebody else, you have 3 of your fingers pointed back at yourself. - Rom. 3:23; Job 22:5
- Review Rom. 1:20b - all people are “without excuse” in God's eyes!