

ROMANS 1

-In the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we have the history of Christ.

-In the book of Acts, we have the history of the early Church.

-After the book of Acts, we have the rest of the books in the New Testament which are also the final books in the Bible.

-The book of Acts is a foundation for the rest of these final books in the Bible.

-This is why it is important to study first the book of Acts in order to have a foundation for understanding the remaining books in the Bible.

-These remaining books were written by the apostles and other men who were chosen by God Himself.

-These remaining books were written as letters to churches and individual believers during the time of the apostles.

-Are the remaining books in the Bible after Acts only letters from Christians to other Christians?

-No.

-Just like the other books in the Bible, the remaining books after Acts are written by God Himself through His people, and is God's Word to all Christians.

-In the remaining books of the Bible, God the Holy Spirit chose the Apostle Paul to write most of these letters.

-The Apostle Paul wrote most of these letters to the churches where he had taught.

-Yet Paul wrote a few of these letters to churches where other Christians had taught.

-Who was Paul before his life was changed by meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus?

-He was the leader of people who persecuted, imprisoned, and killed Christians.

-After Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he became a missionary and taught the Word of God in many far away places.

-One of the places Paul traveled to was Corinth.

-When Paul was in Corinth on his third missionary journey, he realized that the work that God had given him to teach God's Word from Jerusalem to Corinth was completed.

-Therefore, because Paul's heart was to teach God's Word where it had not yet been taught, he decided that after visiting Jerusalem, he would travel to teach God's Word in Spain.

-On his way to Spain, Paul planned to stop and visit the church at Rome.

-Therefore, while Paul was in Corinth for his third visit, God through Paul wrote a letter to the Christians at Rome.

-In the Book of Acts, we learned that Paul did arrive in Rome, but it was as a prisoner.

-The letter which Paul wrote from Corinth to the Christians in Rome is now a part of the Bible.

-It is called the Book of Romans and follows the Book of Acts.

-Here is how God and Paul began their letter to the Christians in Rome:

Let's read Romans 1:1

1-Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, and set apart for the gospel of God.

-At the beginning of his letter, what did Paul first call

himself?

-“A servant of Jesus Christ.”

-What did Paul mean that he was a servant of Jesus Christ?

-Paul meant that he had chosen to be a slave of Jesus Christ.

-Why did Paul choose to become a slave of Jesus Christ?

-Because Paul was thankful to Christ for saving him from sin, death, and Satan.

-When the Israelites were made to be slaves of the evil king Pharaoh of Egypt, it was not their decision.

-Israel did not choose to serve Pharaoh.

-The Israelites were forced into service.

-But Paul was not forced to serve the Lord Jesus.

-Paul chose to gladly serve the Lord Jesus.

-Before Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he was a slave to sin, death, and Satan.

-Before Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he was a slave to himself, and to his own sinful desires.

-After Paul met the Lord Jesus, Paul loved Him and was His willing slave until he died.

-Do you call yourself a slave of Jesus like Paul did?

-We can only be completely happy here on earth when we are willing slaves of the Lord Jesus Christ.

-To serve God is the greatest service in eternity.

-Secondly, what else did Paul call himself at the beginning of his letter to the Christians in Rome?

-Paul said that he was “called to be an apostle.”

-What does it mean that Paul was called to be an apostle?

-It means that Paul was chosen by the Lord Jesus Himself.

-It was the Lord Jesus Himself who sent out Paul as His representative to teach others God’s Word.

-Here is an illustration:

-If you live in a village in the country, you may have chosen one of the men in your village to go to the capital to speak your words to the government.

-You chose that person and sent him off as your

representative.

-In the same way, the Lord Jesus chose the Apostle Paul and sent him as His representative with His message, the Word of God.

-Do you remember what happened to Paul’s eyes when the Lord Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus?

-Paul was blinded by the brightness at the sight, and had to be led into Damascus by hand.

-After three days, God told Ananias to go to Paul so that Paul could see again.

-Ananias told the Lord that he was afraid to go to Paul because he had heard of the evil things Paul had done to Christians.

-But God told Ananias not to be afraid.

-Why?

-Because God Himself had chosen Paul to be His representative to tell His message to Jews, to Gentiles, and even to kings.

Let’s read Acts 9:15

15-But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.

-If you are a believer in Christ, God has chosen you to be His representative just as God chose Paul.

-This means that you are to no longer represent yourself here on earth, but rather represent the Lord Jesus Christ.

-How do we represent the Lord Jesus Christ?

-By not being ourselves, but rather, by allowing Jesus to be God in our lives.

-This is the key to life for the Christian, that is, allowing Jesus to be God in our lives.

-Thirdly, what else did Paul call himself at the beginning of his letter to the Christians in Rome?

-Paul said that he was “set apart for the gospel of God.”

-What does it mean to be set apart for the gospel of God?

-It means that Paul did not spend his time doing that which he wanted to do.

-It means that Paul did not speak his own message.

-It means that Paul was chosen by God to do only the work of God.

-Here is an illustration:

-If you are building a new hut, and need a new center pole for the roof, you search until you find the right tree.

-This tree will be used only for the center pole, for you do not want to use it for anything else.

-This tree has been chosen by you and set apart as the center pole for your new roof.

-Paul was chosen by the Lord and set apart to be His apostle to take the Word of God to those who had never heard.

-As Christians, God has also set us apart to do His work and His will.

-After Paul introduced himself, here is what he said:

Let’s read Romans 1:7a

7-To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

-What did Paul first remind the Christians in Rome?

-He reminded them that they were loved by God.

-We know that God loves the whole world because He

gave His Son to die for all of us.

Let's read John 3:16

16-For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

-Although God loves all people, He has a very special love for those who have become His children through faith in the Lord Jesus.

-Here is an illustration:

-If a mother greatly loves her son or daughter, how will she love the children of her son or daughter?

-She will love her grandchildren as much as she loves her children.

-Why?

-Because her grandchildren are from her own children whom she greatly loves.

-In the same way, God the Father loves all of His children just as much as He loves His Son Jesus Christ.

-We should never doubt God's love for us.

-If you want to know how much God loves you, think of how much God the Father loves God the Son.

-What else did Paul remind the believers at Rome about who they were?

-He reminded them that they had been "called to be saints."

-What does it mean to be called to be saints?

-It means that God has called us to be holy.

-It means that God has called us to be of God, and not to be of the world.

-If you believe in Christ, God has called you to Himself, and away from the world.

-Before you became a child of God, who used your mind and your body to do evil things?

-Satan.

-But when you believed in Christ, God called you away from evil and away from the world to be used only by God.

-After Paul told the Christians in Rome that they were greatly loved by God, and called to be saints, what else did he say?

Let's read Romans 1:7b

7-Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Why did the Christians in Rome have peace from God?
-Because of the grace of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Why do all Christians have peace from God?
-Because of the grace of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

-It is the grace of God that saves all Christians.

-It is also the grace of God that allows Christians to have peace with God.

-What is grace?

-Grace is this:

-Even though our sins merit punishment and death, God gives us the gift of eternal life.

-If we did not have the grace of God, what would our sins do for us?

-Send us to the lake of eternal fire.

-Because of God's grace, Christians are no longer enemies of God.

-Because of God's grace, Christians are one with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Here is an illustration:

-What do you do when the handle of your machete splits?

-You bind it back together with a piece of twine.

-The two pieces of the handle which were separated are bound back together so they become one.

-When Adam sinned, he was separated from God.

-Because of Adam's sin, all of his children, that is, all people who are born into this world are born separated from God.

-Because of the death of the Lord Jesus, however, we have been bound to God as one.

-Although we were God's enemies, God loved us so much that instead of punishing us the way we deserved, He gave His own Son to die for us.

-When we first believed, we needed God's grace to save us from eternal death.

-After salvation, Christians need God's grace every day

to teach us more about God.

-After salvation, Christians also need God's grace every day to cause us to obey God.

-Do all Christians have peace with God?

-Yes.

-Peace is one of the gifts that God gives to people who believe in Him.

-Even though Christians have peace with God, is it possible for our hearts and minds to be troubled?

-Yes.

-Even though Christians have peace with God, is it possible for us to worry instead of believing God to care for us?

-Yes.

-This is why Paul wanted the Christians in Rome and all Christians to know that we have God's peace in our hearts.

-Even though we have difficulties in life, we know that God is our Father and that He is taking care of us.

-This is our real peace.

Let's read Romans 1:8

8-First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world.

-What did Paul thank God for?

-The faith of the Christians in Rome, for their faith was talked about in many different places in the world.

-What about you and me?

-Do other people know that we have faith in Christ?

-Do other people talk about our faith in Christ?

-Does our faith in Christ encourage us as well as other people?

-Our greatest gift is our faith in Christ.

-Our greatest treasure is our faith in Christ.

-Our greatest strength is our faith in Christ.

Let's read Romans 1:9-10a

9-God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you

10-in my prayers at all times;

-What did Paul continually do for the Christians in Rome?

- He prayed for them.
- We should also faithfully pray for others.
- We should pray for those who have not yet heard the Word of God.
- We should pray for those who have heard the Word of God, but do not yet believe.
- We should pray for Christians who are having difficulties.
- After belief in God, prayer is our greatest work.

Let's read Romans 1:10b-13

10-I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.

11-I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—

12—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

13-I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles.

-Paul prayed that God would allow him to visit the Christians in Rome.

-Paul also prayed that God would allow him to strengthen the faith of the Christians in Rome.

-Paul wanted to remind the Christians in Rome of the truths of God which they already knew as well as teach them new truths which God had taught him.

-Paul's whole life was devoted to the work of teaching the Word of God.

-Paul knew that if he would teach the Christians in Rome, God would also teach him.

-When we teach others the Word of God, God teaches us as well.

-Only the Word of God can encourage our faith and cause us to believe in God even more.

-Only the Word of God can bring us peace in a difficult world.

-Paul also knew that if he would encourage the Christians in Rome, God would also encourage him.

-When we encourage others with the Word of God, God encourages us as well.

-Even though you may not be a leader in the church, you can still visit people and teach them that which God has

taught you.

-Even though you may not be a leader in the church, you can still visit people and encourage them with that which God has encouraged you.

-Even though you may not be a leader in the church, you can still visit people and pray for them.

-Just as other believers need us, so we also need fellowship with other believers.

-Here is an illustration:

-When you build a fire to cook food, you place many sticks together so they will burn strongly.

-But when the food is already cooked and you just want to keep it warm, you remove many of the sticks from the fire.

-What happens to those sticks when you take them out of the fire and place them alone by themselves?

-They stop burning.

-A stick placed with others burns very well, but if it is removed and placed alone, it soon stops burning.

-This is why we need one another.

-We need to be together so that our faith in God will continue to burn like a brightly burning fire.

-Do you remember how often the first church in Jerusalem met together?

-They met together every day and because of this, many others came to believe in Christ.

-It is important that Christians continue to meet together so that our faith will be strengthened, and that others may see and be drawn to Christ.

Let's read Romans 1:14-15

14-I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish.

15-That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome.

-Why did Paul say that he was in debt to all people?

-Because Jesus had given the Word of God to Paul so that Paul could give it to others.

-The Good News that Jesus has died for sinners needs to be shared with all people in every part of the world.

-Here is an illustration:

-If there was a famine in your village, and people were dying of starvation.

-A man from the village was chosen by the people to go to the big city and talk to the government.

-In the big city, the man received free food from the government for the people in his village.

-Instead of sharing the free food with the people in his village, the man hid the food.

-Would this be right?

-No.

-Because the man was given free food, it is his responsibility to share the food with everyone in his village.

-Christians have been given the free gift of eternal life so that we might share this gift with all other people.

-Before Christ returned to Heaven, He entrusted the Gospel to His disciples so they could share this gift with all other people.

Let's read Matthew 28:18-10

18-Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19-Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20-and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

-When Paul was living, the Gospel was entrusted to him.

-To whom is the Gospel entrusted these days?

-To all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Therefore, we are responsible for taking the free gift of God's Word to all people because God wants to give this gift to all people.

Let's read Romans 1:16

16-I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

-Why was Paul not ashamed of the Gospel?

-Because the Gospel alone can save people from death.

-Because the Gospel alone is the most powerful message in the world.

-Do you remember the story in the Book of Acts when Paul and Silas were locked up in the prison in Philippi?

-What happened when they were singing praises to God at midnight?

-The Lord sent an earthquake and the doors of the prison were all thrown open.

-Who came running into the prison and asked Paul and Silas, “What must I do to be saved?”

-The keeper of the prison.

-What did Paul answer?

-“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”

-Did the prison keeper believe?

-Yes.

-What did he believe?

-The Gospel of Christ who has died for our sins.

-Was his life changed?

-Yes.

-He and his family became children of God.

-Paul also said that the Gospel was first for the Jew, and then for the Gentile.

-What does it mean, “First for the Jew, then for the Gentile”?

-God chose the tribe of Israel so that He could send His Word into the world.

-God chose the tribe of Israel so that He could send the Savior into the world.

-The Word of God first entered the world into the tribe of Israel so that it could go to all the world.

-The Savior Jesus Christ first entered the world into the tribe of Israel so that He could go to all the world.

-When Paul visited a city for the first time, he always went first to the Jewish synagogue.

-When the Jews refused to listen, Paul then went and preached to the Gentiles.

-Paul added one final and very important truth about the Gospel.

Let's read Romans 1:17

17-For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

-What does it mean that the righteousness of God is revealed in the Gospel?

-It means that the Gospel teaches us how God can accept people as righteous even though all people have sinned.

-Although God wants to save sinners from eternal death, He cannot do it unless their sin is completely paid for.

-When God made an agreement with Moses and Israel, He demanded that Israel completely obey His commandments.

-All who disobeyed would be punished by death.

-Yet, God knew that no one could ever completely obey His commandments.

-Therefore, here is the problem:

-God wants to save everyone, but the sins of people must be punished with death.

-What would God do?

-God decided to enter the flesh and become a man so that He could die for the sins of man.

-God entered the flesh so that He could die so that the punishment for sin could be paid.

-Because the Lord Jesus paid the price of death for sin, all who believe in Christ no longer have to die.

-Because the Lord Jesus paid the price of death for sin, all who believe in Christ no longer have sin.

-Because the Lord Jesus paid the price of death for sin, all who believe in Christ have been given by God the gift of righteousness.

-If you believe in Christ, God has given you the gift of His righteousness.

-If you believe in Christ, you are now covered with the righteousness of God Himself.

-What could be a title or name for the Book of Romans?
-The Righteousness of God.

-Finally, here is an outline which will help us to understand the major themes of the Book of Romans.

-The numbers at the end of each theme are the chapters of the book.

- 1) Introduction (1:1-17)
- 2) All People are Unrighteous Before God (1:18-3:20)
- 3) The Righteousness of God alone saves us (3:21-5)
- 4) The Righteousness of God alone lives a holy life in us (6-8)
- 5) The Righteousness of God alone is just (9-11)
- 6) The Righteousness of God working in us (12-15:13)
- 7) Conclusion (15:14-16)