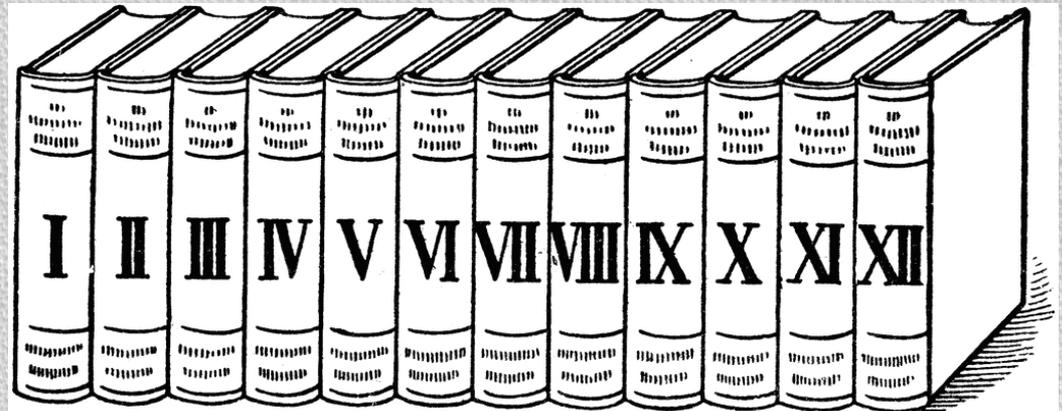


BOOK OF ROMANS

Chapter One



Introduction

- **Romans 1:1:** Paul, a servant (*slave*) of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God
- By the time Paul wrote Romans, he had been a Christian preacher for some 20 years. In Corinth
- ***The true essence of spiritual leadership is not in one's title, but it is in one's service***
- A bondservant is a willing slave; *Though we are free in Christ, we willing submit ourselves to serve him*
- Apostle: A special envoy or messenger
- Separated unto the Gospel - Set apart and appointed to this work
 - Before hand Paul was separated unto his own sect, Pharisee, but now he is separated unto the good news of Jesus Christ
 - ***God has a work for each believer to perform***

Points of Emphasis

Bondservant - For every Christian with his calling to salvation is also a call to service

Paul addresses this letter to the Romans who are in the midst of a Hellenistic Culture

- **Hellenization led to consideration of the individual**
 - **The rejection of “One God”**
 - **Focus on Philosophy – Idealistic over Spiritual**
 - **Pleasure Principle – The “Comforts” of the Faith**
 - **Attractiveness to magic, astrology, superstition, etc.**
 - **Religious practice would also involve the worship of people who were regarded as semi-divine.**

Hellenistic Culture of Today – Loose Faith

- Faith is good only when it engages truth; when it is made to rest upon falsehood, it can and often does lead to eternal tragedy
- These believers are sensational people. Often, they're well-versed in the Bible and give color to their churches.
- Our culture has hijacked our faith, given it a make-over and has begun selling it for cheap.
- **When a believer is more interested in the idea of loving Jesus than actually loving Jesus, then that is not Christianity.**
- As Martin Luther once said, “A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing and suffers nothing is worth nothing.”



The Dangerous Allure of
“Sexy Christianity”
By Kyle Donn

The Gospel is Not Hidden, Nor New

Throughout the Scriptures, both in the law and in the prophets God showed his purpose to redeem the world and return it a more perfect and glorious state of things; which state was to take place by and under the influence of the Messiah, who should bring life and immortality to light by his Gospel.

- **In the holy scriptures** - In the writings of the Old Testament. They were called holy because they were inspired by the Holy Spirit, and were regarded as separated from all other writings, and worthy of all reverence (Barnes)
- Over the years we have tried to change it, adapt it to the current culture, and even to hide it, but there is nothing wrong or ineffectual about the gospel of Christ

What is the Gospel?

"By this gospel you are saved...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time..." (1st Corinthians 15:2-6)

- The gospel of Jesus Christ is the summary explanation of who he is and what he accomplished for you. The word gospel literally means "good news"
- The gospel is not to be distorted, perverted, or diminished - it is firmly identified in Scripture

Galatians 1:6-9 [6] I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel – [7] which is really no gospel at all. Evidently **some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.** [8] But **even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!** [9] As we have already said, so now I say again: **If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!**

Concerning His Son

- What makes the gospel so Great?
- It is what it declares about the Son of God that distinguishes Him from all other doctrines and religions
 - The Gospel relates every thing concerning the conception, birth, preaching, miracles, passion, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ
 - He was declared to be the Son of God with power – Resurrection Power
 - **According to the spirit of holiness** - the spirit of holiness implies the Divine nature of Jesus Christ; others, his immaculate sanctity, etc.
 - Jesus has both a **human origin** (born of the seed of David according to the flesh), and **an eternal existence (declared to be the Son of God)**. The evidence of Jesus' humanity is His human birth; the evidence of His deity is His **resurrection from the dead**. (Barnes' Commentary)
 - **Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith**
 - **Is Paul setting us up here? Grace comes through the Message of God's Word and our obedience to His Word coupled with our faith**

Service by the Spirit

Romans 1:9: For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit (*pneuma*) in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

- *With my spirit: Heartfelt, Spirit led service, with a pure conscience and righteous motive*
- Paul was making a statement that his service was of a different spirit and intent, no longer religious and ritualistic.

Isaiah 29:13 - And the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near Me with their mouth and honor Me with their lips but remove their hearts and minds far from Me, and their fear and reverence for Me are a commandment of men that is learned by repetition [without any thought as to the meaning],

Having a “Different” Spirit to Serve

- ***What Kind of spirit do you have when it comes to serving the Lord?***

Numbers 14:24 - "But My servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it."

- Caleb had another spirit - not only a bold, generous, courageous, noble, and heroic spirit; but the Spirit and influence of the God of heaven thus raised him above human inquietudes and earthly fears, therefore he followed God fully (Adam Clarke's Commentary)
- **Caleb's Spirit brought him into the Promised Land. Where is your spirit taking you?**

Paul's Greetings and Commitment

- He let them know that they were in his prayers – **Are you praying fervently for your fellowship?**
- Paul desired to impart something to the your church in the form of a spiritual gift - **What are you bringing to church? Are you a “Taker” or a “Giver”**
- **Not Just any Gift:** A gift that might tend greatly to establish their faith in the Gospel of Christ – **Not a “Gag” gift or something to divide or inhibit the flow of God’s love in the body**
- The goal of ministry is that Christians may be established, strengthened, and Unified (**Ephesians 4:13**). This is the purpose of the five-fold ministry
- **“I am Ready”** – Paul was committed to preach the gospel at all cost, being ready to suffer, work diligently, serve fervently, and even to die

The Gospel of Christ

- The Righteousness of God (**Reflecting God's character**) is revealed in the gospel of Jesus Christ

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

- The gospel gives power to those who believe in it – you must believe – Faith in the Gospel gives it power to manifest what you desire to receive
 - Example: When the gospel is presented in healing, the power of God is available to heal
- ***John 1:12 - But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:***
 - ***Power represents rights, privileges, liberty and authority***

POWER

- The Romans knew about Power – However, they knew that they were powerless to make themselves “righteous” before God
- In Rome, the people looked for Salvation - Even their philosophers knew that man was sick and needed help; they needed peace
- The Apostle Paul speaks to both, power and salvation through God made available through the obedience of His Son
- Judaism reflects doing the works in order to obtain salvation, but now Christ accomplish the work through His death.
- Paul greatest desire was to know Christ and this power:
Philippians 3:10 - that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

Power of Christ's Resurrection

- Knowing Jesus means knowing this power, the new life that is imparted to us *now*, not when we die.
- The power of His resurrection is an *evidencing power*. It is the evidence and seal that everything Jesus did and said was true.
- The power of His resurrection is a *justifying power*. It is the receipt and proof that the sacrifice of the cross was accepted as payment in full.
- The power of His resurrection is a *life-giving power*. It means that those who are connected with Jesus Christ receive the same resurrection life.
- The power of His resurrection is a *consoling and comforting power*. It promises that our friends and loved ones who are dead in Christ live with Him. (Guzik's Commentary)
- This Power dwells within the believer – **Romans 8:11**

Righteousness of God

Romans 1:17: For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."

- The Righteousness of God is His means of saving sinners – A man's righteousness is obtained by his faith in the gospel of Christ
- Abraham was justified by his faith in the Integrity and Power of God's Word
- ***Abraham, the father and founder of the Jewish people, was justified by faith, before even the law was given; and by believing, he and all his believing descendants have been justified***

THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION

- **Justification**, in Christian theology, is God's act of removing the guilt and penalty of sin while at the same time declaring a sinner righteous through Christ's atoning sacrifice. In Protestantism, righteousness from God is viewed as being credited to the sinner's account through faith alone, without works (Wikipedia).
- **Just as if I never sinned** - It's amazing how we seek a "Clean Slate" with God, especially in our present culture of non-accountability, but think little of developing a slate outlining our service to The Lord
- **Justification is like Righteousness** – It's not about being justified from all your sins, where you assume no responsibility, but to be made clean and fit to serve the Father
- Abraham was justified by faith not only because he "believed" but because he was willing to sacrifice on the basis of that belief. - Faith without works is dead (**Romans 4:17-21; James 2:21-24**). **Abraham was declared righteous because of his righteous act stemming from his faith**

How This Works

God establishes a Covenant with Man that one day He would Redeem them back to Himself



Jesus fulfills Scripture and accomplishes Man's Redemption through the Cross

Man receives the gospel of Christ by faith and is Saved and made Righteous and Justified to Serve



As a Believer, man becomes a disciple and commits himself in Service to the Lord

This Seems Simple, So Why is this So Hard?