

# Cornerstone Bible Church

## A Letter to Strangers

(Romans 1:1-16)

Survey of Romans part 1

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# A Topical Survey of Romans

(I know where we're going, but not how or when will we arrive)

1. The Gospel (Chapter 1:1-6)
2. Universal Condemnation: Reason for the Gospel (Chapters 1:16-3:23)
3. God's Righteousness: The Basis for the Gospel: (Chapter 3:23-31)
4. Righteousness by Faith: Before and Better Than the Law (Chapter 4)
5. Reconciliation to God in Jesus: (Chapter 5:1-11)
6. Original Sin & Forensic Imputation of Righteousness (Chapter 5:12-21)
7. Freed from the Power of Sin (Chapter 6)
8. Struggling with the Presence of Sin: Remaining Sin (Chapter 7)
9. Freed from Condemnation & Glorification (Chapter 8)
10. God's Universal Redemptive Plan (Chapters 9-11)
11. Serving in the Freedom of Grace (Chapter 12)
12. Worshipping in Freedom of Conscience (Chapters 13-14)
13. The Gospel to the Gentiles Foretold and Fulfilled (Chapter 15)
14. Greetings and Salutations (Chapter 16)

NAS Romans 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus,  
called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,  
<sup>2</sup>which He promised beforehand through His prophets in  
the holy Scriptures,  
<sup>3</sup>concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of  
David according to the flesh,  
<sup>4</sup>who was declared the Son of God with power by the  
resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of  
holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
<sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to  
bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles,  
for His name's sake,  
<sup>6</sup>among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

<sup>7</sup>to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>8</sup>First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.

<sup>9</sup>For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you,

<sup>10</sup>always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.

<sup>11</sup>For I long to see you in order that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;

<sup>12</sup>that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.

<sup>13</sup>And I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented thus far) in order that I might obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.

<sup>14</sup>I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

<sup>15</sup>Thus, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

<sup>16</sup>For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

<sup>17</sup>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."

## Romans Sunday School

### INTRODUCTION

**A letter to unknown people.** Sometimes the greatest discoveries are made unintentionally e.g. Penicillin.

The Epistle to the Romans is Paul's Opus Magnus, it is the Bible within the Bible. No Book in Scripture equates in Doctrinal Content and Exposition to Romans.

Yet this is why Paul wrote this letter: he had never met most of these brethren in person. Paul did not found this church.

## Romans Sunday School

### INTRODUCTION

Romans 1:11-13 For I long to see you in order that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;

...

Romans 15:22 For this reason I have often been hindered from coming to you; <sup>23</sup>but now, with no further place for me in these regions, and since I have had for many years a longing to come to you <sup>24</sup>whenever I go to Spain-- for I hope to see you in passing, and to be helped on my way there by you, when I have first enjoyed your company for a while--

## INTRODUCTION

**Date:** it was written around 57 AD.

- **Claudius had unleashed a persecution** against the Jews, who fled Jerusalem and spread through Asia Minor and even arrived in Rome.
- This dark Providence **catapulted the spreading of Christianity** as converted Jews brought with them the gospel message.
- **Nero was in power now**, and he allowed the Jews in Rome. Being a large city as it was, many synagogues gathered with a mix of Jews and Gentile converts.
- Paul did not know these brethren in person.



Let me park here and make a **practical application**.

- A pastor from Cuba wrote to me recently what I thought about his need to be re ordained into the ministry, because he had discovered the Doctrines of Grace after his original ordination.
- A Reformed Baptist pastor had told him he needed to validate his ordination through them.
- This is the same error of the Roman Catholic Church, Primitive Baptists, many cults and some Reformed Baptists. They believe to have a privileged (sometimes exclusive) lineage to apostolic Christianity.

- The letter to the Romans disproves any arguing for seeking to trace origins to Jesus and the apostles.
- Paul did not even know this people and he recognized them as a **legitimate congregation** of believers.
- I remind you that he had written earlier to the Philippians from Rome, that some believers in Rome, preached Christ to contend and oppose him. Paul did not disown them because of this.

**Please be extremely wary of yourself or of anyone who believes to an exclusive corner in the Kingdom.**

## II - THE LETTER

- **The longest of Paul's writings.** Without a doubt recognized as Pauline by the early church.
- This letter was delivered to the church by **Phoebe** a woman recognized as a deacon (a servant) in Cenchrea, a church which was close to Corinth.
- *He calls **Gaius** “a host to me” (Romans 16:23). Gaius sends greetings to the Romans (so Gaius was with Paul). Gaius is mentioned in 1 Corinthians 1:14 as being a member of the church in Corinth*
- *Paul mentions **Erastus**, “a city treasurer”, who sends greetings from where Paul was writing (Romans 16:23).*

## II - THE LETTER Paul's theological thinking was well developed

### Cronological Timeframe

Period of time	DATE	Event	Publishing
<b>Initiation</b> 6 B.C. al 30 A.D.	6 BC. 4 BC.	Birth of Jesus Death of Herod the Great.	
	27 AD 30 AD	Jesus is baptized Jesus is crucified	
<b>Expansion</b> 30 AD to 60 AD	34 AD	Paul's Conversion	
	45 AD 46-47 AD 49 AD 52 AD 54 AD 55 AD 56 AD	Paul's First Trip Jerusalem's Council	<b>James (45)</b> <b>Galatians (49)</b> <b>1&amp;2 Thessalonians (50)</b>  <b>1Corinthians (55)</b> <b>2Corinthians (56)</b>
	58 AD 60 AD	Two years of imprisonment for Paul in Jerusalem and Caessarea	<b>Romans (58)</b> <b>Mark (60)</b>
<b>Consolidation</b> 60 – 100 AD	60-61 AD 61-63 AD 63-65 AD	Trip of Pablo to Rome Imprisonment in Rome Paul's release in Rome Second imprisonment in Rome	<b>Colossians &amp; Philemon; Ephesians (61);</b> <b>Philippians (62)</b> <b>1 Timothy &amp; Titus (64)</b> <b>Matthew ; Luke &amp; Acts (65) ; 1 Peter (65)</b> <b>Hebrews (65); 2 Timothy (66) 2 Peter (67)</b> <b>Jude (68)</b>
	66-67 AD		
	68 AD		
	70 AD	Jerusalem's Destruction	
	85 AD 95 AD		<b>1 John (85); 2,3John (90)</b> <b>John (90)</b> <b>Revelation (95)</b>

Source: Arturo Perez lectures on Synthesis of the NT

### III THE WONDER OF ROMANS

- It is just a letter.
- It was written to a church probably spread into many smaller congregations throughout the city of Rome.
- The letter was written to and for common people.
- It is not a mysterious book for theology lectures only.
- “*Romans is the Old Testament re-written.*” Jared Reed
- **Learn Romans and you will know your Bible!**

### III THE WONDER OF ROMANS

- This is the book, that caused Luther to rediscover the Gospel
- This event triggered (unintentionally for Luther) the schism that led to the Protestant Reformation.
- This led believers in the same motto of the Renaissance which was – Ad Fontes – To The Foundations -
- To me the greatest wonder of Romans is the reason for which it was written.
- Paul wanted to visit them and communicate the Gospel he preached. ***He wrote a summary of his Gospel!***

## CONCLUDING REMARKS:

- If this letter is the Gospel, it is scary to think about today's gospel, which resembles very little about the content of this book.
- 2 Peter 3:17 commands us to **“grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”**
- Learning Romans is one of the greatest means to do that.
- Romans is a magnificent example of Jesus words to the disciples...

## CONCLUDING REMARKS:

Luke 22:27 And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

<sup>44</sup>Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

<sup>45</sup>Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

<sup>46</sup>and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day;

<sup>47</sup>and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.



**END**