

Paul's Epistle to the ROMANS

11/22/2020 PM

Introduction to Romans



Introduction:

I. WRITER AND DATE

II. RECIPIENTS

III. PURPOSES

- 1) pastoral/personal
- 2) evangelical/missionary
- 3) theological/apologetic

IV. THEME

V. GENRE

VI. CHARACTERISTICS

VII. VALUE

- 1) intellectual value
- 2) historical value
- 3) theological value
- 4) spiritual value
- 5) practical value

VIII. OUTLINE (thanks to Alva J. McClain)

Introduction (1:1-17)

- I. Condemnation: The Wrath of God Revealed (1:18 - 3:20)
Question: Is the world lost?
Answer: "All the world...guilty before God" (3:19)
 - II. Salvation: The Righteousness of God Revealed (3:21 - 8:39)
Question: How does God save sinners?
Answer: "In Christ Jesus" (8:1)
 - III. Vindication: The Wisdom of God Revealed (9:1 - 11:36)
Question: Why has Israel been set aside?
Answer: "That He might have mercy upon all" (11:32)
 - IV. Exhortation: The Will of God Revealed (12:1 - 15:33)
Question: How should a saved man walk?
Answer: "Be ye transformed" (12:2)
- Conclusion (16:1-27)

IX. MAJOR THEMES OF ROMANS (from Charles Swindoll)

Section	Salutation	The Wrath of God	The Grace of God	The Faithfulness of God	The Majesty of God	The Righteousness of God	Conclusion
Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul's Calling and Plans • The Identity of Christ • The Gospel • Faith • "Righteousness of God" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Righteousness of God" • The Moral Failure of Humanity • God's Judicial Abandonment of Humanity • Humanity's Hopelessness and Eternal Peril 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Righteousness of God" • Powerlessness of Works • Justification through Faith • Grace/Free Gift • Reconciliation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Righteousness • The Futility of Human Effort • The Necessity of the Holy Spirit • Children/Heirs of God • Assurance of Future "Glory" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Righteousness through Faith • Israel in the Plan of God • The Justice of God • The Sovereignty of God • The Plan of God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love • Civic Responsibility • Unity • Mutual Judgment • Mutual Acceptance • Joy, Peace, and Hope 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gentiles • The Gospel • Paul's Past • Paul's Future
Key Terms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apostle • Gospel • Faith • Salvation • Righteousness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unrighteousness • Judge • Law • Wrath • Hand Over 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justify • Works/Law • Circumcision • Propitiation • Grace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Flesh" • Spirit • Sanctification • Predestined • Glorified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercy • Harden • Remnant • Mystery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conform • Transform • Prove • Accept 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obedience • Commend • Dissention • Hindrance
Passage	1:1-17	1:18 - 3:30	3:2 - 5:21	6:1 - 8:39	9:1 - 11:36	12:1 - 15:13	15:4 - 16:27

Conclusion:

Augustine's testimony (AD 386) - "Suddenly I heard a voice from the nearby house chanting as if it might be a boy or a girl...saying and repeating over and over again, 'Pick up and read, pick up and read.' ...I interpreted it solely as a divine command to me to open the book and read the first chapter I might find.... So I hurried back to the place where...I had put down the book of the apostle when I got up. I seized it, opened it and in silence read the first passage on which my eye lit: 'Not in riots and drunken parties, not in eroticism and indecencies, not in strife and rivalry, but put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh in its lusts' (Rom. 13:13-14). I neither wished nor needed to read further. At once, with the last words of this sentence, it was as if a light of relief from all anxiety flooded into my heart. All the shadows of doubt were dispelled."

Martin Luther's testimony (1515) - "I had greatly longed to understand Paul's letter to the Romans, and nothing stood in the way but that one expression 'the righteousness of God', because I took it to mean that righteousness whereby God is righteous and acts righteously in punishing the unrighteous.... Night and day I pondered until...I grasped the truth that the righteousness of God is that righteousness whereby, through grace and sheer mercy, he justifies us by faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning, and whereas before 'the righteousness of God' had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet in greater love. This passage of Paul became to me a gateway into heaven."

John Wesley's testimony (at Moravian meeting at Aldersgate Street on 5/24/1738 when someone was reading Luther's *Preface to Romans*) - "About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away *my* sins, even *mine*, and saved *me* from the law of sin and death."