NEW TESTAMENT · PAUL'S LETTERS · BOOK 45 OF 66

Romans

The power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth (1:16)

16	Paul	c. A.D. 56–57	1–11 · 12–16
Chapters, 433 Verses	Author (1:1)	Written from Corinth	Doctrine, then Life

STRUCTURE

The Book in Six Parts

Romans falls into two halves. **Chapters 1–11** explain what God has done in Christ; **chapters 12–16** begin with "therefore" and show how believers live in the light of it.



Each bar shows that part's share of the 433 verses.

I · 1:1–3:20 · 81 verses

Our Need

The gospel announced; Gentiles and Jews alike under sin.

II · 3:21–5:21 · 57 verses

Justified by Faith

Righteousness by faith, Abraham, peace with God, Adam and Christ.

III · 6–8 · 87 verses

New Life in Christ

Dead to sin, freed from the law, life in the Spirit.

IV · 9–11 · 90 verses

God's Plan for Israel

God's choice, Israel's unbelief, the olive tree.

V · 12:1–15:13 · 71 verses

Living It Out

A living sacrifice, love, authorities, the weak and the strong.

VI · 15:14–16:27 · 47 verses

Plans and Greetings

To Jerusalem, Rome and Spain; friends greeted; a doxology.

CHAPTER 1:16–17

The Power of God unto Salvation

Paul states his theme near the start, and the rest of the letter explains it.

> *"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."*
>
> Romans 1:16 (KJV)

THE GOSPEL

God's Good News

Promised by the prophets, concerning His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1:1–4).

FOR EVERYONE

Jew and Greek

The same gospel and the same Lord for all who believe (1:16; 10:12).

BY FAITH

The Just Shall Live

The righteousness of God is revealed "from faith to faith" (1:17).

FROM HABAKKUK 2:4

"The just shall live by faith" (1:17). Paul quotes the prophet Habakkuk; the same words are quoted again in Galatians 3:11 and Hebrews 10:38.

The Romans Road and Why All Need the Gospel

SHARING THE GOSPEL

The Romans Road

Many Christians use a few verses from Romans, in order, to explain the gospel simply.

1 ROMANS 3:23 · OUR PROBLEM

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"

2 ROMANS 6:23 · THE COST AND THE GIFT

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

3 ROMANS 5:8 · GOD'S LOVE

"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

4 ROMANS 10:9 · OUR RESPONSE

"if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

5 ROMANS 10:13 · FOR ANYONE

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

6 ROMANS 5:1 · THE RESULT

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"

CHAPTERS 1:18–3:20

None Righteous, No, Not One

Before giving the good news, Paul shows that everyone needs it.

1:18–32

The Gentile World

God is clearly seen in creation, yet people worshipped the creature more than the Creator.

"so that they are without excuse"

1:20

2:1–16

The Moral Judge

Those who judge others do the same things, and God judges without favouritism.

"there is no respect of persons with God"

2:11

2:17–3:8

The Jewish People

They had the law and the oracles of God, but having the law is not the same as keeping it.

"circumcision is that of the heart"

2:29

3:9–20

All the World

Jews and Gentiles alike are under sin, and the law cannot make anyone right with God.

"by the law is the knowledge of sin"

3:20

> *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one"*
>
> Romans 3:10 (KJV)

ROMANS AT A GLANCE · PART 3 OF 5

Key Words, Adam and Christ, and Romans 8

BIG WORDS, SIMPLY PUT

Key Words in Romans

Righteousness
Being right with God; a gift He gives through faith.

1:17; 3:21–22

Justified
Declared righteous by God, the Judge.

3:24, 28; 5:1

Grace
God's free, undeserved favour.

3:24; 5:20

Faith
Trusting God and His promise in Christ.

4:3, 20–21

Redemption
Set free by a price paid.

3:24; 8:23

Propitiation
Christ's death turning away God's wrath.

3:25

Reconciled
Enemies made friends with God.

5:10–11

Adoption
Brought into God's family: "Abba, Father."

8:15, 23

CHAPTER 5:12–21

Adam and Christ

Paul compares the first man, through whom sin and death came, with Jesus Christ, through whom grace and life came.

IN ADAM	IN CHRIST
By one man sin entered into the world — 5:12	The free gift of grace by one man, Jesus Christ — 5:15
Death reigned — 5:14, 17	They shall reign in life by One, Jesus Christ — 5:17
Judgment came upon all men to condemnation — 5:18	The free gift came upon all men unto justification of life — 5:18
By one man's disobedience many were made sinners — 5:19	By the obedience of One shall many be made righteous — 5:19

> *"But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound"*
>
> Romans 5:20 (KJV)

CHAPTER 8

Life in the Spirit

Romans 8 begins with "no condemnation" and ends with "no separation."

8:1

No Condemnation
"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus"

8:14–15

Sons of God
"ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

8:18

Glory Ahead
"the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory"

8:26

The Spirit Prays
"the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

8:28

For Good
"all things work together for good to them that love God"

8:31

God for Us
"If God be for us, who can be against us?"

ROMANS 8:38–39

Nothing Can Separate Us

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

ROMANS AT A GLANCE · PART 4 OF 5

God’s Plan for Israel and the Living Sacrifice

CHAPTERS 9–11

God’s Plan for Israel

Paul grieves that most of his people have not believed, and shows that God’s word has not failed.

1 9:6–29

God Chooses by Grace

“they are not all Israel, which are of Israel” (9:6). God shows mercy as He wills.

2 9:30–10:21

Israel Stumbled

They sought righteousness by works, not faith, yet the word of faith is near to all (10:8–13).

3 11:1–10

A Remnant Now

“Hath God cast away His people? God forbid” (11:1). There is a remnant by grace.

4 11:11–24

The Olive Tree

Natural branches broken off and wild branches grafted in; Gentiles must not boast.

5 11:25–32

All Israel Saved

“blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in” (11:25).

6 11:33–36

O the Depth!

“For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever” (11:36).

Paul ends these chapters in praise: “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!” (11:33).

CHAPTERS 12–15

A Living Sacrifice

Romans 12 begins with “therefore”: because of the mercies of God in chapters 1–11, this is how to live.

> *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”*
>
> Romans 12:1 (KJV)

12:2 · A RENEWED MIND

“be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind”

12:4–5 · ONE BODY

“So we, being many, are one body in Christ”

12:9 · SINCERE LOVE

“Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”

12:21 · OVERCOME EVIL

“Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”

13:8 · THE DEBT OF LOVE

“Owe no man any thing, but to love one another”

15:7 · RECEIVE ONE ANOTHER

“receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.”

ROMANS AT A GLANCE · PART 5 OF 5

Paul’s Friends, Themes and Key Verse

CHAPTER 16

Paul’s Friends in Rome

Paul greets more than twenty-five people by name, men and women, Jews and Gentiles, a picture of the early church.

16:1–2
Phebe
A servant of the church at Cenchrea who carried the letter.

16:3–5
Priscilla and Aquila
“my helpers in Christ Jesus”

16:5
Epaenetus
The firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ

16:7
Andronicus and Junia
Paul’s kinsmen and fellowprisoners

16:13
Rufus
“chosen in the Lord,” and his mother

16:22
Tertius
“who wrote this epistle”

16:23
Gaius
Paul’s host, and of the whole church

16:23
Erastus
The chamberlain of the city

Mark names a Rufus as a son of Simon of Cyrene, who carried Jesus’ cross (Mark 15:21).

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

The Gospel
God’s power to save all who believe.
1:16–17

All Have Sinned
Jew and Gentile alike need God’s grace.
3:9–10, 23

Justified by Faith
Declared righteous freely, by grace, through faith.
3:24–28; 5:1

New Life
Dead to sin and alive to God by the Spirit.
6:4, 11; 8:1–17

God Is Faithful
His promises to Israel and to all stand firm.
11:1, 29

Love One Another
One body, receiving one another as Christ received us.
12:5, 9–10; 15:7

KEY VERSE

“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.”

Romans 1:16 (KJV)