

The Book of Romans

From sin's ruin to God's righteousness revealed

Step into the site

Romans was written to believers living in the capital of the Roman Empire, a city defined by power, status, and allegiance to the Emperor. Within this setting, small house churches proclaimed a radical confession: Jesus Christ, not Caesar, is Lord. Paul writes to show how the gospel reshapes life, identity, and unity in the heart of the empire.

Identifying the Writer

The Apostle Paul wrote the letter, once a Pharisee and persecutor of the church, later transformed by the risen Christ. Paul writes near the end of his missionary work in the eastern Mediterranean, preparing to deliver a gift to Jerusalem and then travel west to Rome and beyond.

Determining the Audience

Romans is addressed to believers in Rome, comprising both Jewish and Gentile Christians. After the expulsion of Jews under Emperor Claudius and their later return, tensions emerged within the church. Paul writes to unite them in the gospel and remind them that all are saved the same way, by faith.

Sifting through the Setting

Rome stood at the center of the ancient world, the political and cultural heart of the empire. Idolatry filled public life, emperor worship shaped civic identity, and loyalty to Caesar was expected of all. In this setting, Christian faith was not private but countercultural. Romans shows how allegiance to Christ reshapes life and loyalty within the world's most powerful city.

Deciphering the Divine Message

Why did God preserve Romans for us? Because we need to understand the gospel clearly, trust God's righteousness fully, and live transformed lives shaped by grace. Romans grounds our faith in what God has done in Christ and calls us to live out that faith together in unity and obedience.

Romans teaches us that:

- God keeps His promises, fulfilling the Law and the Prophets in His Son.
- Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us, who remains present with His people to the end of the age.
- The kingdom of heaven has come, revealed through the words, works, and cross of Christ.
- True righteousness flows from a transformed heart and is lived out in the way of the cross.
- The mission of the King is global, sending His church to make disciples of all nations.

We study Romans because it reveals the heart of the gospel and God's faithfulness. This letter is not merely a theology to master. It is a call to believe sincerely, to live faithfully, and to glorify God together as one people shaped by His righteousness.

Uncovering the Layers

Romans unfolds the gospel from beginning to end. Paul shows that all humanity stands guilty before God, yet God provides righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ. Those justified by faith are given new life through the Spirit, assured of God's love, and called to live transformed lives.

Key Verse

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed by faith to faith, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Romans 1:16-17

Synthesizing the Story

Romans brings the entire story of Scripture together around the gospel. God's righteousness, promised through the law and the prophets, is revealed through Jesus Christ. Through His death and resurrection, sinners are justified, Jews and Gentiles are united, and a new people is formed who live by faith. The letter shows that God has been faithful to His promises and is accomplishing His purposes for the world through the gospel.



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