

October 10<sup>th</sup> 2022

## Study of the Book of Romans

Before we begin with the book, a few introductory remarks please.

It was written by the Apostle Paul – who was probably the most religious man on the face of the earth at that time. When you look at his pedigree, it is above reproach in its understanding. His own admission was that his background in teaching and the keeping of the law was without question. Paul had a deep background in the secular understanding of the Greek language.

Yet we notice that when it came to himself, all of the teaching and understanding he was blessed with led him to one conclusion. He was the greatest of all sinners. Why? Because he persecuted Christians, put them to death. All of this without proper understanding, never the less taking credit for all of his mistakes.

Further, we note that in Chapter 1 of Romans, Paul called an Apostle, not by the will of man, but by God. Notice the words “to be” are not in the original.

Further as we look at His writings, we note that they follow the pattern outlined in the book of Habakkuk chapter 2 verse 4 which states “the just shall live by faith”

Paul’s writing to the Romans tells us who are the “just”

How shall the just live? – book of Galatians and then - how they shall live? and the Book of Hebrews deals with living by “faith”

When we look at the book of Romans Paul deals with the issue of what the word “gospel” actually means.

We tend to summarize it by saying it is “good news” and it is that for sure. However, Paul actually explains exactly what it is.

Before we look at that, I want to look at what the “gospel” is not...

It is not a set of rules to live by..... It is not some specific creed. ... The gospel is not a religion or system to be adhered to.... It is not good advice we should strive to live by.

Rather Paul explains what the gospel actually is in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1& following. Paul states that the gospel actually is. It is what I preached to you. It is what you have received of what I preached to you – unless for some reason YOU BELIEVED IN VAIN.

The gospel according to Paul is: Christ died for your sins according to scripture - Christ died and was buried – and that He rose again on the third day according to scripture – and that beloved is the definition of the gospel – PERIOD.

It is not that Jesus was a great preacher and did miracles, though he did those things. It is not the miracles He performed or His walking on water or feeding the 5,000. Those are all great things, but according to the Apostle Paul are not the gospel....

In the writings of Hal Lindsey on the book of Romans Hal states that it is “God’s goodness at Christ expense.”

Another note here I want to make concerning the gospel of the Grace of God that the Lord gave specifically to the Apostle Paul is that if you and I are left to ourselves, we will drift away from the grace of God and move toward legalism in our lives.

Unless we are continually taught about the grace of God, we will move to doing something in order to be received, or we will find that there is more that needs to be done by me, or I need to do this or stop doing that or whatever.

Instead of the finished work of Jesus Christ on my behalf, I will move toward some performance standard set by myself or others “for my benefit” if I am to mature in Him.

You have heard I am sure of what is referred to as the “dark ages.” The interesting thing about this thousand years of history on this earth is that the “grace of God” was totally lacking in teachings and preaching.

The grace of God is too free all of us from any bondage – period.

All forms of religion are bondage – period. Rules on how to dress, how and what to eat, and where to go or how to do this or stop doing that are all bondage and must be removed if we are ever to fully understand what Jesus Christ has done for us.

Repeat – if left to ourselves, we will eventually revert to some sort of doing to be accepted by God.

O.K. as we look at the Book of Romans let me first start out by saying that the book is not written to the Church at Rome. Rather it is written to “all who are in Rome, beloved of God and called saints (again, notice verse 7 the words “to be” are not in the original text.

There are some 28 folks listed in chapter 16 so it is probably safe to assume that these were “house” churches and Paul is writing to all of them.

The first 3 chapters deal with the disease we inherited from our “first man” Adam known as our natural birth known as sin.

The first 8 chapters deal with sin, salvation and sanctification.

Chapters 9-11 deal with the Nation of Israel, their past their present condition or standing and eventual retrieval

Side note here beloved. Because so many of the Saints are holding the position of failing to understand the position of Israel in end time prophesy, they misapply these

chapters attributing them to the Church. This for some cause major confusion. This position is known as the amillennialistic position.

It is important to understand that Paul is writing to believers. Not teaching them to become believers, but because they are already believers.

The name – Paul – actually means “little one” and as I have noted, Paul tells Timothy that he considers himself “chief of all sinners.”

The theme of the book of Romans is: the grace of God revealed”.

The book of Romans is a continuation of the book of Acts.

In verse 1 of Chapter 1, Paul refers to himself as a “bondservant”. You will recall our teachings of a bondservant from the Old Testament. At the end of 7 years the servant or slave in the house in the Old Testament is free to depart as a free man. Should he decide that he does not want to be freed, but rather wants to remain with the master forever, he was taken to the doorpost where his ear was “bored with an awl (or piercer with a nail) to the door to signify that he will remain with the master forever. **Exodus 21:5&6**

Also, his children born while a servant will remain the possession of the master.

What does this say about our relationship with the Lord Jesus and our eternal security with Him.

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