

Best Grove Missionary Baptist Church
Bible Study of Romans
Wednesday at 7:00 P.M.
"THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD"

I. Introduction

The Bible is a book that meets the need of all mankind.

It has stood the test of time, and no book has been studied as vigorously by all people of all time.

Such a book could be given to man only by God, who created man and who knows the human weaknesses and strengths of the creature He created.

The subject of the Bible is the redemption of mankind for those who believe and the judgment for those who reject God's offer of salvation. The Bible is our road map or guidebook for all of living.

It is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. (Psalm 119:105).

Without its instruction, men flounder and lose their way. An in-depth study of God's Word helps us to find treasures which will bring solutions in times of crisis. With God's help, as we study this year, the power of His Word and the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit will be the means of transforming our lives into all that God wants them to be in our homes, our communities, our nation, and in our world. The Holy Spirit cannot tell us what the Bible means until we know what the Bible says. Our responsibility is to know the Word of God.

As we begin this year of study, let us do it with great anticipation and prayerful diligence.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV)

"...and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:9-10)

This Bible Study on the New Testament epistle of Romans is not intended to be exhaustive.

It is meant to be a study that will deepen our desire to dig further into the precious truths of the Word of God.

The epistles are written for the instruction of every Christian.

In them we have a complete course in Christian conduct for the Church as well as for the individual.

Paul, writer of the epistle we will be studying first, became a bitter enemy of the truth and a persecutor of the Church. He met the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus. From this experience and encounter with Christ, he became one of the most faithful followers, writers and expositors of the truth. He became a chosen vessel, a revealer of the Lord Jesus Christ, and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, was able to write the letters which are so meaningful to us today for instruction in Christian living.

Ignorant of God's plan and purpose, the Jews rejected Christ as the Redeemer of the world.

They had established their own system of religion, by-passing what God had promised the nation through covenant. They were unprepared to receive Christ whom God had revealed to them in the Old Testament. John 1:11-12 tells us, *"He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."*

The chronological order of the writing of Paul's letters is not given in the New Testament,

The Biblical arrangement is very meaningful and falls rather into a definite topical arrangement.

(1) Romans, Corinthians and Galatians deal with justification through faith in Jesus Christ.

Romans is where we begin. Jew and Gentile are lost and need a Savior. God's wrath is revealed to all who are dead in trespasses and sin. Adam was disobedient and through one act of disobedience, sin and death came upon the whole human family. Through one act of obedience through death on the cross, the second Adam, Christ, made many righteous. Through faith in Jesus Christ we become justified before God. The Holy Spirit reminds us at the end of this book that the content of this is a mystery (Romans 16:25-27). Following Romans, Corinthians and Galatians, and having learned that salvation has been completed at the cross.

(2) The Christian is now ready for the book of Ephesians and consecration through faith in Jesus Christ.

Romans gives man a picture of his sinfulness and shows how to obtain God's righteousness.

The Holy Spirit in Ephesians shows God's part in salvation and lets us know that even before the foundation of the world, Christ had been called. When He was called, those who are in Him were called. Ephesians gives the doctrinal teaching for those who are in Christ Jesus.

(3) Glorification through Jesus Christ comes in our study of Paul's epistles to the Thessalonians.

We are prepared for this teaching following the study of the letters to the Romans and on through the Epistle to Philemon.

II. Book of Romans Outline

A. Introduction (Romans 1:1-17)

The entire thrust of the sixteen chapters of Romans is distilled into the first seven verses. The apostle apparently was so overjoyed by his message of good news that he could not wait to introduce his readers to the gist of what he had to say. He burst into it immediately.

In [Romans 1:1-7](#) Paul unfolds seven aspects of the good news of Jesus Christ. He first identifies himself as the preacher of the good news ([v. 1](#)), which will be discussed in this present chapter. He then tells of the promise ([v. 2](#)), the Person ([vv. 3-4](#)), the provision ([v. 5a](#)), the proclamation ([v. 5b](#)), the purpose ([v. 5c](#)), and the privileges of the good news ([vv. 6-7](#)).

B. Instruction in Doctrine (Romans 1:18-11:36)

The Gospels provide us with four independent accounts of the life and times of our Lord Jesus Christ. The book of Acts describes the birth of the church and the spread of the gospel from Jerusalem and Judea to Rome. The New Testament Epistles are letters written to various churches, usually intended to address and correct specific problems. The Book of Romans is unique in that it is a systematic summation of the doctrine of salvation, as seen throughout the Bible, and as proclaimed in its fullness in the New Testament.

1. Justification by Faith (Romans 1:18-5:21)

The epistle begins with man's sin (chapters 1-3a), for which provision is made by the atoning work of Jesus Christ on man's behalf, as received by faith alone (chapters 3b-5), resulting in a forsaking of sin and the pursuit of righteousness as one walks in the power of the Holy Spirit (chapters 6-8).

2. Life of the Believer (Romans 6-8)

3. Israel's Rejection (Romans 9-11)

All of Old Testament history is summed up, beginning with Adam (chapter 5), continuing through the history of Israel, currently resulting in the salvation of the Gentiles, and ultimately consummating in the restoration and salvation of the Jews (chapters 9-11). The unfolding of God's salvation in human history is a manifestation of God's infinite wisdom (11:33-36).

C. Practical Exhortations (Romans 12:1-15:13)

The doctrine of salvation is to be lived out by the saints, as described in chapters 12-16. In this one book, Paul “puts it all together” so that we see the salvation of God from an eternal perspective.

1. Christians as Members of the Body of Christ (Romans 12)
2. Christians as Citizens of the State (Romans 13)
3. Christians and Conscience (Romans 14–15:1-13)

D. Conclusion (Romans 15:14-16:27)

There are no truths more important than those set down in this great Epistle to the Romans. Here is a study which should not only enhance your understanding of the gospel, but should stimulate your worship as well. The material in these sermons is available without charge for your personal study and to assist you in living, teaching and preaching God’s Word.

III. The Epistle to the Romans

A. Introduction

Romans was not the first epistle Paul wrote.

Six years prior to the epistle to the Romans, he wrote the First Epistle to the Thessalonians in A.D. 52, and a few months later wrote the Second Epistle to the Thessalonians.

The Epistle to the Romans was written in the year A.D. 58. Paul wrote the epistle from Corinth during a brief visit to that city enroute to Jerusalem (Acts 19:21). It was taken to Rome by Phoebe, a Greek Christian woman (Romans 16:1-2). The genuineness of the book of Romans has never been doubted nor has its authenticity been under attack.

B. Recipients of the Epistle to the Romans

This epistle is addressed *“To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints.”* This indicates that at this time there was already an assembly of believers in this great city of Rome. Nothing is known as to the origin of this church. It is probable that Jewish Christians were used to establish a community of believers in the capital of the Roman Empire. The believers in this great city consisted of both Jews and Gentiles.

C. The Theme of the Epistle to the Romans

The great theme of this book is the gospel of God,

The good news concerning the way in which God, in His infinite love, has provided for sinners to be saved and for everything this free and full salvation includes. This theme is unfolded in the scope and divisions of the book.

God reveals man's true condition as being destitute of all righteousness.

The whole world is found guilty before God; Jew and Gentile are lost. It is on this bleak and dark background that God writes the story of His great love. Both the source and center of all is the sacrificial work of Christ, in which the righteousness of God is made manifest, no longer condemning the guilty sinner, but covering every sinner who believes in Jesus Christ.

Justification is by faith, and faith in Christ is counted for righteousness.

Justification is also based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Being justified by faith, the results are that we have peace with God, a standing in grace and hope of the glory of God. The believer is no longer in Adam, the first man, but in Christ, the second Man. We are therefore no longer to live in sin. *"Sin shall no longer have dominion over you"* (Romans 6:11-13). Christians are, in faith, to act upon this as one dead to sin and alive unto God.

D. The Importance of the Epistle to the Romans

It was from this epistle that the great reformer, Martin Luther found his great message and deliverance. He said, "It is the true masterpiece of the New Testament, and the very purest gospel, which is well worth and deserving that a Christian should not only learn it by heart, word for word, but also that he should daily deal with it as the daily bread of men's souls. For it can never be too much or too well read or studied; and the more it is handled, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes."

So many have but a hazy view of justification and have little knowledge of a settled peace with God.

They lack the assurance of salvation.

Most Christians live constantly in the experience of the wretched man in Romans 7 and never come to the place of assurance and peace of Romans 8, the teaching of which leads the believer into a life of victory.

Let us not be among those who hold the correct doctrine concerning justification and sanctification but seriously lack the power of these precious truths in their own lives. Let us study this epistle with much prayer.