

Romans

Lesson 1: Introduction and Romans 1:1–17

As we look back at church history, great men tell us about the importance of the book of Romans in the Christian life. John Chrysostom had it read to him twice a week because of its grandness. William Tyndale said, “No man can read it too oft, or study it too well.” Martin Luther said Romans is “the chief part of the New Testament.” Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones devoted his Friday evenings at Westminster Chapel to preach through Romans in October 1955 and ended in March 1968. He spent over twelve years devoting his preaching ministry to the book of Romans because, as he says, “There is a sense in which we can say quite truthfully that the Epistle to the Romans has, possibly, played a more important and a more crucial part in the history of the church than any other single book in the whole of the Bible.” This book has played an important role in the life of the church and, therefore, we should know it. Let’s dive in and discover the great truths this ‘chief part of the New Testament’ has for us today.

Introduction

➤ Facts about Romans

- Rome was the capital and most important city of the Roman Empire with a population of over one million people.
- Paul wrote this letter having never met the believers in Rome (1:10, 13).
- Paul wrote this epistle from Corinth on his third missionary journey most likely in A.D. 56 (see map).
- Phoebe was given the responsibility of delivering this letter to the believers at Rome (16:1, 2)
- The overarching theme of Romans is justification by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.



Paul writes Romans (A.D. 56)

➤ Read Acts 2:1–10

1. According to verse 10, how was the church started in Rome?

Application: When and where did you first hear the good news of Jesus Christ? What would you say to an unbeliever who needs to hear the gospel?

➤ **Read Romans 1:1–10**

2. In verse 1, how does Paul identify himself?
3. What was God's ultimate plan for Paul?
4. According to verse 2, was the gospel a new message? Explain.
5. List all of the ways Paul describes Jesus in verses 3–4.
6. In verse 5, what does true saving faith always produce? Why do we do this?

Application: What are areas in your life where you need to grow in obedience to God?

7. In verses 6–7, what truth does Paul reveal about believers in Christ?

8. In verse 8, what impact did the church of Rome have?

9. In verses 9–10, what was Paul’s prayer request?

➤ **Read Romans 1:11–17**

10. According to verses 11–12, why did Paul want to see the Romans?

Application: How do verses 11 and 12 relate to the church today? Do you think meeting together for church is important or is livestreaming good enough? Explain.

11. In verse 13, “fruit” most likely refers to new converts. If that is the case, what does this show you about Paul’s heart for Rome?

12. According to verse 14, do you think Paul showed favoritism when sharing the gospel? What does this tell you about God’s heart?

13. In verse 16, why was Paul not ashamed of the gospel?

Application: Paul had been beaten, laughed at, imprisoned, and chased out of towns for preaching the gospel. Yet he was not ashamed of the gospel. What circumstances in life have caused you to become ashamed of Christ? Or have caused you to become fearful of sharing the gospel?

14. According to verse 17, what is the theme of the gospel?

15. According to verse 17, what has God's plan of salvation always been? (i.e. How can someone be justified by God?)

Application: Do you know someone who is always excited to share the gospel like Paul? What can you learn from that person's boldness for the gospel?

Application: List some friends, relatives, or neighbors who need to hear the gospel. Pray for them this week and ask God for opportunities to share the good news of the gospel with them.

Application: What one verse impacted you the most in this study? Explain.