

**ROMANS – LIVING BY FAITH**  
**GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS & MAN’S REBELLION – Chapters 1-3**

**LESSON 1 – INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS**

We find that Paul has a single goal...to demonstrate to his readers that all have sinned and fall short of God’s glory. No one really appreciates good news until they’ve heard the bad news. While Romans definitely contains the good news of salvation based on the sacrificial death of Jesus, Paul starts with the bad news...all have sinned and are in desperate need of salvation through Christ. Only by agreeing with the bad news does the good news become life and light to the lost.

Before jumping into the detail of Romans, we will look at an overview of the book as a whole.

**Why Study Romans?**

**The Intellectual Reason...**

Romans deals with many of the deepest problems of the Christian life. If we care about solid answers to our questions, then Romans is definitely worth our time. Because Romans is logical in its presentation, this study will give our minds a good workout.

**The Doctrinal Reason...**

The book of Romans deals with a number of great theological issues. In almost every chapter there is a doctrinal theme.

- The doctrine of the resurrection – 1:4
- The doctrine of Christ’s deity – 1:3; 9:5
- The doctrine of Christ’s humanity – 1:3; 8:3
- The doctrine of faith – 1:17
- The doctrine of judgment – 1:18, 24
- The doctrine of sin and depravity – 3:20-23
- The doctrine of justification – 3:24-5:2
- The doctrine of reconciliation – 5:10-11
- The doctrine of sin – 5:12-14
- The doctrine of grace and eternal life – 5:15-21
- The doctrine of sanctification – 6, 7
- The doctrine of security – 8
- The doctrine of the second coming of Christ and the judgment of believers – 14

**The Spiritual Reason...**

In the book of Romans you will find some of the great secrets of the spiritual life.

- The reality of sin and how it has damaged our lives
- What it means to be redeemed and related to God
- How to be filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit
- How to live a holy life through identification with Jesus
- How to live a life of loyalty, love and obedience to Him
- How to know Christ and love Him with all your heart

“It is the true masterpiece of the New Testament, and the very purest Gospel, which is well worthy and deserving that a Christian man 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.” Martin Luther

### **Why Is Romans Placed Where It Is In The Bible?**

Romans is the first doctrinal book in the New Testament. It follows the multitude of historical facts presented in the four gospels and the book of Acts. While there are other epistles that were written before Romans, it was placed ahead of the others because of its great presentation of the Gospel.

### **Who Is The Author And When Was It Written?**

The apostle Paul wrote Romans in A.D. 58 at the end of his third missionary journey toward the close of his three month stay in Greece. He was most likely in the city of Corinth at the time of the writing since the letter was delivered by Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2 and Acts 20:1-3).

### **What Are The Key Verses And Terms in Romans?**

Romans 1:16-17, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

The three expressions of the Gospel are found in Romans

- The gospel of God – indicates Source (1:1)
- The gospel of Christ – indicates Subject (1:16)
- The gospel of Paul – indicates Servant (2:16)

The word “righteousness” appears 91 times in the New Testament with 35 of them in Romans.

The word “faith” occurs 55 times in Romans. It is the great principle of Romans...every blessing is received by faith. “Whatever is not from faith is sin” Romans 14:23.

If Romans were properly understood and faithfully taught, modern Christianity would be revolutionized. It would bring the church back to sound doctrine and true spiritual service. It would revive right thinking and result in right living.