

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

INTRODUCTION TO

THE LETTERS OF PAUL

Most of the New Testament is made up of letters. A letter is an epistle. The letters in the New Testament were written to the church leaders or to the churches. Because we are part of the Church, the letters were also written to us.

The names for the letters are usually one word. This word is the name of the church or church leader to whom the letter was written. Example: The letter (epistle) to the Romans is called Romans. It was written to the church at Rome.

Paul wrote 13 of the 21 letters in the New Testament. He may have written Hebrews, too. The letters written by Paul are called Paul's letters (Pauline epistles). The seven other letters are called general letters. These letters were written by James, Peter, John and Jude.

Paul's letters are in three groups. The first group was written while Paul was on his missionary journeys. The letters in this group were written in this order: Galatians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians and Romans.

The second group of letters are called the prison letters. These letters were written while Paul was in prison at Rome. These letters are: Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon and Philippians.

The third group of letters are called pastoral letters. They were written to the pastors of some of the churches. The pastoral letters are: 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus.

We do not know when Hebrews was written.

We will study the letters in the order of their place in the Bible and not in the order they were written.

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

THE LETTERS OF PAUL

ROMANS

LESSON 18

LESSON OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS
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- III. THE OUTLINE OF ROMANS
- IV. THE LESSONS IN ROMANS
 - A. Introduction, Romans 1:1-17.
 - B. The sin of the world, Romans 1:18 - 3:20.
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 - D. The ways of God are right, Romans 9:1 - 11:36.
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 - F. The end of the letter, Romans 15:22 - 16:27.
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ROMANS

I. INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS

Who wrote Romans.

Paul wrote Romans, Romans 1:1. Paul's eyes may have been bad. He had to have others write for him, Galatians 4:15; 6:11. Tertius wrote the words down at Paul spoke them, Romans 16:22.

When Romans was written.

Paul wrote Romans about A.D. 57 to 58. He wrote while he was on his third missionary journey. He was at Corinth when he wrote this letter.

To whom Romans was written.

Paul wrote this letter to the church at Rome.

Rome was a city in Italia. Find it on the map. It was a large city. The Caesar or emperor lived at Rome. People born in Rome had Roman citizenship.

The people had large families. The man was the leader in the home. That is why Paul said, "*In the family (household) of Narcissus*" (Romans 16:11). The men led the worship services. The women could not vote or say what should be done in the city. But women were free and could still do many things.

The Roman people prayed to many gods. They had many holidays. On holidays many people watched games.

We do not know how the church started at Rome. The Bible does not say when the church started. It is believed Jews from Rome were in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. Some of these Jews accepted Christ as their Savior in Jerusalem. They went back to Rome and told others about Jesus Christ. These Jews must have told the Gentiles the way of salvation. Romans 1:6,7 makes us believe there were more Gentiles than Jews in the church at Rome. The church at Rome was small.

Why Romans was written.

1. Paul wanted to visit the church at Rome. He wanted to let them know he was coming. He wanted the church at Rome help him go to Spain, Romans 15:24.
2. Paul was afraid that those who taught Judaism would go to Rome. He knew they would bother the church. Paul warned the church of false teachers.
3. Paul wrote about many doctrines. He encouraged the people of the church to obey God.
4. Paul wanted the Christians at Rome to grow in their spiritual life.

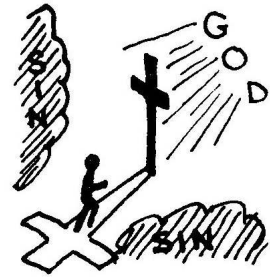
II. THE MAIN THOUGHT AND DOCTRINES OF ROMANS

A. The key verses of Romans are Romans 1:16,17:

"I am not ashamed of the Good News. It is the power of God. It is the way He saves men from the penalty of their sins if they put their trust in Him. It is for the Jew first and for all other people also. The Good News tells us we are made right with God by faith in Him. Then, by faith we live that new life through Him. The Holy Writings say, 'A man right with God lives by faith.'" Romans 1:16,17 (N.L.T.).

B. The main thought of Romans.

1. God is righteous. This means that God is right in every way. He always does what is right and just. God cannot do the smallest sin. God cannot look on sin.
2. People can be made right like God. Jesus Christ died and rose again for everyone. Those who believe in Jesus Christ receive the righteousness of God. God then sees the believers as if they have no sin.



C. The main doctrines found in Romans are:

1. God is righteous, Romans 1:17; 2:2; 3:5; 3:21; 9:14; 10:3.
2. Jesus Christ is God and man, Romans 1:3,4.
3. All people are sinners, Romans 3:23.
4. Salvation for all people, Romans 3:29,30.
5. Salvation is only through faith in Jesus Christ, Romans 5:1.
6. The Holy Spirit lives in the Christian and helps him, Romans 8:11-27.

III. OUTLINE OF ROMANS

Romans is divided into two main parts.

Romans chapters 1 to 11 give Bible doctrine (teachings). Bible doctrine means the teaching from the Word of God.

Romans chapters 12 to 16 show how the Christian can use the doctrines in his daily living.

- A. Introduction, Romans 1:1-17.
- B. The sin of the world, Romans 1:18 - 3:20.

1. The sin of the Gentiles, Romans 1:18-32.
 2. The sin of the Jews, Romans 2:1 - 3:8.
 3. The sin of all people, Romans 3:9-20.
- C. How to be right with God, Romans 3:21 - 8:39.
1. The righteousness of God is received by faith, Romans 3:21-31.
 2. The righteousness of God was promised in the Old Testament, Romans 4:1-25.
 3. The righteousness of God is given through Christ, Romans 5:1-21.
 4. The righteousness of God sets people free from sin, Romans 6:1-7:25.
 5. The righteousness of God is from the Holy Spirit, Romans 8:1-39.
- D. The ways of God are right, Romans 9:1 - 11:36.
1. God chose the people of Israel, Romans 9:1-33.
 2. God chose people from other nations, Romans 9:25; 10:11-18.
 3. God turned from the people of Israel, Romans 10:1-21.
 4. God will choose the people of Israel again, Romans 11:1-36.
- E. The way a Christian should live, Romans 12:1 - 15:21.
1. The life given to God, Romans 12:1,2.
 2. The life given to God in service, Romans 12:3-8.
 3. The life given to God and fellowship, Romans 12:9-21.
 4. The life given to God and the government, Romans 13:1-7.
 5. The life given to God and the world, Romans 13:8-14.
 6. The life given to God and other Christians, Romans 14:1 - 15:21.
- F. The end of the letter, Romans 15:22 - 16:27.
1. Paul tells the people he wants to visit them, Romans 15:22-29.
 2. Paul asks for prayer, Romans 15:30-33.
 3. Paul greets the Christians at Rome, Romans 16:1-4.
 4. Paul's prayer for the Christians at Rome, Romans 16:25-27.

III. THE LESSONS IN ROMANS

A. Introduction, Romans 1:1-17.

READ ROMANS CHAPTER 1.

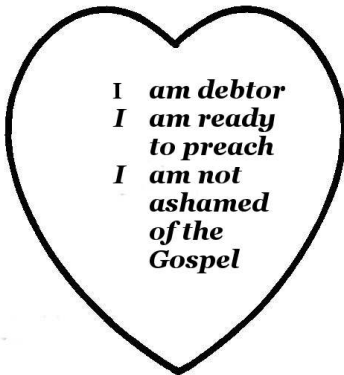
Paul says he is a servant of Jesus Christ. He was sent to preach the gospel of Christ, Romans 1:1. Paul says he believes Jesus Christ came from the family of David. He believes Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Jesus proved this by rising from the dead.

It is good to remember the three places Paul said, "I am."

1. "I am debtor." Paul owes the message of salvation to all people. He believes he should tell all people about Jesus Christ.

Every Christian should tell other people about Jesus Christ.

2. "I am ready to preach." Paul was willing to preach the Gospel everywhere. He knew some people would make it hard for him because he preached the Gospel. Yet, Paul was ready to preach.



Are we ready to tell others about Jesus?

3. "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ." Paul knew what the Gospel of Christ did to his life. He also knew what it did to the lives of others. Because of this Paul knew that it had power to change lives. This was why he was not ashamed to use it.

Are we ashamed of the Gospel of Christ?

B. The sin of the world, Romans 1:18 - 3:20.

READ ROMANS CHAPTERS 1, 2 and 3.

1. The sin of the Gentiles, Romans 1:18-32.

Paul tells why God was angry with the Gentiles. The Gentiles knew there was a living God. God showed Himself to them by what He made.. But the Gentiles worshipped the things God created instead of God. The Gentiles did not thank God for what He did for them. This made God angry with them.

People are the same today. People do not want to worship God. They do not want to thank God.

2. The sin of the Jews, Romans 2:1 - 3:20.

Paul warns the Jews, "Do not think you are better than the Gentiles." The Jews had the laws of Moses. They also had the laws of the Pharisees. This made them think they were better than the Gentiles. The Jews did not keep their own laws. Yet, the Jews said the Gentiles were sinners.



The Jews believed if they were circumcised, (went through a religious act of becoming a Jew), they were right with God. God was not only interested in their circumcision, He wanted the Jews to obey Him.

Paul tells how God showed special love to the Jews. God gave them His laws. He gave them His Word (the Bible). But many of the Jews did not believe God. Even though they refused to believe the Word of God, His Word was still true, Romans 3:4. The time came when God told the Jews they were guilty.

God will also judge those who do not believe today.

Romans chapter 3 shows the reason for the Law. God gave the Law to the Jews so they could see they were sinners. They could not keep the Law of God. They needed a Savior.

No one can keep the Law of God. Everyone needs a Savior.

C. How to be right with God, Romans 3:2 - 8:39.

1. We can be right with God by putting our trust in God.

READ ROMANS CHAPTER 4.

Paul tells how Abraham was made right with God. Abraham was made right with God by putting his faith in God. The Law was given a long time after Abraham died. Yet, the Bible says Abraham was right with God.

Romans 4:3 says,

“Abraham put his trust in God and that made him right with God.” Romans 4:3 (N.L.T.).

2. We can be right with God through Christ.

READ ROMANS CHAPTER 5.

Paul shows how Adam and Christ Jesus are alike and how they are not alike.

Adam was the first man to sin. Because Adam sinned, all his children became sinners. This is why everyone sins today, Romans 5:12.

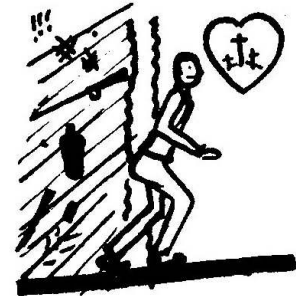
Jesus did not break the Law. Yet, Jesus died like a person who broke the Law.

Because Jesus died, everyone can have forgiveness of sin. Everyone can be made right with God.

3. Being right with God sets people free from sin.

READ ROMANS CHAPTER 6.

If Jesus died for our sin, is it all right to keep on sinning? Chapter 6 of Romans shows that we have died to sin. We died to sin when we put our trust in Jesus Christ as Savior. When we are dead to sin, we can no longer sin. To be dead to sin is to have nothing to do with sin. When a desire for sin comes, we must think of ourselves as dead to sin.



READ ROMANS CHAPTER 7.

Chapter 7 shows how hard it is to think of ourselves as dead to sin. A battle or fight goes on in us. Yet, as we give our lives to Jesus Christ, He gives us the victory.

Romans 7:25 says,

"I thank God I can be free through Jesus Christ our Lord." (N.L.T.)

READ ROMANS CHAPTER 8.

Those who are in Christ Jesus will not be condemned. This means they will not be said to be guilty of their sin. They will not be punished for their sin. The devil wants to say we are guilty. But we are not guilty or condemned because of Jesus Christ. There is peace with God.

We did not get our freedom by keeping the Law. We got our freedom because God loves us. God gave His Son to set us free. Because we are free, we should not let our sinful desires boss us.

4. Being right with God is from the Holy Spirit.

READ ROMANS CHAPTER 8.

The Holy Spirit helps us live a good life. The Holy Spirit tells us we are the children of God. Because the Holy Spirit is working in our lives, Romans 8:28 is true. (Memorize this verse. You will need it.)

Chapter 8 closes with the promise that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

D. The ways of God are right.

READ ROMANS CHAPTERS 9, 10, and 11.

Paul tells how he wants the Jews to be saved.

Paul tells how God chose the Jews to be a special people. God showed Himself to the Jews in special ways, He gave them His Law. God also gave the Jews the Word of God. God sent Jesus Christ (the Messiah). But the Jews would not believe God. They would not obey God. They did not accept the Messiah. So God turned away from the Jews. He turned to the Gentiles. Many Gentiles believed in God. They put their trust in Jesus Christ.

Today is the day of salvation for the Gentiles. However, God has not turned completely away from the Jews. Today some Jews are putting their trust in Jesus Christ, their Messiah.

Paul asked the Gentiles to put their trust in Christ now. They, too, will be turned away when they do not put their trust in Him.

Romans 10 tells how people need to hear the Word of God before they can be saved. This chapter tells that the Word of God must be taken to those who have not heard. It tells how the Word of God is to be taken to the people.

E. The way a Christian should live, Romans 12:1- 15:21.

1. The life given to God.

Romans chapters 12 to 16 show how the doctrines (teachings) of the Church are used in the daily life of the Christian.

The Christian is asked to first give his life completely to God. He should give his body as a holy and pleasing gift to God. He should not try to keep part of his body for himself. The Christian should turn away from all sin. He should think about the things of God.

GOD
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IN
YOU

2. The life given to God in service.

READ ROMANS CHAPTER 12.

The Holy Spirit gives gifts to every Christian. The Christian is to find his own gift.

He is to use that gift to honor God. He is not to think he is better than others because of his gift.

The church is like the body of a person. Every part of the body has a special work to do. Each part needs the other parts to help him. This is true in the church. Each person needs the other people to help him. Each person in the church must try to make the church stronger.

3. The life given to God in fellowship.

The Christian should 1) show love to all people, 2) stay away from evil, 3) do many good works, 4) not be lazy, 5) live peacefully with all people and 6) overcome evil with good.

4. The life given to God and the government.

READ ROMANS CHAPTER 13.

The Christians should obey the government. God has given the government for protection. It is true that in some countries the government is against the Christians. A person living in such a country should obey the laws that are for his good and the good of the people. By doing this he brings honor to God.

Sometimes God might ask us to do something against the law of the country. Then we should obey God. Example: The government in a Communist country says, "Do not read the Bible." The government says, "Do not teach the Bible to children." God tells the Christian to read the Bible. God tells the Christian to teach the Bible to his children.

The Christian should pay what he owes, work honestly, and become more like Jesus Christ.

5. The life given to God and other Christians.

READ ROMANS 14:1 - 15:21.

The Romans had many feast days to their false gods. They also offered meat to their false gods. The meat offered to false gods was often sold in the meat stores. This meat could be used like other meat. When a Roman became a Christian, he wanted to leave all of this. He felt that to keep certain days and to eat meat offered to the false gods was wrong.

A person who had been a Christian for a long time knew that it did not make any difference if the meat was offered to a false god. False gods are not gods at all. (See 1 Corinthians 8:1-13). Therefore it was all right to keep some holidays and eat meat offered to the gods.

When a Christian would eat some meat offered to the false gods and keep some holidays, he might make a weak Christian sin. A strong Christian should not do these things if it would make a weak Christian sin.

Some Christians today feel that they should not do certain things. We may believe it is all right to do these things. But, if a weak Christian would sin because we did them, we should not do them.

When a strong Christian helps a weak Christian, he should not do it for selfish reasons. He should help him because he wants to please God. The Christians should love each other whether they are strong or weak.

F. The end of the letter, Romans 15:22 - 16:27.

READ ROMANS 15:22 - 16:27.

In the last part of chapter 15 Paul tells about his ministry. He tells the church at Rome that he will come to them.

Paul asks the church in Rome to pray for him. He asks the church to pray that the people in Jerusalem will accept him. He asks them to pray for a safe journey to Rome.

In chapter 16, Paul sends greetings to different people in Rome. He also sends greetings from Christians who were with him.

Paul told the church in Rome that the whole world knew about their faith in the Lord. Paul was happy about this.

Paul prayed that God would make the Christians strong in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



IV. WORDS TO LEARN

1. condemnation - the act of saying someone has done wrong and should be punished.
2. debtor - one who owes something.
3. doctrine - teaching.
4. epistle - letter.
5. faith - the belief in something even if we have not seen it; belief in God.
6. Judaism - the religion of the Jews. The main teaching is: "Jehovah, our God, is one God."
7. reject - to say "no" to something.
8. righteous - to be right with God; right in every way.
9. righteousness - the act of being right in every way; the act of being right with God.

V. ASSIGNMENT

1. What are two reasons for the Gentiles going deep into sin? Romans 1
 - 1)
 - 2)
2. In what way were the Jews sinners? Romans chapter 3
3. What doctrine (teaching) is in Romans 3:23?
4. How do we get right with God? Romans 5
5. Are we to keep on sinning after we put our trust in Jesus Christ?
Why?
6. How was Abraham made right with God? Romans 4
7. In Romans 8:9-27 we have the doctrine about the Holy Spirit. What 7 things does the Holy Spirit do?
 - 1) Romans 8:9
 - 2) Romans 8:11
 - 3) Romans 8:11
 - 4) Romans 8:13

- 5) Romans 8:16
- 6) Romans 8:26
- 7) Romans 8:27
8. What truth do we have in Romans 8:28?
9. What are we to do with our bodies? Romans 12:1,2
10. What are some of the gifts a Christian can have? Romans 12:4-8.
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)
 - 5)
 - 6)
 - 7)
11. How should a Christian behave toward the government?
12. How does the Holy Spirit help us?
13. How is a strong Christian to act toward a weaker Christian? Romans 15:1
14. What is a strong Christian to do if a weak Christian is afraid to eat certain foods? Romans 14:14-21
15. What warning is given to the church in Rome? Romans 16:17,18

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