

ROMANS INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION...

- **THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD**
 - Our desire to is to teach through the whole Bible Genesis to Revelation...
 - **Acts 20:27** – “For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”
 - We have finished Acts - and will now move on to Romans!

- **1ST - MILK AND MEAT...**
 - The Bible uses two terms to describe the teachings of the Bible – milk and meat
 - Milk – the basic foundational teachings of the Bible...
 - Like a newborn baby – as a young believer – we need the ‘milk’ of the word...
 - Much of what we learned in the Book of Acts was milk – simple teachings about Jesus
 - **I Peter 2:2** - “...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby...”
 - You cannot give a newborn baby a big plate of letson – they will choke...
 - You give them milk – because it is easy to swallow and digest...
 - When we first come to know the Lord - we are not going to understand much...
 - There is a LOT about Jesus and the Word of God we do not yet comprehend...
 - Do not stay on the milk – move on to the meat...
 - It is cute to bottle feed a young infant - no surprise when they mess their diapers...
 - But when a 20-year-old adult is still on the ‘bottle’ - still wearing diapers...
 - It is a tragedy - something has gone terribly wrong...
 - We should not stay babes - as we get into God’s Word - we should grow...
 - Growing in the Lord to a place where we can begin to teach others about Jesus!
 - **Hebrews 5:12** - “You’ve been Christians a long time, and you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you are like babies who drink only milk and cannot eat solid food.”
 - Meat – the more in depth teachings of the Bible...
 - Like an adult – we no longer are satisfied by milk – we want meat...
 - **I Corinthians 3:2** – “I fed you with milk and not meat; for until now you were not able to receive it...”
 - Romans in not milk – Romans is getting into the meat of the Bible...

- Up until this point we have been going through narrative books (*history*)...
- Romans is the first of the books of Doctrine in the New Testament...
- Sit down – listen up – take notes if you want – we are leaving the milk behind!

■ 2ND - STYLES OF WRITING...

- 1st – We all know the Bible is broken up into two main sections – OT / NT...
 - But it turns out the Bible is further divided by ‘Styles of writing’...
 - 4 main styles of writing in the Bible: History / Poetry / Prophecy / Doctrine...
 - The OT and NT are not organized Chronologically – they are laid out by these styles...
 - Old Testament: Doctrine – History – Poetry – Prophecy
 - New Testament: History – Doctrine – Prophecy
- 2nd - Historical Books of the Bible:
 - There are 20 Historical books of the Bible...
 - OT: Genesis / Exodus / Numbers / Joshua / Judges / Ruth / I Samuel / II Samuel...
 - I Kings / II Kings / I Chronicles / II Chronicles / Ezra / Nehemiah / Esther...
 - NT: Matthew / Mark / Luke / John / Acts
 - Historical books tell the stories that took place throughout biblical history...
 - Covering over 4000 years – from Creation to the birth of the church...
 - Historical books are a very easy to understand – and easy to relate to...
 - But you have to be careful because not everything in these books is doctrine...
 - By doctrine - ‘Truths that are necessary for life and godliness in Jesus Christ’...
 - In other words those truths that are necessary to live our lives for Jesus!
 - King Ahab wanted to buy a field from Naboth – **I Kings 21**...
 - Naboth refused to sell the field – so Ahab instead had him killed – took it anyways...
 - Just because this story is in the Bible – does not make it how we are to live...
 - Obviously if we want something – we cannot kill to take it – **Exodus 20:13**...
 - So the stories in the books of History must be read in the light of Bible doctrine!
- 2nd - Poetic Books of the Bible:
 - There are 6 poetic books in the Bible – all in the OT...
 - Job / Psalms / Proverbs / Ecclesiastes / Song of Solomon / Lamentations
 - Poetry does not tell a story – it shares the emotions of the Bible...
 - The Bible is not a textbook - God is not only interested in telling us about Him...

- Books of poetry speak to our emotions - stimulate our imagination!
- **But you have to be careful because not everything in these books is doctrine**
- King David wrote more poetry than any other author in the Bible...
 - **But at times his poetry was written when he was hurting / or angry...**
 - **Psalms 58:6** – “Break their teeth in their mouth, O God!”
 - **The Bible here records the prayer of David – it is not telling us how to pray...**
 - **Just because King David prayed for God to break his enemy’s teeth...**
 - **Does not mean that we are to pray for God to break our enemy’s teeth!**
- 3rd - Prophetic Books of the Bible:
 - There are 17 prophetic books in the Bible...
 - OT: Isaiah / Jeremiah / Ezekiel / Daniel / Hosea / Joel / Amos / Obadiah / Jonah
 - Micah / Nahum / Habakkuk / Zephaniah / Haggai / Zachariah / Malachi
 - NT: Revelation
 - The prophetic books are some of least known / least read books of the Bible...
 - They can be confusing because they are tied up in the History of Israel...
 - If you do not know the Books of History – the Books of Prophecy are confusing!
 - The prophets were writing to rebellious nations – calling them to repentance!
 - **But you have to be careful because not everything in these books is doctrine**
 - Often the prophets were told by God to do dramatic acts...
 - **The purpose was to get the attention of the people – call them back to God...**
 - **Ezekiel 4:12** – “Each day prepare your bread... While all the people are watching, bake it over a fire using dried human dung as fuel and then eat the bread.”
 - **God told Ezekiel to make - ‘poop’ bread - does not mean we are to cook that way!**
 - **Hosea was told to marry a prostitute / Isaiah walked naked for 3 years!**
 - **But these are not a pattern for us to follow - they are not Bible doctrine!**
- 4th - Doctrinal Books of the Bible:
 - There are 23 Doctrinal books in the Bible – mostly in the NT...
 - OT: Leviticus / Deuteronomy
 - NT: Romans / I Corinthians / II Corinthians / Galatians / Ephesians / Philippians
 - Colossians / I Thessalonians / II Thessalonians / I Timothy / II Timothy / Titus
 - Philemon / Hebrews / James / I Peter / II Peter / I John / II John / III John / Jude
 - The Books of Doctrine are the most important books in the Bible...
 - They establish the basis for our faith in Jesus Christ...
 - They define our salvation and God’s expectations for how to live our life in Christ...

- If we want to know the meaning of life - how to get to heaven...
- How God expects a Christian to live - how to live a life not dominated by sin...
- All of these and more are answered in the Books of Doctrine!

THE BOOK OF ROMANS...

▪ 1ST - THE BACKGROUND OF ROMANS...

- 1st - Paul wrote the book of Romans...
 - The same Paul who whose life we followed from Acts chapter 13 to 28...
 - He opens the letter with his greeting – “Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ...”
 - The authorship of the book has been universally accepted from the early church
- 2nd - Written on Paul’s 3rd missionary journey - 57-58 AD ...
 - Paul had just taken up an offering from Greece – for the poor saints in Jerusalem...
 - He spent 3 months in Corinth – **Acts 20:3** - during this time wrote Romans
- 3rd – The 3 reasons why Paul wrote the letter...
 - To introduce himself as an Apostle...
 - Paul wanted to go to Rome – but when he wrote the book he had yet been there...
 - So before he could instruct the church – he had to introduce himself to them...
 - The world is full of people who will try and teach us ‘what God expects from us’...
 - But before we listen – we need to make sure they are leading us the right way!
 - Just because a man says he is a pastor - does not mean he is from Jesus...
 - We need the discernment of God - to know what is truly from God!
 - **I John 4:1** - “Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits...”
 - Preach the Gospel – Paul lived to tell others about Jesus!
 - **Romans 1:15** – “I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.”
 - One of the easiest ways to spot a good teacher – he lives to talk about Jesus...
 - If you come across a teacher/pastor who loves to talk about himself...
 - You might want to leave - and go attend another church!
 - Establish them in solid Biblical doctrine – so they would know the Word of God...
 - **Romans 1:11**- “For I long to see you... so that you may be established.”
 - It is not enough to give people the Gospel – we need to teach them to follow Jesus...
 - People think their job is done once someone believes in Jesus – it is just starting...
 - A good pastor – is someone who understands the importance of teaching the Word...
 - The truth is a church is a reflection of the pastor who teaches them...
 - If the people in the church are immature / struggling with sin...
 - It is likely because the pastor not teaching and ministering to the people!

▪ 2ND - OVERVIEW OF ROMANS...

- The Book of Romans - 16 Chapters / 433 verses...
 - Romans quotes 57 times from the Old Testament – more than any other NT book...
 - A reference to the Word of God is made 29 times – more than any other book in the...
 - God is mentioned 161 times – Jesus is mentioned 66 times...
 - Sin is used 45 times - Justification 65 times – faith is mentioned 61 times...
 - The purpose is obvious – God telling us in His Word we are saved by Faith in Jesus!
 - All of us are sinners – **Romans 3:23** – and the penalty for sin is death / hell...
 - But when we believe in the message of the Gospel – believe in Jesus – we are saved...

- NOT by any action or good works – it is a gift we receive by faith!
- If someone gives you a gift - you do not have to accept it...
- Our part of salvation is faith - being willing to believe and receive God's gift...
- God does not want anyone to perish - but He gives all men the choice...
- He offers everyone the gift - and then lets any and all choose how to respond...
- We can ignore it - decide not to take it - and miss out on heaven...
- Or by faith receive from God the most amazing gift we will ever get - salvation!
- The way we receive the gift - is through faith - **Hebrews 11:1**
 - We cannot see God - and the gift God gives us is not something we can hold...
 - It is something we believe - by faith we believe God has forgiven us of our sin...
 - By faith we believe that life is not only about living here on earth...
 - By faith we believe one day God will take us to be with Him forever in heaven...
 - So by faith we receive the Grace of God - His free gift of salvation!
- o The book of Romans is divided into 3 sections...
 - Chapter 1-8 – The doctrine of salvation
 - All have sinned...
 - Chapter 1 – Those who have no religion – are sinners
 - Chapter 2 - Those who are religious – are still sinners
 - Chapter 3 – Everyone is a sinner
 - Saved by faith...
 - Chapter 4 – The example of Abraham / David
 - Chapter 5 – One man sinned – Adam / One man saved – Jesus
 - No more sin...
 - Chapter 6 – Since we are saved by faith – should we continue to sin
 - Chapter 7 – Why do I do the things I do not want to do
 - Chapter 8 – Walking in the power of the Spirit – not in my own strength
 - Chapter 9-11 – Example of Grace - Israel
 - Chapter 9 – Israel tried to earn their way to heaven and were rejected
 - Chapter 10 – The Gentiles did nothing – but were saved by their faith
 - Chapter 11 – God is patient – He is not done with Israel
 - Chapter 12-15 – How to live for Jesus through Grace
 - Chapter 12 – In our personal life – and in the church
 - Chapter 13 – In our civic life – relating to the government
 - Chapter 14-15 – In our family and relationships with others
 - Chapter 16 – Conclusion – salutations