

Romans 1:1-17

- **BACKGROUND OF ROMANS...**

- 1st - The Author...

- Paul...

- PAUL - whose life we followed from Acts chapter 13 to 28...
- He opens the letter with his greeting – Paul a bondservant of Jesus Christ - **Romans 1:1**
- The authorship of the book has been universally accepted from the early church!

- Epistles...

- Paul wrote THIRTEEN epistles - or letters [14 if we include Hebrews]
- In total they account for almost a THIRD of the New Testament...
- The EPISTLES [letters] of Paul can be broken up into THREE categories...
- FIRST - the THREE larger letters: Romans - I Corinthians - II Corinthians
- SECOND - the SIX smaller letters [4-6 chapters] written to FIVE churches...
- Galatians - Ephesians - Philippians - Colossians - I Thessalonians - II Thessalonians...
- THIRD - the PASTORAL Epistles: I Timothy - II Timothy - Titus - Philemon!

- 2nd - The Timing...

- Written on Pauls THIRD missionary journey [57-58 A.D.]
- Paul was taking an offering from Corinth [Achaia] – to the church in Jerusalem - **Romans 15:26**
- He spent THREE months in Corinth - during which time wrote Romans - **Acts 20:3**
- **Acts 19:21** - “When these things were accomplished Paul purposed in the Spirit - when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia - to go to Jerusalem saying: After I have been there I must also see Rome.”

- 3rd - The Purpose...

- Preach the Gospel...
 - Paul wanted to go to Rome – but when he wrote the book he had NOT yet been there...
 - Before he went to MINISTER to the church – he wanted to introduce himself to them...
 - The reason he wanted to go - was to PREACH the Gospel!
 - **Romans 1:15** – “I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.”
- Solid Doctrine...
 - Romans is a theological masterpiece - systematically presenting the doctrine of SALVATION...
 - It explains our need for GRACE - Gods provision of righteousness through FAITH...
 - And how we as believers should live in response to the GRACE of God!
 - **Romans 1:11** - “For I long to see you... so that you may be established.”

- 4th - The Theme...

- The Gift...
 - The Book of Romans - consists of 16 Chapters or 433 verses...
 - Making it the LONGEST of all the thirteen EPISTLES of Paul [even if we include Hebrews]
 - The book quotes about 57 times from the Old Testament [more than any other NT book]
 - A reference to the Word of God [Greek] is made 29 times [more than any other book]

- GOD [θεός] is mentioned 161 times – JESUS [various forms] is mentioned 66 times...
- SIN [ἁμαρτία] 45 times - JUSTIFICATION [δικαίος and various forms] 65 times...
- And GRACE [χάρις] is mentioned at least 31 times!
- Making the THEME obvious – God [Jesus] is telling us we are all SINNERS - **Romans 3:23**
- And the penalty [payment] for our SIN is DEATH - **Romans 6:23**
- But Jesus does NOT want us to DIE - so He made a way to JUSTIFY us...
- He provided the GIFT [χάρις] of salvation - through the CROSS of Jesus Christ!
- If someone gives us a GIFT - we do NOT have to accept it...
- Our part of salvation is being willing to believe and receive the GIFT of God...
- God does NOT want anyone to perish - but He gives everyone the CHOICE - **II Peter 3:9**
- He offers everyone the GIFT - and then lets us CHOOSE - **John 3:16**
- We can ignore it - decide NOT to take it - and miss out on heaven...
- Or receive from God the most amazing GIFT we will ever get - SALVATION!

▪ By Faith...

- There is ONE more KEY word – FAITH [πίστις] is mentioned 61 times...
- Because the way we receive GRACE [gift of God] - 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 in by FAITH - we trust God has FORGIVEN us of our SIN...
- By FAITH we believe that life is NOT about living here on earth...
- By FAITH we believe one day God will take us to be with Him forever in heaven!

○ 5th - The Division...

- FIRST - The doctrine of Grace - Chapters 1-8
 - All have sinned - Chapters 1-3
 - Saved by faith alone - Chapters 4-5
 - Victory over sin - Chapters 6-8
- SECOND - Example of Grace [Israel] - Chapter 9-11
- THIRD - Living by Grace - Chapters 12-16

▪ 1ST - INTRODUCTION TO ROME... vs. 1-7

○ 1st - Paul... vs. 1

- Bondservant... vs. 1
 - Paul a bondservant of Jesus Christ!
 - Paul opens his letter by defining THREE people...
 - FIRST - Paul [Παῦλος] - whose name means SMALL or LITTLE...
 - BONDSERVANT [δοῦλος] – literally a slave of Jesus Christ...
 - Not someone he was made a slave – he CHOSE to be a slave!
 - Jesus does NOT demand that we give our lives to Him – it is our CHOICE...
 - We can CHOSE to live for ourselves – live for this world – in BONDAGE to this world...
 - But the irony is when we give our lives to Jesus – that is when we are truly FREE!
 - **John 8:36** – “Therefore if the Son makes you free - you shall be free indeed.”
- Apostle...
 - Called to be an apostle separated to the gospel of God!
 - Called an Apostle [ἀπόστολος] – one who is sent out...
 - NOT by the will [choice] of MEN - Paul was chosen by God - **Galatians 1:1**
 - He was likely the TWELFTH apostle of Jesus Christ [replaced Judas]

- Not by the casting of LOTS - **Acts 1:15-26** – but by Jesus – **Acts 9:15**
- Who SET him apart [ἀφορίζω] - to go and PREACH the GOSPEL - **Acts 13:2**
- But one of the greatest APOSTLES in history - one of the TWELVE...
- Saw himself as a servant [δοῦλος] first – then an APOSTLE [ἀπόστολος]!
- We do not equate being a SERVANT as being the GREATEST...
- But if we want to be GREAT – then we must become a slave [δοῦλος] – **Mark 10:44**
- The church is NOT supposed to look like the world...
- Leadership in the church should be DIFFERENT [not lording over others]
- The more we SERVE others - the GREATER we become in the Kingdom of God...
- Those who are GREAT in church do NOT tell others what to do...
- They are the ones who SHOW others what to do by SERVING!
- 2nd - Jesus... vs. 2-5
 - The Word... vs. 2
 - Which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures!
 - SECOND - Paul goes on to define who Jesus Christ is...
 - God had promised the hope of salvation – in His Word [prophets]
 - There are over 300 prophecies in the Bible concerning the coming of Christ!
 - **Luke 24:27** – “Beginning at Moses and all the Prophets - [Jesus] expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”
 - God and man... vs. 3-4
 - Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh.
 - And declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness.
 - By the resurrection from the dead!
 - Paul clarifies the Jesus of the Bible - is fully God and fully man...
 - According to the FLESH [σάρξ] - He was born of the virgin Mary [in the line of King David]
 - **John 1:14** – “The Word [Jesus] became flesh and dwelt among us.”
 - And DEFINED [ὀρίζω] as the SON of God - in POWER [δύναμις] through the Holy Spirit...
 - SON of God - a title used to describe His position in the Godhead [second]
 - Jesus is God almighty - proven through being resurrected from the dead!
 - There are many CULTS today who confuse [misrepresent] the person of Jesus Christ...
 - They may use the name JESUS – but it is NOT the Jesus of the Bible!
 - We need to be careful when someone says Jesus – makes sure it is the RIGHT Jesus...
 - There is only ONE God – who exists in THREE persons [Father - Son - and Holy Spirit]
 - Make no mistake – the Bible is VERY clear – Jesus is both fully God and fully man!
 - Grace... vs. 5

- Through Him we have received grace and apostleship.
- For obedience to the faith among all nations for His name!
- Through Jesus we have been given GRACE [χάρις] - so we can also be APOSTLES...
- APOSTLES [ἀπόστολος] – those who are sent among all the nations [ἔθνος]
- The term carries the idea of being like an AMBASSADOR...
- So that ALL [πᾶς] nations might also have FAITH in the name of Jesus!
- **II Corinthians 5:20** – “We are Christs ambassadors. God is using us to speak to you.”
- We are the AMBASSADORS of Jesus Christ – for the good news of the Gospel...
- We are called to represent Jesus to a world that does NOT know about Him...
- We are called by the GRACE of God – Jesus gives us GRACE to be OBEY...
- He gives us the GIFT of His HOLY Spirit - to go and share the Gospel with the NATIONS!
- **Acts 1:8** - “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.”

○ 3rd - The Romans... vs. 7

- Called saints...
 - To all who are in Rome - beloved of God - called to be saints!
 - THIRD - Paul finished up his introduction by defining the believers in ROME...
 - He was writing to ALL [πᾶς] those who in ROME who were LOVED [ἀγαπητός] by God...
 - Those who were called [by the Lord] SAINTS [ἅγιος]
 - We might think SAINTS are dead believers who lived extraordinary lives...
 - But the Biblical meaning of SAINTS are those whom God loves [ἀγαπητός]
 - The word saints [ἅγιος] – means to be holy – set apart!
 - We are NOT to look like the world – we are to be an example for them...
 - It is when we are separate [saints] from the world – we can show them Jesus!
- Grace and peace...
 - Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!
 - The twins of the New Testament [17 books open with this greeting]
 - The order is always the same – Grace [χάρις] – then Peace [εἰρήνη]!
 - Everyone wants PEACE – but they miss the KEY to acquiring PEACE – which is GRACE...
 - GRACE – gives us forgiveness of sins – so we have PEACE with God...
 - It is only when we have His GRACE – that we will find we have His PEACE!

● 2ND - DESIRE FOR ROME... vs. 8-17

● 1st - Prayer for Rome... vs. 8-10

- Faith of Rome... vs. 8
 - First I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all.

- That your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world!
- Rome was the center of the gentile world – the superpower of its day...
- Their religion – revolved around the worship of HUNDREDS of gods [the Pantheon]
- Filling them with immorality [homosexuality – divorce – human trafficking] and corruption...
- The believers in Rome were bold - and stood up against that PAGAN culture...
- So much so their FAITH [πίστις] was talked about throughout the world!
- If you light a candle in the daylight it has little effect – but when it is pitch-black it shines!
- The darker the world becomes around us – the brighter the light of Jesus shines...
- The darker the world gets – the greater the need to be a LIGHT - **Matthew 5:16**
- Non-stop... vs. 9
 - For God is my witness - whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son.
 - That without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers.
 - Knowing the trials and temptations [as well as opportunities] for believers in Rome...
 - Paul always PRAYED for them – to stand strong and uncompromising in their faith!
 - Prayer is NOT something we are to do OCCASIONALLY...
 - If something is on our heart - we are to PRAY continually about it – **I Thessalonians 5:17**
- Timing... vs. 10
 - Making request if by some means now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you!
 - Paul ASKED [δέομαι] God if NOW was the time [His will] for Paul to go to Rome...
 - Because although he had the desire – he made sure it was the WILL [θέλημα] of God!
 - Just because someone is on our HEART - does NOT mean it is from the Lord...
 - Which is why we are ALWAYS praying - so we can confirm if it is the WILL [θέλημα] of God...
 - And so that we are READY - if the Lord says GO!
- 2nd - Gift for Rome... vs. 11-12
 - Established... vs. 11
 - I long to see you that I may impart to you some spiritual gift - so that you may be established!
 - Paul WANTED to come to Rome - so he could give them a [singular] GIFT [χάρισμα]
 - The GIFT was SPIRITUAL [πνευματικός] - **I Corinthians 12:1**
 - Paul was a gifted TEACHER - and desired to come ENCOURAGE the church...
 - To STRENGTHEN [στηρίζω] them in the sound doctrine of the Word of God – **Acts 20:27**
 - We all have GIFTS the Lord has given to us - **I Peter 4:10**
 - And when we USE those GIFTS - we strengthen the CHURCH!
 - Encouraged... vs. 12
 - That I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me!
 - The STRENGTHENING was NOT a one way street...
 - Paul would also be ENCOURAGED [συμπαράκαλέω] by their FAITH!
 - I may desire to STRENGTHEN you – but I also need to be ENCOURAGED by you...
 - We NEED each other – there are NO super Christians – NO one has all the answers...
 - One may be gifted in one area – while another is gifted somewhere else...
 - We complement one another – together we are the BODY of Christ – **I Corinthians 12:27**
- 3rd - Debt to Rome... vs. 13-15
 - Flexible... vs. 13
 - I do not want you to be unaware brethren that I often planned to come to you.
 - But was hindered until now - that I might have some fruit among you also.
 - Just as among the other Gentiles!
 - Paul did NOT want the brothers in Rome to be IGNORANT [ἄγνοέω]
 - MANY times he had planned to come to ROME - **Acts 19:21**

- So he MIGHT [subjunctive] have FRUIT [ministry] among them as he did the other GENTILES...
- But up to that point he had been FORBIDDEN [κωλύω] to come...
- And when he eventually made it to Rome – it was as a PRISONER - **Acts 28:16**
- Paul made it to Rome WHEN and HOW God wanted...
- Therefore he was able to share the Gospel with Caesar - **Acts 27:24**
- If Paul had followed his PLANS - he would have NEVER gotten to see the KING!
- When God gives us His WILL - it does NOT mean that it will happen right away...
- And it RARELY happens in the way that we would expect...
- We may NOT always understand the methods of God - or His timing...
- But in the end His way always works out better than our very best plans!
- Debt... vs. 14-15
 - I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians - both to wise and to unwise.
 - So as much as is in me - I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also!
 - Paul saw himself as being in DEBT [ὀφειλέτης]
 - Not that he owed the church in Rome ANYTHING - his DEBT was to the Lord...
 - God had CALLED him to go and be His WITNESS to the Gentile world...
 - To those who spoke GREEK [Ἑλλην] - and those who did NOT [βάρβαρος]
 - To those who were EDUCATED [σοφός] - and those who were NOT [ἀνόητος]
 - Paul wanted to PREACH the Gospel to EVERYONE - including in ROME!
 - **Acts 22:14-15** - "The God of our fathers has chosen you... for you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard."
 - Do we every stop and take a moment to ask: WHY did God choose us...
 - There is NO question that it is because He loves us - **John 3:16**
 - But might there be MORE to the story that that - does He have a plan...
 - Might we have been CHOSEN so that we could go and tell OTHERS...
 - We have DEBT - we belong to the Lord - our lives are His to use!
 - **I Corinthians 6:20** - "You were bought at a price therefore glorify God."
- 4th - Gospel for Rome... vs. 16-17
 - Not ashamed... vs. 16
 - I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God to salvation!
 - Paul was NOT ashamed of the GOSPEL [Good News]
 - Because the GOSPEL is the explosive POWER [δύναμις] of God to SAVE!
 - We might be ASHAMED to share the Gospel because we think we LACK the right words...
 - Or we think our lifestyle [actions] does NOT line up with our message...
 - But it is NOT our words or actions that bring SALVATION...
 - The POWER [δύναμις] is in the message – the simple truth of the GOSPEL!
 - Jew First... vs. 16
 - For everyone who believes - for the Jew first and also for the Greek!
 - WHO can be SAVED - the answer is ANYONE who believes...
 - Though we are given an ORDER - to the Jew FIRST - then to everyone else [Greek]!
 - When we look at the Bible - it seem to be a VERY Jewish book...
 - Beginning with Abraham - the whole Old Testament follows ONE nation...
 - All of the PROPHETS - all of the KINGS - even all of the APOSTLES were Jews...
 - But the Bible is NOT focused on Israel - it is focused on Jesus who came through them!
 - The point is powerful for us - we received the Gospel FIRST...
 - Are we CONTENT because we know we are SAVED...
 - Or do we see the need to PASS it on - share it with EVERYONE else!

- By Faith... vs. 17
 - For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith.
 - As it is written: The just shall live by faith!
 - For the only way to be RIGHTEOUS [right with God]
 - RIGHTEOUS [δικαιοσύνη] - first of 65 times this word is used in Romans [various forms]
 - The only way to be RIGHT - is by [ἐκ] FAITH [πίστις] and continue in [εἰς] FAITH [πίστις]
 - Because the ONLY way to be RIGHT with God is through FAITH...
 - That is why it was WRITTEN - the RIGHTEOUS [δίκαιος] live by FAITH - **Habakkuk 2:4**
 - This is the FIRST of THREE times this is quoted in NT - **Galatians 3:11** - **Hebrews 10:38**
 - With this statement Paul set up the next EIGHT chapters...
 - We are saved by GRACE alone through FAITH alone - **Ephesians 2:8**