

God Milk
The Gospel Is for All
(4 of 10: Meat & Potatoes)

Crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

I Peter 2:2

For I am not ashamed of the gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to every one who has faith, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16

Find It

After the Gospels and Acts come the Letters of Paul: first the letters to churches (Romans through Thessalonians), then the letters to individuals (Timothy, Titus, Philemon). Each group is arranged according to size, with the longest first.

Author & Readers

A letter, not a book. From Paul (Rom 1:1) to saints in Rome (1:7)

By Tertius the Scribe (Rom 16:22)

To be carried by Phoebe (Rom 16:1)

Paul had never been to Rome (Romans 1:9-10, 15:22-29), yet knows many people there:

Priscilla & Aquila (Romans 16:3) who are mentioned elsewhere

Rufus & his mom (Romans 16:13)--only mention, but dear to Paul

long list of greetings in chapter 16

Circumstance:

Fundraiser: Paul hopes Roman church will support his mission to Spain (Romans 15:23-24)

Letter of introduction—of Paul and the Gospel he preaches.

Clarify what we all already think we know: ***Romans 15:15***

Content *Review separate outline*

Sin and redemption

grace and the Holy Spirit in Christian Living

[handout *Romans Outline*]

Transition:

In Romans, Paul lays out the Gospel he preaches for those who already know it; this is a way of introducing himself and his teaching to the church in a city where he has not yet been. Next week we'll look at the Corinthian letters, written to a church Paul founded and knew well. While Romans is a more systematic exposition of the Gospel, the Corinthian letters primarily offer corrective teachings in the face of many serious problems in the church.

Further Study

Read the passages listed on the Handout **Steps to Salvation** and consider the role each played in your own conversion or that of someone close to you.

Read Romans chapter 8, and make a list of the things the Holy Spirit does for Christians.

Think about whether you consider yourself a “strong” or a “weak” Christian, and read Romans 14:1-15:7 noticing which parts speak to you at your current stage of maturity in faith.

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