

Romans 1:1-7

For the week of September 11, 2022

Introduction

This is a letter to the church in Rome (and Christians everywhere) written in about 57 A.D. and is an organized and carefully presented statement of the Christian faith. Romans is the longest and most systematically reasoned of Paul's letters. Paul announces its theme in 1:16–17: the gospel is God's power for salvation, because it shows us that the righteousness of God is through faith for all who believe. Paul explains the need for justification through faith because of sin (1:16–4:25). He then spells out the results of justification by faith in terms of both present experience and future hope (5:1–8:39). In the next three chapters, he expresses his sorrow that many of his fellow Israelites have not embraced the gospel, and he wrestles with the theological implications of this (chs. 9–11). He concludes by describing how the gospel should affect one's everyday life (chs. 12–16).¹

God is the most important word in this epistle. Romans is a book about God. No topic is treated with anything like the frequency of God. Everything Paul touches in this letter he relates to God. In our concern to understand what the apostle is saying about righteousness, justification, and the like we ought not to overlook his tremendous concentration on God. There is nothing like it elsewhere.²⁷²

Reflection

1. What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon?

2. Were there questions, comments, concerns, and/or comprehensions?

Observation (v.1)

3. In your own words, define how Paul is describing himself.

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ro.

² Leon Morris, [The Epistle to the Romans](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1988), 40.

Interpretation

4. The word servant or bonds slave in Greek is "doulos". What do each of the following verses say about "doulos"?

Matthew 20:27-28 –

Matthew 24:45-46 –

Mark 10:43-44 –

John 13:16 –

John 15:15 –

John 15:20 –

5. The word *gospel* or *good news* is mentioned 76 times in the New Testament. Find at least three of these references. How is the gospel proclaimed or referred to in the verses you found?

Application

6. How are you a "doulos" to Christ Jesus?
7. Is your relationship with Him more out of conviction or convenience?
8. How are you set apart to proclaim the gospel of God?

Observation (v.2)

9. Rewrite this verse in your own words.

Interpretation

10. Let's read some of the Old Testament prophecies of the gospel of God and the fulfillment found in the New Testament:

Prophecies

Genesis 3:15

Isaiah 11:1-2

Micah 5:2

Zechariah 9:9

Daniel 7:13-14

Isaiah 7:14

Fulfillment

1 John 3:8

Matthew 1:1-16

Matthew 2:1-6

Mark 19:28-40

Luke 1:31-33

Matthew 1:23

Application

11. Does seeing how the prophecies of the Messiah in the Old Testament and seeing how they were fulfilled in Jesus Christ impact your spiritual walk and commitment to Him? Why or why not?

Observation (v. 3-4)

12. Write how these verses describe Jesus.

Interpretation

13. Why do you think it is important for Paul to cite these attributes of Jesus?

Application

14. Why is it important for you to believe these attributes of Jesus?

Observation (v.5-7)

15. Describe these verses in your own words.

Interpretation

16. Define grace.

17. Find Scriptures that define grace to share with the group.

18. How do you define “obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations³”?

Application

19. How has grace changed your life?

20. Are you obedient? Why or why not?

Obedience is not an option (cf. 1 John 3:23–24). It is binding on all Christians. “Faith’s obedience” is a reminder that, as Paul understood it, faith is not an easy out for those who find a strict morality irksome. When anyone is saved through faith, it is with a view to obedience. The life is given in service to the Lord in whom one has come to believe⁴

³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ro 1:5.

⁴ Leon Morris, [The Epistle to the Romans](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1988), 50.