

## Introduction to the book of Romans

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|--------|---|
| WHO?   | Apostle Paul wrote to those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints        |
| WHAT?  | A letter: to explain, encourage, and exhort   |
| WHERE? | Written from Corinth  |
| WHEN?  | AD 57/58  |
| WHY?   | Paul longed to see them to impart some spiritual gift to strengthen them. ( Ch.1 vs.11) |

### Roman History and Thought Concerning:

\*Rome was the world's political, religious, social, and economic center. Prosperous at this time!

#### Government/Law/Leadership

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Pax Romana (Roman Peace) | Belief that Rome was chosen to rule the world           |
| Law                      | Whatever pleased the Emperor was law                    |
| Security                 | Based on a strong military to protect them from enemies |

Decline in leadership leading up to AD57/58. These leaders were known for:

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Augustus (31BC-AD14) | Tolerance of religions and Syncretism (mixing of religions)             |
| Tiberius (14-37)     | Great military expansion and growth of wealth                           |
| Caligula (37-41)     | Paranoia, declared himself and his sister "gods"                        |
| Claudius (41-54)     | Banished Jews from Rome, influenced by bureaucrats                      |
| Nero (54-68)         | Made laws to punish anyone who displeased him, claimed divine authority |

#### Religion

- \*Polytheistic – Worship of any god was permitted as long as the Emperor was worshiped *above all gods*.
- \*There was a general belief that only the gods were *immortal*.
- \*Approval of the gods did not depend on a person's behavior but on *observing religious rites*.
- \*Each god required an *image* and *prayers/sacrifices*, and each god controlled a different facet of life.
- \*The Jews were *proud* of their lineage.

#### Family Life

- \*The father ruled and provided for his family. A newborn was *accepted or rejected* at birth by the father.
- \*There was a *great disparity* between the rich and poor.
- \*When adopted the person lost all rights to his old family and *gained new rights* as a legitimate child.

#### Societal Norms

- \*Social classes had strict *boundaries* based on heredity, property, wealth, and citizenship.
- \*Because belief that individuals were given a *finite* fund of talent at birth, hedonism (pleasure) was prevalent.
- \*Discipline and duty are the highest virtues (*righteousness*).

# **Outline of Romans**

(Adapted from Dextor Sammons)

## **INTRODUCTION (Romans 1:1-17)**

### **I. JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH (Rom 1:18 – 11:36)**

#### **A. SIN – THE “NEED” FOR SALVATION**

1. The Need Of The Gentiles (Rom 1:18 - 2:16)
2. The Need Of The Jews (Rom 2:17 – 3:8)
3. The Universal Need For Salvation (Rom 3:9 – 20)

#### **B. JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH – THE “PROVISION” MADE FOR SALVATION**

1. God’s Righteousness Through Faith (Rom 3:21 – 31)
2. Abraham As An Example (Rom 4:1 – 25)

#### **C. FREEDOM - THE “RESULT” OF SALVATION**

1. Freedom From Wrath (Rom 5:1 – 21)
2. Freedom From Sin (Rom 6:1 – 23)
3. Freedom From The Law (Rom 7:1 – 25)
4. Freedom From Death (Rom 8:1 – 39)

#### **D. JEW AND GENTILE – THE “SCOPE” OF SALVATION**

1. God Chooses To Save Believers (Rom 9:1 – 33)
2. Israel Chose To Trust In Their Own Righteousness (Rom 10:1 – 21)
3. Both Jew And Gentile Can Have Salvation Through Faith (Rom 11:1 – 36)

### **II. THE TRANSFORMED LIFE (Rom 12:1 – 15:13)**

#### **A. IN RELATION TO OVERALL CONDUCT (Rom 12:1 – 21)**

#### **B. IN RELATION TO CIVIL AUTHORITY (Rom 13:1 – 7)**

#### **C. IN RELATION TO FELLOW MAN (Rom 13:8 – 14)**

#### **D. IN RELATION TO WEAK BRETHREN (Rom 14:1 – 15:13)**