

The Book of Romans



- The Book of Romans was most likely written sometime from 56 to 58 AD.
- It is the sixth book of the Christian New Testament.
- The apostle Paul is the named author of the book as it is recorded in (Romans 1 v 1)
- The book is in fact a letter addressed to the church in Rome. Its intended readers give the book its name.
- Paul used a man named Tertius to transcribe (write down) his words – according to (Romans 16 v 22)
- This book/letter was written in the city of Corinth just prior to Paul's journey to Jerusalem, where he intended to deliver donations sent to the poor living there.
- Paul had originally intended to travel to Rome and Spain but, his plans were interrupted by his arrest in Jerusalem. (Romans 15 v 24)
- Paul would eventually travel to Rome as a prisoner.

- Paul was a Roman citizen by birth (Acts 22 v 28) and a Jew who lived in the first century AD.
- His date of birth is estimated to have been around 4 BC with the year of his death falling between 62 – 64 AD.
- He was a Diaspora Jew and a member of the Pharisees.
- Paul also claimed to be a member of the tribe of Benjamin. (Philippians 3 v 5) And a “*Jew of Jews*”.
- According to various Christian scholars, Paul is the most important person in Christianity after Jesus.
- He wrote over half the New Testament and some call him, “*the greatest Christian who ever lived*”.
- He was originally named Saul of Tarsus.
- Tarsus was the capital city of the Roman province of Cilicia. It was located in the south-central parts of modern-day Turkey and lies about 20kms from the Mediterranean sea.

Where did the church in Rome come from?

- This is a much-debated point.
- Certainty, there was an established Jewish community in Rome prior to the first Christian Church.
- Cicero, among others, made remarks confirming this.
- During the reign of Claudius (AD 41 - 54), texts with the first possible mentions of Christians occur.
- Suetonius mentioned.....???? Chrestus ????
- In (Acts 18 v 2) Paul meets Aquilia and Priscilla who were driven out of Italy by Claudius' decree.
- Historians differ but, it may be the case, Claudius expelled the Jews from Rome because they were arguing among themselves regarding Jesus' claims.
- Because of (Romans 15 v 23) and the list of names in Romans 16 – some argue the church began in Rome prior to AD 40.

- (Acts 2 v 10) mentions visitors from Rome as being present to witness the events of Pentecost.
- (Acts 12 v 17) “...and Peter went to another place” theory. This is an event which took place after Peter’s miraculous deliverance from prison.
- After all, Peter did become the bishop of Rome and in (Romans 15 v 20) Paul speaks about “...so as not to build on another person’s foundation.”
- Some church traditions do claim a period of as much as 25 years for Peter’s ministry in Rome.
- However, an unnamed Jewish person(s) who travelled from Jerusalem to Rome can never be discounted as being the founder(s) of the church in Rome.
- By the time of Nero’s reign (AD 54 – 68), Christians had a well-established presence in Rome.
- The persecution of Christians then began in earnest.

- Romans is the longest of Paul's letters/epistles.
- It is very important. Both to Paul himself, his original readers and the modern-day Christian.
- In the first chapter from verse 8 to 15, Paul describes in detail, his gratitude for, excitement over and desire to visit this church.
- The book of Romans has four major divisions.
 - i) Righteousness Needed.
 - ii) Righteousness Provided.
 - iii) Righteousness Vindicated.
 - iv) Righteousness Practiced.



Righteousness Needed

- (Romans 1 v 18 – 3 v 20)
- *“But God shows His anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who push the truth away from themselves. For no one can ever be made right in God’s sight by doing what His law commands. For the more we know God’s law, the clearer it becomes that we aren’t obeying it.”*
- (Romans 2 v 16)
- *“In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”*
- By “secrets”, Paul means the motives behind people’s actions. God sees into people’s hearts and minds.
- Self-righteousness through knowledge of the law only serves to condemn. True righteousness can only be found through faith in Jesus.

Righteousness Provided

- (Romans 3 v 21 – 8 v 39)
- *“But now God has shown us a different way of being right in his sight – not by obeying the law but by the way promised in the scriptures long ago. Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all of creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*
- (Romans 3 v 24)
- *“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”*
- God declares a sinner righteous solely only on the merits of Christ and His sacrificial death.
- The sinner receives the gift of God’s grace by faith alone.

Righteousness Provided

- (Romans 9 v 1 – 11 v 36)
- *“For everything comes from Him, everything exists by His power and is intended for His glory. To Him be glory evermore. Amen.”*
- Starting in chapter 9, Paul expresses sadness because many of his fellow Jews would not accept Jesus as the promised Messiah.
- (Genesis 12 v 3) Paul recounts how God promised Abraham that one day, one of Abraham’s descendants would show kindness to all the families of the world.
- Paul goes on to explain how obeying even the entire law in order to be righteous, was hopeless.
- Righteousness with God can only be obtained through an acceptance of and a relationship with Jesus.

Righteousness Practiced

- (Romans 12 v 1 – 15 v 13)
- *“And so dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living sacrifice – the kind He will accept. When you think of what He has done for you, is this too much to ask?”*
- Paul points out to his reader just how much God has done for them and how much He loves them.
- Paul then lays out how his readers must be grateful, the attitudes they should adopt and how they should think about themselves and others.
- Using an analogy of how the different parts of the human body work together, Paul explains to his reader how the members of the Christian church should work together for the purposes of God.

- Paul condemns all sinfulness.
- Paul expresses his love for the people, his readers.
- Paul also expresses God's love for the reader.
- Paul teaches the reader how the death and sacrifice of Jesus is the key to all that the gospel teaches.
- Paul holds up the gospel as having the power to both save people's souls and guide people through life.
- Paul encourages everyone who reads his letter to stay on a righteous path in their life. Paul builds this into his teaching on being a "*living sacrifice*".
- Paul also encourages his reader to be unashamed of the gospel of Christ.
- Paul makes use of various Old Testament characters as he illustrates how their belief and faith earned them righteousness – not their deeds. This leads into the doctrine of salvation by faith and not by works.

