

The Book of Romans

Introduction

Paul's Place/Calling

- **Gal.1:15-16** *"But when it pleased God who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by His grace to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood."*

We realize that Paul was given a job to do. He had revelation of what God wanted and the necessary thought was he conferred not with flesh and blood. Why? You cannot mix man's ideals with God's will.

- **Gal 2:7-8** *"But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter..for he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles."*

Paul was a minister to the Gentiles; Peter to the Jews. In **Romans 11:13**, we read that Paul is called an Apostle to the Gentiles. We can see his heart and desire for this commission and calling in:

- **2 Corinthians 11:2:** *"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy for I have espoused you to one husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."*

We understand clearly that Paul was given responsibility to present the church to Christ as the Bride. Paul's epistles have been written for "whosoever will" but also the Lord gave this truth of the Bride of Christ to Paul and it is contained within his writings.

Paul for many years had a desire to go to Rome and Paul expresses this desire.

- **Acts 19:21** *"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."*
- **Romans 1:13** *"Now I would not have you ignorant brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto) that I might have some fruit amount you also even as among other Gentiles."*

We become fully aware that this was in line with what Jesus wanted in

- **Acts 23:11.** *"And the night following, the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome."*

Also, **Acts 28: 14, 16** mentions this again...Paul was anxious to go to Rome and preach the gospel.

Overview of Romans

The book of Romans is the hub or core of Paul's writings in the New Testament.

Romans 6 then, is the central point of the book of Romans and Romans 6:11 is the key verse of Romans 6. Just as in the Book of Exodus, God took Israel *out of* Egypt, so Paul's writings takes us *out of* the world, taking us *out of* the flesh and *into* the Spirit.

Divisions of Romans

Declaration of the Gospel	Chapters 1:1 - 1:17
The Need of Gospel	Chapters 1:18 - 3:20
Unfolding of Gospel	Chapters 3:21 - 5:21
Results of Gospel	Chapters 6:1 - 11:36
Practical side	Chapters 12:1- to end

Verses by Verse Commentary

Verse 1 *Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,*
When God calls a man, he separates him. (Calls him apart) This is a great need and has been that way throughout the Old Testament as well as the New Testament...and was the same with Paul.

- **Galatians 1:15-16** *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,*
(It's important to realize that this separation that God creates often is even before we are born in God's mind)
- **Galatians 1:16** *To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:*

This separation is vital to the presentation of the Gospel. It(separation) is often before we are born . All through the scriptures, many people were separated in this manner. Jacob, Samson Samuel and Jeremiah, all these were said to be separated from their mothers's womb.

The Gospel is the centerpiece of God's dealings with man ...For example, in the Gospel of John, Jesus portrayed himself 19 times as the answer of whom the Gospel was speaking.

Verse 2 *(Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)*

This promise of God was often mentioned in Old Testament. A few references are **Jeremiah 23:6** , **Habakkuk 2:4** and **Psalms 72:4**. These are just a few of the references that talk about the Gospel in the Old Testament. The Old Testament speaks of the Gospel throughout it's writings.

Verse 3-4 *Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made 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:*

The revelation of verses 3 and 4 is that Christ is seen as man and as God. This is vital to the basic understanding of the Scriptures.

- **Luke 1:35** *The angel answered and said unto her, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*

This is showing that while He was human, He was God.

- **1 Corinthians 15:3-8** *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures; and that He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve; After that, He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, He was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all He was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.*

In these verses, we see Paul is very explicit giving a specific account of Christ, the One sent from God. Christ is both God and man. If we think otherwise, we are taken in by every wind of doctrine, false prophets and/or those that would give us a “different gospel.” No religion can claim that it’s leader/progenitor was raised from the dead; thus showing he is from God and indeed is God. Being raised from the dead proved He is the Son of God which we looked at in **1 Corinthians 15** above.

- **2 Timothy 2:8** *Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David (human) was raised from the dead according to my Gospel...*

This connects Paul’s writings and his life with the person of Jesus Christ.

The phrase Jesus Christ our Lord was used by Paul at least 10 times in Book of Romans. What this shows is Jesus is His earthly name and Lord is His Godly name, His name as God.

- **Acts 2:36** *“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this same Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”*

Christ is anointed...So we have all three....**Jesus** is Man; **Lord** is God; **Christ** is Anointed.

Verse 4 *And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:*

“With power”...There was a dominion of the spirit that prevailed with Christ all the time and it was the spirit of holiness, which was proven by the resurrection.

Verse 5 *By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:*

A very important reality is seen in this verse and that is Paul’s authority.

- **1 Corinthians 15:9&10** *For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*

Paul’s authority is seen here in that all of his own personal weaknesses and failures before his new birth are erased by the grace of God working through him.

- **2 Corinthians 12:12** *Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.*

Signs of an apostle....Again, this is showing God's stamp of approval on Paul's life and message and the prevalence of God openly dealing with him as a proof to the people.

Verse 6 *Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:*

This verse is associating each of us who are called with Apostle Paul in his calling.

Verse 7 *To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Verse 8 *First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.*

In regards to the Christians in Rome, this proclamation of the Roman church defies all of our present day communication abilities. We sound the Gospel around the world but they did too, yet the sound of the Gospel that this Roman Church did teach and preach was throughout the whole world without computers, telephone, modern day conveniences....their lives spoke.

Verse 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;*

Notice Paul's attitude of praying for the people he spoke to. But deeper than that, "Whom I serve with my spirit" shows Paul had been deeply moved and captivated by God and all he did was under that calling.

We need to realize that every believer is called to give up his life and this is what Paul did..and that is why he was successful. If Paul had not been willing to give up his life, his ministry would have been all for naught.

Verse 10 *Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.*

This is showing that Paul was constantly in tune with Lord in order to have his blessing on his life.

Verse 11 *For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;*

This spiritual gift is not the gift of the spirit. This is a gift that comes from the word of God .

- **Acts 20:32** *And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*

Verse 12 *That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.*

This verse shows when people hear the gospel, they are able to communicate with the one who is the speaker and there is a common comfort that flows back and forth between the two of them.

Verse 13 *Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was hindered before now,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.*

Paul was under constant attack from the devil but he was able to resist the devil. We see this in the following scripture:

- **James 4:8** *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

Paul understood that and as a result, he was able to defy the devil in his relentless attacks. Paul expected there to be fruit from what he did in preaching and there was fruit in Rome and all the other places he preached the Gospel.

Verse 14 *I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.*

Paul was debtor because he had been given revelation. God spoke to Paul and opened His great mysteries to him because he knew Paul would take that and run with it; how necessary it is that we give up our lives and have a full revelation of the Gospel. We then are able to communicate one to another in power.

Without revelation, there is no power. We find something missing in the word given and that is the Holy Spirit. There are people who give the Gospel but not with revelation and the Spirit of God. It is knowledge and knowledge does not give power and life. The key that makes the difference is giving up our lives.

Verse 15 *So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.*

This was Paul's constant attitude in his relationship with the Lord. *Wherever* God sent him was fine. *Whenever* God sent him was fine also. It is why Paul could say "as much as in me is," everything is His. The words 'as much as in me' is translated from the Greek meaning: "To my uttermost" ...that is the attitude of one totally committed to Jesus.

- **2 Corinthians 10:10** *For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.*

We must realize our human ailments, which we all have, must be set aside. We must not pay attention to our human ailments in order that the Gospel will go forth completely. Otherwise, it will not. Paul did not allow his bodily weakness to hinder the Gospel.

Another reference which continues to explain "as much as in me is":

- **2 Corinthians 12:15** *And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you;(a total spending of self) though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.*

Paul didn't allow their reactions to prevent him. Neither the reactions of the people nor the bodily weakness was a hindrance.

Verse 16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

Paul was not ashamed of what he was, what he appeared to be, and what people said of him.

The Cross, Christ crucified is God's power and wisdom

- **1 Corinthians 1:17-18** *For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

In refusing to let the reactions of the people or his bodily weakness control him, Paul was not ashamed but rather able to allow the preaching of the cross to be the force of the Gospel. So in both references, the Gospel is the result that God intends. Both of these references indicate that there is something that initiates the power of God to present the Gospel.

The cross is necessary and it is the power of God to present the Gospel because the essence of the cross is that it ends the flesh. All effort and thinking of the flesh must come to an end.

Verse 17 *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*

The Gospel is the subject in Verse 17; Paul is saying “therein in the Gospel”....the righteousness of God is revealed.

“From faith to faith.” The just shall live by faith. What is it that causes the Gospel to be revealed? It is faith on our part.

Verse 18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

This is the 2nd revelation that comes from the Gospel. The first was in verse 17, the righteousness of God revealed; Secondly, in Verse 18, the wrath of God is revealed. We must not pass over this too rapidly. We have a constant misunderstanding about God’s wrath. People are very hesitant to say that God will pour out His wrath on people, but He, of necessity, is going to do it. Tribulation is the epitome of that thought.

In conclusion, we must remember that half of the presentation of the Gospel is God’s righteousness; the other half is His wrath. Regarding the righteousness and wrath of God:

Acts 17:31 *Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised him from the dead.*

Verse 19 *Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.* Consider vs.19-23 as one continuous subject. Notice in Verses 19 and 21, he states “Because” and those are referring back to verse 16, the presentation of the Gospel. Notice what is said about these people in Verse 19:

“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.”

So God has revealed Himself to people all around the world. His Old Testament name was Jehovah which has the meaning of “the self existent one that reveals Himself. So God is in the business of revealing Himself and that is why He can pour out wrath when people reject because God made it known to them, and they rejected Him.

God is constantly revealing Himself to people personally and corporately. In fact, Jesus, that great Incarnate One, is the great revelation of God!

Verse 20 *For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

In this verse, we have God’s thoughts of people understanding or not understanding. It is the people’s fault because He has made Himself known. God will not justify people for saying they don’t understand. The

scripture says “being understood by the things that are made.” Even that complicated knowledge of the Trinity is understood by the things God has made...everything reveals God. Infinite molecules can express God. The common everyday egg reveals trinity(shell, liquid, yolk)....water is another example of trinity.(Gas, liquid, solid) We see three in one in both examples. If we had eyes to see, we would realize the things of God are made known to us both visible and invisible.

Verse 21 *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

We see another “because” referring to the Gospel being made known to man.

*“When they knew God, they glorified Him not as God”
“neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations”
“and their foolish heart was darkened.”*

This is the great rejection of Christ; It is a progressive decline in human nature. The end result of our rejection of Christ is that our hearts become darkened and at some point, we are not capable of receiving God...or salvation. These are the children of disobedience.

Verse 22 *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*

We see people who have rejected Christ professing themselves to be wise and God says they are fools.

Verse 23 *And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like unto corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

Even in man’s attempt to create his own gods, they are first of all human, then like a bird, digressing to four-footed beasts and creeping things; these are four steps in the decline of man’s understanding. We then have the next terrible revelation in Verse 24.

Verse 24 *Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:*

God gave them up; they could not be saved. God gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies.

Verse 25 *Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*

These verses are giving us a very apt description of our country today. Many in our country have so rejected Christ; their decline in practice have become despicable to us.

Verse 26-27 *For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature. And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another*; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.*

- **Leviticus 18:22** *Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.*

Man shall not lie with man. Yet we see this in our country and we realize that not only is it observed individually but also sanctioned by our governments (State, Federal). They are making rules that say this is

right! Many of our churches are saying that homosexuality is acceptable and are making marriages of same sex legal. All of these are a sign of the end of the age. These same characteristics of vile affections and ungodliness were prevalent during the days of Noah.

Verse 28 *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.*

There comes a time in men and women where they resist even the words being spoken to them about God. So God gave them over. These people have no possibility of being saved. Only the Lord knows who they are.

Verses 29-31 are descriptive of the conditions of these people and our world

Verse 29 *Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,*

Verse 30 *Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,*

Verse 31 *Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:*

Verse 32 *Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

This verse shows the total decline of human nature against God and they know it. Gospel has been preached and it is stated in Verse 21 (When they knew God, they rejected Him).

So the condition of our world, our country, our government are in a terrible state; but it doesn't mean we can't follow the Lord and overcome. We can, we must, through the life of Jesus working in our lives as we give up ourselves completely to Him.