



Introduction to Romans

Place of writing

Probably Corinth, or nearby Cenchrea.

1. Who was Paul's host while he was in Corinth?
ROMANS 16:23; compare I CORINTHIANS 1:14 _____

2. Who was probably the mail carrier who took Paul's letter to the Christians at Rome?

ROMANS 16:1, 2 _____

Date of writing

About spring of A.D. 58. Paul had been a Christian about twenty years.

Occasion of writing

3. What great desire of Paul's heart had long been unsatisfied?

ROMANS 1:9-13; compare 15:22-29 _____

(The epistle was to pave the way for his coming and supply much-needed teaching material.)

Contents

A philosophy of the gospel, showing how it meets every human need and is the only answer to the problem of the guilt and power of sin.

4. What is the theme of the book?

ROMANS 1:16, 17 _____

Simple outline

Chapters 1—8 Doctrinal

Chapters 9-11 Dispensational

Chapters 12-16 Practical

Detailed outline

(This course follows the outline below.)

Introduction or prologue (1:1-17)

Righteousness needed by sinful men (1:18—3:20)

 Heathen (1:18-32)

 Moralizer (2:1-16)

 Jew (2:17—3:8)

 World (3:9-20)

Righteousness provided by God (3:21-26)

Righteousness received by faith (3:27—4:25)

Righteousness experienced in the soul (5:1—8:17)

Righteousness guaranteed a permanent blessing (8:18-39)

Righteousness rejected by Jews (chapters 9—11)

Righteousness manifested in daily life (chapters 12—16)

Prologue (Romans 1:1-17)

One can hardly escape the fact that this letter is something infinitely more than a human production. It is an oracle of God, a revelation of eternal facts.

Read ROMANS 1:1-4 before answering the following questions.

5. Note expression in 1:1—"gospel of God." Three other keys using the title "God" are found in verses 16, 17, 18.

_____of God (verse 16), _____of
God (verse 17), _____of God (verse 18).

6. To what extent was the gospel of an all-sufficient sacrifice “promised afore” in the Old Testament?

ROMANS 1:2, 3; LUKE 24:26, 27 _____

7. What was seen by “all the prophets”?

ACTS 10:43 _____

The hope of Israel was brought to an intense pitch in the days just prior to the birth of Jesus, yet the Jews, because of their misconceptions of such passages as ISAIAH 53, rejected Him.

8. The beginning of ROMANS (1:3), the beginning of the New Testament (MATTHEW 1:1) and almost its end (REVELATION 22:16), and the close of Paul’s ministry (II TIMOTHY 2:8), all emphasize that the Saviour is the son (or seed) of whom?

9. While Jesus on the human side was the seed of David, what contrasting truth do we have in ROMANS 1:4?

10. Jesus declared (“marked out by sure signs”) to be the Son of God with _____ as demonstrated by His _____ . 1:4

Read ROMANS 1:5-13.

11. Who were equally the givers of eternal blessing?

1:7 _____

12. What is every Christian called to be?

1:7 _____

13. Who are defined as “saints”?

PSALM 50:5 _____

14. What had Paul wanted to do for a long time?

ROMANS 1:13 _____

We find on more than one occasion that Paul’s most deliberate plans were subject to divine correction. It was not Paul who was inspired, but the record he gave us of divine truth.

Read ROMANS 1:14-17.

15. What were two familiar divisions of mankind in Paul’s day?

1:14 _____

Barbarus—speaker of an unintelligible tongue—any language not Greek. “Greek and Barbarian” comprehended the Gentile world.

16. What was Paul ready to do?

1:15 _____

17. Did Paul recognize some limitations on his ability to do this?

1:15 _____

The measure in which we are conscious of limitation is usually the measure in which we make possible the operation of the Holy Spirit through us.

18. Why was Paul not ashamed to preach this gospel anywhere?

1:16 _____

19. If the gospel is foolishness to some people, what is it to others?

I CORINTHIANS 1:18, 24 _____

20. In what therefore does the faith of a believer stand?

I CORINTHIANS 2:5 _____

The Greek word *dunamis*, here translated “power,” gives us our word *dynamite* (explosive power). The gospel is the dynamite of God (PSALM 62:11). Moral reform and social schemes are impotent to penetrate human wickedness. The gospel overcomes the greatest resistance, penetrates the hardest conscience, softens the most obstinate heart.

21. By what do we have access to God?

ROMANS 5:2 _____

22. By what are we justified?

ROMANS 3:28 _____

23. By what do we live?

ROMANS 1:17 _____

24. Since man is incapable of attaining the righteousness of the law, the gospel offers him a righteous standing in Christ, received by faith, after which righteousness is produced in life by _____

_____. ROMANS 8:3, 4

check-up time No. 1

You have now finished the prologue of Romans. Review the questions and your written answers. You may use the following self-check test in your review. If you are uncertain of an answer, reread the Scripture text to see if you can find the answer. Then take this test to see how well you understand and remember the truths you have studied thus far.

In the right-hand margin write "True" or "False" after each of the following statements.

1. There are four keys in the first eighteen verses of Romans 1, like "gospel of God." _____
2. The gospel of a sufficient sacrifice for sin was foreseen in the Old Testament. _____
3. The prophets spoke of the remission of sins through the Messiah (Christ). _____
4. According to Romans 1, Christ was of the seed of David. _____
5. The resurrection of Christ was associated with power. _____
6. All true believers are saints. _____
7. Paul's personal plans were always inspired. _____
8. The two familiar divisions of mankind in Paul's day were Greeks and Barbarians. _____
9. Salvation is by faith. _____
10. Paul says he was ashamed of the gospel. _____

Turn to page 80 and check your answers.