



# **ROMANS**

The Gospel of God

## **The Gospel Introduced!**

**Romans 1:1-7**

Message #1 of 33 – S1124

**Sermon given on October 20, 2024**



Sunday Morning Service

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# The Gospel Introduced!

## *Romans 1:1-7*

### Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Romans 1**
- Today, we begin the series through the letter to the Romans – **The Gospel of God!**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

### Teaching

- **The Gospel Introduced!**
- Romans has been one of the most influential books of the Bible.
- Many great men of God were either saved through this book or it was the catalyst for great spiritual awakening.
- Names like St. Augustine, Martin Luther, John Wesley, and John Bunyan, the writer of Pilgrim's Progress.
- As a Bible student I am very excited to be going through Romans.
- No other book in the Bible promises so much possibility for spiritual growth.
- I am looking forward to my time in this book to change me.
- As a Bible teacher, I am a little intimidated by the thought of expounding upon Paul's letter to the Romans.
- There are discussions that are so deep that theologians are still discussing and seeking complete understanding about them.
- There are some things that Paul said that were controversial when he wrote them and are still controversial today.
- I covet your prayers so that I can share with you what the Spirit wants to say to you.
- At the very beginning of the letter Paul identifies himself as the author of the letter.
- Paul was not like the other writers of the New Testament.
- He was a Hebrew of Hebrews trained in the best schools of Judaism.
- If he hadn't been apprehended by Jesus on the road to Damascus, he might have ended up in the Sanhedrin.
- He was also a Roman citizen and had grown up in a Roman colony.

- He was very familiar with Roman, Greek, and Jewish culture.
- Jesus chose just the right man to write this amazing book.
- Paul wrote thirteen of the twenty-seven New Testament books: Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1& 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon.
- There are some who also believe Paul wrote the book of Hebrews, but the evidence is inconclusive.
- Romans was written in the winter of A.D. 57-58 while Paul was in Corinth for about three months at the end of his third missionary journey right before he left for Jerusalem to bring an offering to the struggling Christians there.
- It was carried by Phoebe, a woman of Corinth who was traveling to Rome.
- The theme of the book of Romans is not easy to discern.
- He covers so much ground that it is hard to say one thing stands out over everything else.
- The key verses of Romans are (**Romans 1:16-17**).

**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.**

**<sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."**

- This verse includes the first of many quotes from the Old Testament (Habakkuk 2:4).
- For the Jews doing the works of the law was how someone became right with God.
- Paul's doctrine, outlined so well in Romans, is that it is faith in the works of Christ that make someone right with God.
- Paul taught that the key to pleasing God is not in what we do but in believing what Jesus did for us.
- In that truth is the blessing of the book of Romans. We don't have to strive for righteousness, through faith in Christ we are right with God.
- Instead of striving for righteousness, we walk in the righteousness of Christ and cooperate with the Holy Spirit as He conforms us into the image of Christ.
- Let's jump into the introduction of this amazing letter.

- **Romans 1:1**

- Paul introduces himself as the human vehicle of God’s inspiration.
- While many in the world reject the Bible on the basis that it was written by men, they are only partially correct (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**).  
**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**
- The phrase ‘by inspiration of God’ is the Greek word ‘theopneustos’ – ‘God-breathed’.
- God breathed His Word into men, and they wrote down what He said.
- Every word of the Bible is God’s word, and it is all true and truth!
- If you don’t believe that the entire Bible is true, then you can’t trust that any of it is true, and your faith is built on sand.
- Paul first identifies himself as a bondservant or slave of Jesus Christ.
- Paul’s understanding of his role in this world was to serve Christ.
- Everything he was in life was a function of serving Christ.
- Paul then describes how he serves Christ.
- ‘called to be an apostle’ - An apostle is someone who has been appointed and dispatched by God to act as an envoy for God.
- They have been given the authority and power to speak on God’s behalf.
- Paul did not choose this appointment, he was ‘called’ or summoned by God to it.
- He then goes to the specific message he was called to take – ‘the gospel’.
- The word ‘separated’ can also be translated as ‘set apart’.
- Turn to **Ephesians 4**.
- As believers grow in their faith, they will eventually come to realize that God did not save them just so that they are saved.
- God saves us and then calls us to serve Him.
- But He doesn’t call us to serve Him in the same way.
- **Ephesians 4:11-16**
- Some are chosen for specific acts of service while everyone is called to do the work of the ministry.
- That word ‘ministry’ = service.
- What is the work of the ministry (**Micah 6:8**)?

**He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?**

- It is a sign of spiritual maturity when you realize that you exist to serve God.
- Turn back to **Romans 1**.
- And then we humbly walk with God as He reveals to us what work He created for us to do.
- Ask yourself throughout the day, is what I am doing an act of service to God? It can be – it should be!
- Paul was called by God to be an envoy to the world and carry the gospel of God to the nations.
- Paul then elaborates on the gospel.
- **Romans 1:2-4**
- Paul said he was called to be an apostle of the gospel of God, but that this is not a new message.
- God promised this gospel in the Holy Scriptures – the Old Testament.
- The threads of the gospel are all throughout the Old Testament, especially as it relates to the Savior and Messiah.
- He would be born of a virgin, in Bethlehem.
- He would be of the lineage of King David and that He would die on a cross in Jerusalem.
- It even predicted the exact date the Messiah would come into Jerusalem and the fact that He would do it on the back of the foal of a donkey.
- It even tells us that the Messiah would not stay dead but would be raised by the supernatural power of God and be seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven.
- There are some who suggest we should bother with the Old Testament – that it has nothing for a modern reader.
- That is sad and foolish – You will never fully understand the gospel of God apart from at least a familiarity with the Old Testament.
- In this letter to the Romans, Paul will quote from the Old Testament many times.
- Paul then clarifies his role.
- **Romans 1:5**

- It was an expression of God’s grace that Paul and his companions were called to take the gospel out to the nations.
- There was nothing about Paul that make him worthy of that noble calling.
- There may have been things that made him useful for that calling, but those did not make him worthy.
- When God calls us to serve Him, it is not because He needs us or that He can’t get the work done without us.
- It is not because we have earned that calling through some effort of our own or some special qualities that we possess.
- It is solely based upon His sovereign will that He chooses to use us to take His message out into the world.
- This is good news to those who don’t feel they have anything to offer God in the way of serving Him.
- The only requirement for serving God is faith.
- Like the lad and his five loaves and two fishes, bring what little you think you have, in faith, and then watch God multiply it miraculously.
- Paul describes the goal of his ministry, ‘for obedience to the faith among all nations...’
- Paul’s goal was that the whole world would come to faith in Jesus Christ and that they would walk in obedience to His Words.
- Paul closes this section with a greeting.
- **Romans 1:6-7**
- As believers in the gospel, we are beloved of God (**Romans 5:8**).  
**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**
- Not only does He love us, but He has also poured His love into our hearts (**Romans 5:5**).
- **Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**
- This allows us to love Him back and to love others, especially the unlovable.
- We should be very comfortable with the thought that Jesus loves us, but, at the same time, it should fill us with wonder – God, Creator of heaven and earth loves me.
- Another thing that should amaze us is that God chose to save us.

- We are all called to be saints. A saint is a believer.
- The word saint means holy one.
- One who has been set apart to God for Him and His glory and purposes.
- And again, that should amaze us because there is no good reason for God to do that found in us.
- Every reason God would choose any human is found solely in Him.
- Paul closes this section with a greeting he uses in many of his letter – grace and peace.
- In a way it is something like a prayer.
- He is asking God the Father and Christ Jesus to help them experience more of God’s grace and the peace that can accompany God’s grace.
- As a pastor, that is my desire for you.
- I want you to experience more of God’s amazing grace, His radically generous unmerited favor.
- I want you to know His peace, a peace that is beyond human understanding.
- Brothers and sisters, saints of God, you are beloved of God.
- Sovereign, Creator God chose to love you and then He saved you so that He can love you forever with Him in heaven.
- And as we go through this powerful, life-changing book together, we will learn how to better respond to God’s love.
- We will love Him more and we will learn how to love what and who He loves more.
- Thank you for joining me as we study Romans: The Gospel of God!
- **Pray! Last Song!**