

ROMANS SERMON SERIES

Made Right To Walk Right

OVERVIEW

SERMON SERIES

ROMANS

Made Right To Walk Right

“It is the fullest, plainest, and grandest statement of the gospel in the New Testament.”

John Stott, *The Message of Romans*

Introduction

A. Romans is the most systematic and developed doctrinal book of the Apostle Paul. Something happened in Rome to caused Paul to write this letter but it is the most neutral of all his letters as Paul dealt with the issue through a clear presentation of the gospel (Chapters 1 – 11) and its implication on daily life (Chapter 12-16).

Introduction

- B. Romans is the theological development of the truths of Galatians (possibly Paul's first letter). Ephesians is the development of Romans into a summary cyclical letter. Paul's gospel did not change but he changed his way of presenting it.

Introduction

- C. To know Romans is to know the essence of our Christian faith! The letter shapes the life and teachings of Jesus into bedrock truths for the Church of all ages.

Author and Date

Paul was definitely the author. His typical greeting is found in Rom 1:1. He did not physically write this letter himself, but he used a scribe, Tertius (cf. Rom. 16:22).

Author and Date

The probable date for the authorship of Romans is A.D. 56-58 (compare Acts 20:2ff with Romans 15:17ff).

Romans was probably written at Corinth toward the end of Paul's third missionary journey, just before he left for Jerusalem.

Author and Date

<u>Book</u>	<u>Date (A.D.)</u>	<u>Place of Writing</u>	<u>Relation to Acts</u>
Galatians	48	Syrian Antioch	Acts 14:28; 15:2
1 Thessalonians	50	Corinth	Acts 18:5
2 Thessalonians	50	Corinth	
1 Corinthians	55	Ephesus	Acts 19:20
2 Corinthians	56	Macedonia	Acts 20:2
Romans	56 - 58	Corinth	Acts 20:3

Recipients

The letter was meant for the Church in Rome.

Paul had never visited this Church, but he longed to (cf. Acts 19:21). He had many friends there (cf. Romans 16).

Apparently his plan was to visit Rome on his way to Spain (cf. Rom. 15:28) after his trip to Jerusalem with the "love gift."

Purpose

To address the problem in the Roman church between believing Jews and Gentiles.

Jews who were expelled from Rome (Emperor's Claudius' edict of A.D. 49) returned.

By then the Gentile Christian leaders had taken over.

Purpose

Jewish Christians returning to Rome had to wrestle with the question of whether they were primarily Jewish or Christian (something which felt increasingly like a Gentile).

Themes

- 1) Justification of sinners by God's grace alone,
in Christ alone, through faith alone

- 2) Consequent Redefinition of the People of God:
 - a. Right relationships with God and each other
 - b. Equality and Unity of Jews and Gentiles

Outline *(John Stott edited)*

- 1) Introduction (Rom 1:1-17)
- 2) The **wrath** of God (Rom 1:18 – 3:20)
- 3) The **grace** of God (Rom 3:21 – 8:39)
- 4) The **plan** of God (Rom 9:1 – 11:32)
- 5) The **will** of God (Rom 12:1 – 15:13)
- 6) Conclusion (Rom 15:14 – 33)
- 7) Postscript (Rom 16:1-27)

A) Introduction (Rom 1:1-17)

1. Salutation (Rom. 1:1-7)
 - a. Author (Rom. 1:1-5)
 - b. Destination (Rom. 1:6-7a)
 - c. Greeting (Rom. 1:7b)
2. Occasion (Rom. 1:8-15)
3. **Theme – the gospel (Rom. 1:16-17)**

B. The **wrath of God (Rom. 1:18- 3:20)**

1. Depravity of men despite the apparent knowledge of God (1:18-32)
2. Hypocrisy of the Jew and Pagan (2:1-16)
3. Judgment of the Jews (2:17-3:8)
4. Universal Condemnation (3:9-20)

- C. The **grace** of God (Rom. 3:21-8:39)**
1. Righteousness by Faith Alone (3:21-31)
 2. The Basis of Righteousness: God's promise realized through faith (4:1-25)
 - a. Abraham's right standing by faith (4:1-5)
 - b. David's declaration of being blessed (4:6-8)
 - c. Abraham's relation to circumcision (4:9-12)
 - d. God's Promise to Abraham (4:13-25)

C. The **grace** of God (Rom. 3:21-8:39)

3. The Attainment of Righteousness (Rom. 5:1-21)
 - a. Justified by grace through faith resulting in peace, love and perseverance (5:1-5)
 - b. The basis is God's amazing love (5:6-11)
 - c. Adam/Christ typology: Adam's offense, God's provision (5:12-21)

C. The **grace** of God (Rom. 3:21-8:39)

4. Divine righteousness leads to personal righteousness (6:1-7:25)

- a. Freed from sin (6:1-14)
 - (1) Do not sin for grace to increase (6:1-2)
 - (2) The meaning of baptism (6:3-14)
- b. Slave to sin or righteousness: a choice (6:15-23)
- c. Died to the Law through Christ (7:1-6)
- d. The Law is good to reveal sin but yet leads to death (7:7-14)
- e. The perennial struggle of good and evil in the believer (7:15-25)

C. The *grace* of God (Rom. 3:21-8:39)

5. A Spirit-centered life (Rom. 8:1-39)
 - a. Life in the Spirit (8:1-17)
 - b. The redemption of creation (8:18-25)
 - c. The Spirit's constant help (8:26-30)
 - d. The assurance of God's love (8:31-39)

D. The plan of God (Rom. 9:1-11:32)

1. The election of Israel (9:1-33)
 - a. Chosen heirs of faith though not all (9:1-13)
 - b. Sovereignty of God (9:14-22)
 - c. Sovereignty of God to include the Gentiles in his plan (9:23-33)

D. The **plan of God (Rom. 9:1-11:32)**

2. The message and call to salvation (10:1-21)
 - a. God's salvation is for **all** who believe (10:1-13)
 - b. God's salvation necessitates messengers to go and share (10:14-18)
 - c. God's salvation rejected through Israel's continued disbelief in Christ (10:19-21)

D. The plan of God (Rom. 9:1-11:36)

3. The salvation of Israel (11:1-36)
 - a. The Jewish remnant (11:1-10)
 - b. Gentiles brought in through Israel's failure (11:11-24)
 - c. A vision of salvation for both Gentiles and Jews (11:25-32)
 - d. Paul's doxology of praise (11:33-36)

E. The *will* of God (Rom. 12:1 – 15:13)

The will of GOD is therefore for us to have the right relationships:

1. GOD (12:1-2)
2. Ourselves (12:3-8)
3. Each other (12:9-16)
4. Enemies (12:17-21)
5. The State (Rom. 13:1-7)
6. The Law (Rom. 13:8-10)
7. The Last Days (Rom. 13:11-14)
8. The Weak (Rom. 14:1-15:13)

F.

Conclusion (Rom. 15:14-33)

1. Paul's personal plans
(15:14-29)
2. Requests for prayer
(15:30-33)

G.

Postscript (Rom. 16:1-27)

1. Greetings (16:1-24)
2. Benediction (16:25-27)

Theological and Discipleship Issues

This sermon series hopes to help each of us take our next step in intentional discipleship.

Beyond an intellectual discussion, go *deeper* into application for practical discipleship.

William comes to you and ask, “How do we know that there is a God? If there is a God, why does it seem like He has given up on this world when there is so much evil around?”

Theological and Discipleship Issues

Revelation of God

God has plainly revealed himself
(1:19-20)

Moral law written on hearts (2:14-16)

Mosaic law given to the Jews (2:17-18)

Theological and Discipleship Issues

Depravity of Man

Though they knew, they rejected God
(1:21,28)

God gave them up because they
chose to turn away from Him (1:24-25)

Dishonorable and Debased (1:26 - 32)

All have sinned and fallen
short (3:9,23) and will face judgment

Theological and Discipleship Issues

Justifying grace of God!

Justified by grace through faith (3:24; 5:1-2)

Peace with God

Hope in the glory of God

Reconciled to God (5:10)

Seng Kiat comes to you and asks, “Why am I so bad-tempered? Every time I get so angry, I shout at my wife and son. I say things I regret. My son is so afraid of me. How can I change?”

Theological and Discipleship Issues

Struggle of sin but freedom and life in the Spirit

The Law reveals and condemns sin, but has no power to free us (7:1- 24)

The Spirit sets us free in Christ! (8:1-4)

No longer slaves but sons (8:15)

Hope in freedom from bondage to decay (8:20-21)

Spirit intercedes for us! (8:26-27)

Jenny laments, “Do I have a real choice in life? Does God pre-plan everything? What happens if He doesn’t choose to save my mum whom I have been praying for?”

Theological and Discipleship Issues

God's sovereign plan for salvation

“those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son...” (8:29)

The issue is *how* God knows and chooses

Sovereign choice or foreknowledge based on our grace-enabled choices

Theological and Discipleship Issues

The place of Israel in God's plan of salvation

Has the church replaced Israel?

Is Israel at the centre of God's plan for the return of Christ?

Mid-Week Teaching Series

Predestination And Free Will

(Rev Dr Chiang Ming Shun)

Date: 08 Sep (Thu)

Time: 8.00-9.30pm

Mode: Via Zoom

The Place Of Israel In God's Plan Of Salvation

(Bishop Dr Gordon Wong)

Date: 22 Sep (Thu)

Time: 8.00-9.30pm

Mode: Via Zoom

Theological and Discipleship Issues

Walk right with God through **right relationships**

Offer yourself to God (12:1-2)

Humble yourself to serve (12:3-8)

Overcome evil with good (12:19-21)

Submit to the Authorities (13:1-6)

Do not stumble the weak (14:1 – 15:3)

Accept as Christ as accepted (15:7)

Concluding remarks

It's OK not to have *all* the answers.

Through the study of God's Word, let's have the posture of humility and willingness to learn from God through each other.

Pray for each one to take the next step in their intentional discipleship through this sermon series!

References:

The Message of Romans, BST Commentary, by John Stott

Bible Commentary on Romans by Bob Utle

The Story of the New Testament by John Stott

Paul for everyone: Romans, by Tom Wright

Ethnical Issues in Paul's letters to the Romans: Changing Self-Definitions in Earliest Roman Christianity by James C. Walters