

Faithfulness

Romans 1

September 6, 2026

I. Introduction to the Book of Romans

A. Written by the Apostle Paul (from Corinth) to the church at Rome.

1. Paul had never been to Rome but always wanted to go.
2. Church was likely begun by converts from the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:10).

B. Brief history of Christianity in Rome.

1. Initial tolerance of Christians under Emperor Claudius (41-54 AD).
2. Then, expulsion of Jews from Rome (Acts 18:1-3).
3. Nero came to power in 54 AD.
 - a. Jews & Christians allowed to return for 3 years.
 - b. He poisoned his mother and went mad by 64 AD.
 - c. A time of festivals & gladiatorial spectacles & brutality.
 - d. The persecution of Christians greatly increased.

C. Paul wrote Romans in about 57 AD.

1. It is a clear, organized statement of Christian document.
 - a. Has been called by several names:
 - (1) The Christian Constitution.
 - (2) The Christian Magna Carta.
 - (3) The Manifesto of the Kingdom.
 - b. Presents the doctrine of justification in grand form.
 - c. It dispels the big lie that sin does not have to be dealt with.

D. Major themes of the Book of Romans.

1. Observe the repetition of “law” (78 times), “righteous” / “righteousness” (66 times), “faith” (62 times), and “justify” / “justification” (30 times).
2. The message of Romans: The LAW exposes sin and God JUSTIFIES the sinner by FAITH alone in Christ alone - - thus, declaring him / her RIGHTEOUS.
3. Here’s an easy-to-remember outline for the Book of Romans
 - a. The Wrath of God (1:18-3:20).
 - b. The Grace of God (3:21-8:39).
 - c. The Plan of God (9-11).
 - d. The Will of God (12-16).

II. Romans 1 – Salutation, Theme, and The Wrath of God Part 1.

A. Paul's salutation and interests (vv. 1-17)

- a. Identification of writer and audience.
 1. **Bond-servant** - - one who voluntarily takes the position of a slave.
 2. **Apostle** –
Generally – one who is sent.
As used by Paul - one who:
 - (a) Had seen the Lord / an eyewitness to His resurrection.
 - (b) Was invested with miraculous sign-gifts.
 - (c) Was chosen by the Lord or the Holy Spirit.
- b. Paul affirmed that he wanted to encourage the Romans.
 1. By affirming them (v. 8).
 2. By assuring them (v. 9).
 3. By desiring to be with them (v. 10).
 4. By promising to assist them (vv. 11-12).

B. Our focal passage for today (vv. 13-25).

1. Gospel Power (vv. 13-17).

- a. Paul desired a fruitful ministry in Rome (evangelism & discipleship).
- b. He believed he was obligated to preach the Gospel to all.
- c. He was not ashamed of the Gospel (nor should WE be).
 - a. Paul had no fear of what others thought.
 - b. It is the power of God to salvation
 - c. It reveals the righteousness of God
- d. **"The righteous will live by faith."** (quote from Habakkuk 2:4)
Emphasizes the fact that God does not justify people by works.
As we begin our study in Romans, let's not overlook the importance / depth of the meaning of the word "RIGHTEOUS."

- Righteous** –
1. God's perfect moral character expressed in His always doing what is right and just. To be "made righteous" refers to God's saving act in which He justifies the sinner, giving them a right standing with Him based on their faith (Rom. 3:22).
 2. Pastor Richard Rogers regularly states that man is righteous when he is (a) right with God, (b) right with his fellow man, (c) right with self, and (d) right with his environment (the world around him).

Romans elaborates on **the righteousness of God**:

Imputed (attributes to our account; justifies us - - "just as if we had never sinned"); God's gift (for free not for a fee) - - sometimes called "positional righteousness." Discussed in Romans 3:21-5:21.

Imparted (shared; progressively distributed) - - this is "sanctification" (separation TO the mission of God through Christ) - - sometimes called "practical righteousness." Discussed in Romans 6:1-8:39

2. Divine Revelation (vv. 18-20).

- a. God has a constant and insistent displeasure with sin.
- b. Truth was given to man (vv. 19-20), but he rejected it (vv. 21-32).
- c. He reveals His "holy anger" toward sin.
 1. It was revealed in the OT and the NT (i.e., The Great Flood (Gen 7), Sodom & Gomorrah (Gen 19), the punishment of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (Num 16:32).
 2. It has continuously been revealed to mankind.
 3. It is being revealed in 2026 - - How?
 - (1) He has given men over to uncleanness (1:24).
 - (2) He has given men over to vile affections (1:26).
 - (3) He has given men over to reprobate minds (1:28).
 - (4) Occasionally, He breaks through into human history to show His displeasure (disease, disaster, etc.).

- d. His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen by all mankind.
 - 1. His attributes are apparent to those who will seek Him.
 - 2. People ignore His power and nature in creations and are, thus, without excuse

3. Worthless Thinking (vv. 21-25)

Mankind's 7 downward steps

- 1. They knew God
- 2. They did not glorify Him as God
- 3. They did not show gratitude
- 4. Their thinking became worthless
- 5. Their senseless hearts were darkened
- 6. They claimed to be wise, but became fools
- 7. They exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, four-footed animals, and reptiles

C. The consequences of rejecting God (vv. 26-32).

- 1. The consequences of dishonorable passions (vv. 26-27).
- 2. The consequences of a depraved mind (vv. 28-31).
- 3. The hearty approval of sin (v. 32).

Applications for Today's Scripture

- 1. God's righteousness can only come from Him ("It's free - - not for a fee!")
- 2. We must seek opportunities to share the Gospel's power.
- 3. We can point others to God through what He has revealed in His Word and His creation.
- 4. Rejecting God ultimately leads to eternal separation from Him.

Next Week

"Coming Judgment"

Romans 2:1-13