

## ROMANS

AUTHOR: The Apostle Paul. It was written from the city of Corinth while Paul was visiting that city.

THEME: "The Gospel of God Is for the Gentiles as Well as for the Jew."

INTRODUCTION: Paul was soon to visit the city of Rome. He writes the Christians in Rome announcing his coming and listing the truths that he will preach while he is with them. In other words, the epistle is simply a letter written in advance telling them of his coming and of the doctrines he will preach.

### I. THE DIVISIONS OF ROMANS.

There are two main divisions: The first is Romans 1-11 which is strictly doctrinal. In these chapters Paul lists the great doctrines of the faith. The second division includes chapters 12-16. This division is completely different from the first, as it deals with the practical aspects of the Christian life. In other words, the apostle spent the first eleven chapters stating the wonders of salvation and the last five chapters stating what we ought to do as Christians because of that wonderful salvation.

### II. THE PIVOTAL VERSES—ROMANS 12:1-2.

1. In Romans 12:1 the word "beseech" means "beg."
2. The word, "therefore," connects it with the first 11 chapters. In other words, Paul is begging because of the wonderful doctrines found in the previous chapters.
3. The words, "by the mercies of God" actually means because of the wonderful mercies listed in the first 11 chapters."
4. The word "present" means "yield." In other words, because of the wonders of the early chapters, we should yield our bodies to God.
5. The word "sacrifice" goes back to the sacrifice of the Old Testament. The Jew would offer an animal as a dead sacrifice to God. God wants a living sacrifice from us. His Son has already offered the dead sacrifice as a penalty sacrifice from us. Now He wants the living sacrifice from us, that is, in service for Christ .
6. The words "holy, acceptable," also go back to the Old Testament. The lamb that was offered had to be acceptable to God and without blemish. God wants our living sacrifices "holy, acceptable unto Him."
7. In Romans 12:2 the word "conformed" means "fashioned." Because of the wonders of the first 11 chapters, we are not to fashion ourselves after the world.
8. The word world means "world setup," "world system." "the pattern of things in the world." etc.
9. The word "transformed" is the same word that is used in Matthew concerning the transfiguration of Christ when He received His glorified body. We are to be as different from this world as Jesus was in His glorified body.
10. Notice in Romans 12:2b :that this is the way we can find the perfect will of God, for our lives. Following these verses (Romans 12:1,2), the Apostle Paul lists the way we can live this kind of a life. Statement after statement is given as to the way the Christian should live. For example, read Romans 12:9-21. You will find the outworking of the kind of sacrifice that the Lord is asking for in Romans 12:1, 2. Looking backward from Romans 12:1, 2 we have all the doctrines of grace. Because of these doctrines, we are to build the kind of life that Paul in Romans 12-16 -is asking us to live. For example,

there is the doctrine of the depravity of man in chapters 1-3, the doctrine of justification in chapters 4 and 5, the doctrine of sanctification in chapters 6 and 7, the doctrine of the Holy Spirit in Chapter 8, and the doctrine of the sovereignty of God in chapters 9-11. There are many other doctrines, such as propitiation, etc. All of these great doctrines of the faith are doctrines of grace. Because of what God has done for us in His great mercy, we are to do something for Him. In other words, chapters 1-11 tell us what God has done for us in salvation. Chapters 12-16 tell us what we are to do for Him because of what He has done for us.

### III. SOME KEY WORDS IN ROMANS.

Romans is written basically to Gentile Christians. The Lord is saying that there is no respecting of persons with God. He is not only the God of the Jews, but also the God of the Gentiles. Consequently, the word "**all**" is a key word. The word "**whosoever**" is a key word. The word "**none**" is a key word. Notice the all-inclusiveness of these words. We are all bunched together. We are all sinners; none is righteous. There is no respect of persons with God. Paul is trying to let the Gentile nations know that salvation is not just a Jewish thing; it is also for the Gentiles.

IV. PAUL'S READINESS. There are three "I am's" in Romans 1 that tells us of the readiness of Paul to go to Rome.

1. "I am debtor" Romans 1:14. Paul owed a debt to the Greeks and barbarians; as well as to the Jews. He was coming to pay that debt.
2. "I am ready" Romans 1:15. In other words, because he was a debtor in verse 14, he is ready to pay that debt in verse 15.
3. "I am not ashamed" Romans 1:16. Because he is a debtor in verse 14, he is ready to pay his debt in verse 15, and he is not ashamed to do so in verse 16. Let every Christian say, "I am debtor," "I am ready" and "I am not ashamed."

V. PAUL'S MESSAGE; Romans 1:16-18.

1. His message included the power of God. in verse 16.
2. His message included the righteousness of God in; verse 17.
3. His message included the wrath of God in verse 18.

Notice the all-inclusiveness of his message. He came in the power of God to preach the righteousness of God and to warn of the wrath of God to those who refuse His righteousness.

CONCLUSION: There are many Scriptures that teach the all-inclusiveness of the book of Romans. For example, Romans 1:16. "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." Notice the words, "also to the Greek." Romans 2:11, "For there is no respect of persons with God." Notice "there is no respect of persons." God is including everybody. Romans 3:19, "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them that are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God." Notice the words, "all the world." Again, He is including the Jew and the Gentile. Romans 3:29, "Is He the God of the Jews only? -is He not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also." Notice especially the words, "Yes, of the Gentiles also." Then there are other verses also, such as Romans 3:10; 3:23; 5:12; etc. There is Romans 10:13 which mentions "whosoever." Salvation is for a11. All have sinned. All have come short of the glory of God. All must stand before God. All may be saved. All who are not saved will suffer the wrath of God.