

**All Citizens Christian Church Calgary**

**Bible Study:** Tuesday, Jan 28th, 2025. **Topic: THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS**

Rom 1

**INTRODUCTION**: The epistle to the Romans is a classic that stands out amongst most of the letters written by Apostle Paul. To the unsaved, it exposes their sinful state and a way out of sin as designed by God. To the young believer, the identification with Christ and subsequent victory through the power of the Holy Spirit and to the matured Christian, a stable foundation for running the Christian race victoriously. This is the epistle that is said to have influenced Marting Luther the reformer, John Wesley the missionary and many others. Most other letters by Apostle Paul to the churches were focused on the challenges in the churches but the letter to the Romans was focused on the relationship between the Christian and God (Rom 1:1) and God’s plan to redeem man. The word God occurs 153 times in Romans. A word more frequently used here than in any other book in the New Testament. Another unique thing about the letter to the Romans is that Paul did not found the church in Rome and he had not even been to Rome when he wrote this letter.

Rom 1:1-7.

**The Author**: Verse one introduces the writer of the epistle to the Romans as Apostle Paul. There are no doubts whatsoever that the epistle was written by the Apostle.

1. Are you writing your own letter to the world? II Cor 3:2-3. What is contained in your letter. Whether we like it or not we are writing our epistle.

Paul introduced himself as a servant and an apostle, separated’. The KJV simply used the word servant but the NKJV calls him a bondservant which is translated doulus in Greek. His introduction as a servant was not in an abject way but to reflect his submission to the will of God. **II Peter 1:1**

1. How do you see your relationship with Christ?: Do you see yourself as a servant?. Have we expunged the idea of servitude from our perspective of ourselves in relation with God?
2. How do you want to be introduced? Luke 14:8.

**Introduction of the Gospel of God**.

1. How do we see the gospel or what is the Gospel to you?

Apostle Paul’s introduction of the Gospel is very unique. He made us know that the Gospel is not new. Rather that the Gospel is God’s design to rescue mankind. The Gospel is about Jesus and that it is as old as the prophets. The Gospel was promised long before it was manifested to man by the prophets. The plan of God for the gospel or the redemption of man is as old as creation. **Isaiah 7:14, 9 6**, **Rom 1: 2, Titus 1:2, Gal 3:8, Acts 26:6, 13:32**

The Gospel is about a person (Jesus Christ) and not about laws and morals.

The Letter to the Romans made us to see that Jesus had both human origin and a divine origin. That the Gospel is about His incarnation, that is His coming in human form

1. In human form he came as a descendant of David **John 1:14,** **Acts 2:29-30, Gal 4:4.**
2. In divine form he was shown to be the son of God by His resurrection. **John 1: 1-4, Phil 2:5-8, John 17:5 Acts 13:33**

(I have heard someone say that the Sacrifice of Jesus is void since he died and rose again. He said it would have been a sacrifice if he did not rise again).

**Rom 1: 5-13**

1. **Rom 1:5**. What was the reason for Paul’s Apostleship: To lead people of all nations to believe and obey. It is through Jesus that Apostle Paul was called. It is also through Him that we too are called. The calling of the Apostle was also for the salvation of all including the Romans.
2. Have you discovered the reason for your salvation and what is it?
3. What are some of the reasons for people’s apostleship in our days that turns people away from the gospel?
4. Rom 1:8: Is your faith spoken of and what do people say about your faith? The whole world is hearing about the faith of the Christians in Rome. Why? Rome was the epicenter of civilization and so the Christians been there would have been of immense significance especially when there was no known disciple there and they were often under contention with the authorities.
5. Should we care what people say about our faith? **Titus 1:12**.
6. How far and how influential is your Christianity and what is the effect of your influence?

Rom 1:14-15: Note the greeting to them, grace and peace. Grace (Charis) was used mostly by the Greeks while Peace (Shalom) was mostly used by the Jews. He writes to unite both races.

1. What is the world hearing about your faith? **I Peter 4:15**.
2. How concerned are you about the faith of other believers? What is the motive of going to minister the gospel to the people?

**Rom 1:13**: Why did the Apostle long to visit the Romans? He wanted to visit the Romans because he believed he had something to share with him and they had something to share with him. Why do some ministers want to visit places? When you encounter other believers, do they have anything great to learn from you? **Heb 10:25**

Also, he wants fruits amongst the Romans. Can your presence bring an aura of God in an environment?

**PART B: Rom 1:16-17, I Cor 1:18**

**What is the Gospel of Christ and why is Paul not ashamed of it?** It is the power of God to salvation. The gospel does not bring power, the Gospel is power itself for salvation. In the Roman world of Paul’s day, men looked for salvation. Philosophers knew that man was sick and needed help. Epictetus called his lecture room “the hospital for the sick soul.” Epicurus called his teaching “the medicine of salvation.” Seneca said that because men were so conscious of “their weakness and their inefficiency in necessary things” that all men were looking “towards salvation.” Epictetus said that men were looking for a peace “not of Caesar’s proclamation, but of God’s.” **(Barclay)**

The gospel’s power of salvation comes to everyone who believes and not just to everyone. That is why we have many antagonists to the gospel. It will remain foolish to them if they don’t believe.

Rome was a sophisticated city just like any modern city today and so it is not unusual for people to be ashamed of the Gospel of a crucified Jew and a religion that is very inclusive of everyone.

**The Gospel reveals the righteousness of God.**

Are you ashamed of the Gospel of Christ and what is the proof that you are not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ.

When last did you display the Gospel to those around you? **Psalm 40:9-10**.

What is the righteousness (dikaiosune, dik-ah-yos-oo'-nay ) of God that is revealed? It means justification. It is the ability to treat a sinner as if he never sinned. (This was the verse that thrilled Martin Luther) He saw that all he needed was to believe and he would be justified. The statement that the just shall live by faith came alive to him. That, he interpreted to mean the fellow who is justified is simply because he believed and not because of works. Justification is the beginning of his faith and that is the same that will lead him through the life of a believer.

**Rom 1:18-20**

**Why does man need justification?** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven Against

1. all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,
2. Why? Because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. Therefore, mankind is without **excuse.**

It is that wrath that righteousness saves us from instead of a wrath that we correctly deserved.

**What problem did God have with man? Rom 1:21-23**

1. **Men were not ignorant. Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God:** The problem is not that man did not know God, but that he did know Him**.** Knowledge is useless if not used to glorify God. So theology, world travels education and revelation means nothing if not used to glorify God. **(Spurgeon)**
2. **They refused to honor Him as God.**
3. **They were ungrateful.** God hates ingratitude**.**
4. **Their thoughts became nonsense and their foolish hearts dark** Instead of glorifying God we transformed our idea of Him into forms and images more comfortable to our corrupt and darkened hearts.

**Rom 1:24-32**

1. **What did God do? God give up man. Hosea 4:17. According to Rom 1, what was the first error man committed and which we still commit today?** Lust and idolatry. Therefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. **(In every rebellion and disobedience against God we exchange the truth of God for the lie of our own choosing). What is the lie? Gen 3:5 (You will be like God)**
2. **What is the second error that man is still engaged in today?** Vile (shameful) passions which they cannot recognize. For **even** their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, are some of the signs that God has given up on people? **(This is just a sign of what happens when God gives up on man. Indeed, sin is a show of God’s wrath against man. Many never know this when they are in sin, that they are executing God’s wrath against them**). And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful. **(Paul wrote this to a culture that was very homosexual, yet some people expect us to blend with the world so we will be politically correct). (At the very time Paul wrote, Nero was emperor. He took a boy named Sporus and had him castrated, then married him (with a full ceremony), brought him to the palace with a great procession, and made the boy his “wife.” Later, Nero lived with another man, and Nero was the “wife.”)**
3. **What was the result of God giving up on man?** They received the penalty for their error when all they needed was righteousness to stay in right standing with God. This righteousness simply needed them to believe. Nothing is as bad as knowing the reward for iniquity yet living in it. 32. Who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

**CONCLUSION: Romans 1 showed the introduction of the writing of Apostle Paul to the Romans and the reason for writing the epistle.** It went further to state how powerful the gospel is and that it reveals God’s righteousness. The righteousness that He is willing to pass to man to make humans for free since humans have no ability to make themselves righteous. Unfortunately, some men rejected it and therefore God is angry against sinners who refuse to believe in Him and therefore receive His righteousness. The eventual result was that God gave them up and because God gave them up, they began to do things that are naturally shameful. I state where humans could not even realize their shameful state.