



**Book of Romans**  
**Lesson 1: The Apostle Paul, the Book of Romans,**  
**Romans Chapter 1 & Paul's Gospel**

## **1. Introduction**

Before studying the Book of Romans, we are going to take a closer look at the Apostle Paul, the author of the Book of Romans.

### **Romans 1:1**

The Greek word for bondservant would be best translated “slave”.

Paul was writing to the Romans who understood slavery.

Paul \_\_\_\_\_ used that word when speaking of himself.

He let the Romans know that he was a slave, not of Rome, nor of Caesar, but of Jesus Christ Himself.

Today, many Christians have the attitude of being a free person and doing what they want to do.

Even Jesus prayed to the Father saying, “Not my will, but your will be done.”

Later in the Book of Romans, Paul shows us something about this.

### **Romans 6:19, 20**

We are either slaves of God or slaves of sin and the devil.

Either way, you are a slave.

## **2. More about Paul the Apostle**

### **Philippians 3:4-6**

Paul was born and raised around the Word of God. He became a very religious person and Jewish leader. He was so religious, that originally, he persecuted Christians.

He was born in Tarsus as a free Roman citizen.

In the Book of Acts, when he was beaten and put in prison unlawfully, he used his Roman citizenship as leverage.

### 3. Paul's three decisions

After submitting his life to Jesus, Paul made three right decisions.

- \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Romans 1:16**

We need to be the same way. If we lived an ashamed life, we will never change our nation or world.

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#### **Romans 1:15**

He was ready, even if it meant persecution.

#### **2 Corinthians 11:23-28**

When God called Paul to Macedonia, he left immediately. He was ready.

#### **Acts 16:9, 10**

God is still looking for people who are ready.

#### **Ezekiel 22:30 – Message Bible**

*I looked for someone to stand up for me against all this, to repair the defenses of the city, to take a stand for me and stand in the gap to protect this land so I wouldn't have to destroy it. I couldn't find anyone. Not one.*

#### **Lester Sumrall Quote**

*“When the Lord called me to go to the mission field, I wrote to the missionary society and they wrote back telling me all the reasons I should not go. By the time their letter reached me, I had already been on the field for eighteen months. The missionary society was not ready to send me, but I was ready to go.”*

**Word War II Story**

*When Douglas McArthur took Japan, he made a public appeal to the world. He asked for ten thousand missionaries for the island nation. Everybody in Japan wanted to be a Christian. The church around the world did not give anything or anybody. Today Japan is mostly pagan because the church was not ready.*

- Paul decided he owed a debt to the world to preach the Gospel.

**Romans 1:14**

You, having received Jesus, owe a debt too.

**4. Facts about the Book of Romans**

- When did the church in Rome begin?

The church in Rome was founded on the Day of Pentecost.

Visitors from Rome, who were present during Peter's sermon, returned to Rome with the Gospel.

- When was the Book of Romans written?

Paul wrote the letter to the Roman church in \_\_\_\_\_

This was about 25-30 years after Christ had gone to heaven.

- Who did Paul write this letter to?

Paul wrote it to Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians.

The church in Rome had two groups as members:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- The Gentiles who had converted from paganism.

However, Paul's audience was primarily Gentile.

**Romans 1:13****5. There are three primary things Paul wanted to accomplish by writing this letter.**

- To educate the believers in the basic doctrines related to salvation.

Romans 1 – 8

- To help believers understand the unbelief of the Jews and how the Gentiles benefited from it.

Romans 9 – 11

- To explain principles of the Christian life and how to put them into practice.

Romans 12 – 15

## 6. What Romans Chapter 1 teaches us about the Gospel

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**Romans 1:1, 2**

- The Gospel is found in the person of Jesus Christ.

**Romans 1:3, 4**

- \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 1:15**

- The result of the Gospel being preached is people being saved.

**Romans 1:6**

## 7. Romans Chapter 1 presents Jesus as the Son of God

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**Romans 1:1, 2**

- Jesus came from the lineage of David.

**Romans 1:3** *concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,*

- \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 1:4**

- Jesus is Lord and has authority.

**Romans 1:5**

## 8. Man's rejection of God

### **Romans 1:6-17**

A result of being saved is that you are growing in faith.

This verse shows us God is righteous.

The next verse shows us the wrath of God.

### **Romans 1:18**

God is against sin.

His wrath and righteousness are not opposite things. His wrath flows out of His righteousness.

### **Romans 1:19**

God has put inside of people a knowledge of what is right and wrong.

### **Romans 1:20**

Just looking at creation, we can see that there is a creator.

### **Romans 1:21**

It is possible to know God, or to know that he exists, and still reject Him.

This was true in the time of Noah – People knew God, yet only Noah and his family worshipped Him as God.

The people at the Tower of Babel knew God. They all knew Him but rejected Him. After His judgment upon them, they all knew that it was God who had confused their language and divided them. However, they did not worship Him.

### **Romans 1:21 – Message Bible**

*What happened was this: People knew God perfectly well, but when they didn't treat him like God, refusing to worship him, they trivialized themselves into silliness and confusion so that there was neither sense nor direction left in their lives*

**Romans 1:22** *Professing to be wise, they became fools,*

**Proverbs 9:10****Romans 1:23**

Out of their foolishness, they began to worship other things.

The results of worshipping things other than God are found in the next verses.

**Romans 1:23 – Message Bible**

*They traded the glory of God who holds the whole world in his hands for cheap figurines you can buy at any roadside stand.*

**Romans 1:24-32**

All these sins are the fruit of a life that does not recognize Jesus as Lord and lives for self.

Mankind rejected God. God gave many of them over to a debased mind – He let them live the way they wanted to live.

**Romans 1:28 - Message Bible**

*Since they didn't bother to acknowledge God, God quit bothering them and let them run loose.*

The results of this are seen in these verses.

The thought continues in the next chapter. What does God do about this?

**9. Man has no excuse.****Romans 2:1****10. God judges sin and He judges according to the truth.****Romans 2:2**

A shift takes place in verse 3.

**Romans 2:3**

What happens here? – In chapter 1, Paul was rebuking the heathens and pagans. Now He is rebuking the Jews who were judging the Gentiles.

There were two groups of people in the church at Rome:

- There were Jews who had turned to Jesus from following the Old Testament law.

- There were Gentiles (Romans – non-Jewish) who had turned to Jesus from worshipping false gods.

It was easy for a Jew to point the finger at the person who had been worshipping a false god and judge him.

Paul is saying that the two groups should not be judging each other.

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#### **Romans 2:4**

God is longsuffering.

What does this mean? – God has the ability to put up with a man or woman for a long time!

#### **Romans 2:5**

We need to guard against having a hard heart that comes from being judgmental.

#### **Romans 2:6, 7**

When you are saved, you are washed in the blood of Jesus, and you are justified. You are made righteous.

However, you are expected to do good with your life and glorify God

#### **Romans 2:7**

Definition of PATIENT CONTINUANCE: \_\_\_\_\_

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God's judgment and wrath is poured out on those who do not continue in good works.

#### **Romans 2:8, 9**

Then God says that there is no partiality with Him.

#### **Romans 2:10, 11**

Many do not believe today that God is a judge.

We think that was only in the Old Testament.

But there are things in the New Testament that reveal that side of His character.

## 11. Characteristics of God as a judge

- He is always longsuffering.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- He is always merciful.

### Habakkuk 3:2

- \_\_\_\_\_

He judges according to the truth.

- He judges those who judge others.

### Matthew 7:1-5

**12. The Book of Romans helps bring an understanding of what it means for the Gentile believers to have become a part of Christianity – which began with the Jews.**

### Romans 2:12

This is talking about the Law of Moses.

The people who have never heard of God, have never heard the Bible, have never heard of Jesus, and have never known the law, will still be judged.

Those who have known the Law of Moses will be judged by it.

There are no people in the world so primitive that they do not know right from wrong.

However, the Law of Moses defined right and wrong. The Law of Moses made it clear and made men subject to the law.

Jesus did not do away with the law. \_\_\_\_\_

### Matthew 5:17

The law backs us into a corner.

The law puts us in a position where we have no escape. We realize we have sinned because of the law.

### Romans 2:14

**Romans 2:14 – Message Bible**

*When outsiders who have never heard of God's law follow it more or less by instinct, they confirm its truth by their obedience.*

**Romans 2:15, 16****13. Paul's gospel**

We will be judged according to Paul's gospel.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all had a gospel. But Paul says here that he has a gospel.

Gospel simply means good news.

What is Paul's Gospel?

First, it is important to understand that Paul's gospel is the central theme of the entire New Testament. It is the most important thing you will ever learn as a believer.

**1 Corinthians 9:16, 17**

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In other words, he was commissioned by God to do something.

**Colossians 1:25**

Paul's stewardship was to fulfill (complete) the Word of God.

God gave Paul the responsibility to write most of the New Testament. The New Testament reveals Paul's gospel which is "Christ in you".

**Colossians 1:25-27**