

# **A Study of the Epistle of Paul to the Romans**

**Written AD 58**

Human author. Paul

Divine author. God the Holy Spirit

Key Word: Faith

## **Romans 1**

### **Division I. DOCTRINAL**

**The Righteousness of God is revealed  
in the Gospel: Chapter 1-8**

## **A Devotional Study of the Epistle of Paul to the Romans**

*Dr. Stanford E. Murrell*

***Salutation: Romans 1:1-7***

1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

1:1 Paul considered himself a bondservant of the Lord Jesus Christ. With the Psalmist he could say, “ *O LORD, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds*” (Psa. 116:16).

At his physical birth Paul had been separated from his mother’s womb to be an object of divine favor (Gal. 1:15). At his new birth Paul was set separated from religious works. In time Paul would be separated from the Jewish community to minister to the Gentiles (Acts 26:23).

2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)

1:2 Claiming the prophets promised the gospel was a basic position in Paul's understanding. Before King Agrippa he had made the same point (Acts 26:6).

3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

4 And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

1:3-4 The eternality of Christ is in view in that He is made of the seed of David (v. 3) but declared, not made, the Son of God (v. 4).

The resurrection of Christ from among the dead is essential to the Christian message. 1 Cor 15:14 explains, "*And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.*"

5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

1: 5 Grace is not only unmerited favor, but favor against merit. Paul, having persecuted the church out of ignorance deserved no divine mercy. Nevertheless, an apostleship was given to him so he might make known the gospel unto all nations, to the obedience of the faith for the sake of Christ.

6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1:7 In the divine economy no one becomes a saint by acting in a saintly manner. Rather, by virtue of a divine call to salvation and service every believer is to manifest saintliness.

#### ***Introduction: Romans 1:8-17***

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

#### ***The Purpose of the Epistle: Romans 1:10-12***

10 Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.

11 For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;

12 That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.



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1:10-12 This epistle was written during the journey from Macedonia to Jerusalem, and, according to tradition, at Corinth. The purpose of the epistle is to help Christians understand the salvation they possess by faith in Christ.

13 Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

1:13 Paul would eventually have his prayer answered and arrive in Rome but he would arrive in chains as a political prisoner.

14 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.



***The Theme Stated: Romans 1:16-17***

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.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

1:17 The theme of the Epistle is the righteousness of God revealed and embraced by faith. Habakkuk 2: 4 declares, *“The just shall live by his faith.”* Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews are each based upon this text.

The phrase in Romans 1:17 *“from faith to faith”* is better translated *“out of faith unto faith.”* The gospel of salvation is extended in righteousness by faith to all that believe from the faithfulness of God who justifies sinners (Eph. 2:8-9). Degrees of faith are not in view here for the grand objective of the apostle is to set forth the doctrine of justification or how a person can be righteous in the sight of God. Nor is the faith of God being spoken of, only His faithfulness.

***The Gospel is Needed Romans 1:18-3:20***

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of

men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

1:18 The pagan world is the object of divine wrath for it is without excuse. Having once possessed great knowledge of God men could not stand such intimate knowledge for it made them uncomfortable in their vices. So men invented a myriad of lesser deities and divinities and eventually lost the knowledge of the true God.

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

1:19-20 The sun, moon and stars are silent witnesses to the Divine Mind and the power of the great Creator. The words "*Things that are made,*" translate the single Greek word *poiema* (poy'-ay-mah), from which we get our word "*poem.*" Creation is God's great epic poem of His power. "*Forever singing as they shine, The stars declare, 'The Hand that made us is Divine.'*" In Ephesians 2:10 the same word is found again. "*We are His workmanship*" which is to say the Christian is His "*poem*" created in Christ Jesus unto good works. "*'Twas great to call a world from naught; 'Twas greater to redeem the blood bought.*"

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as

God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Observe the downward spiral of idolatry. God is first visualized as an exalted man, then He is likened to the birds of the heavens, next to the beast that prowls on the earth, and finally to creeping creatures such as reptiles or insects.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that

recompence [reward] of their error which was meet [due].

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate [worthless] mind, to do those things which are not convenient [fit, proper];

Vile expressions of immorality are the natural result of turning from the Holy One. When God gives souls over to a reprobate mind (v. 28) they are confirmed in evil and await certain damnation.

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness [iniquity], fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

# **A Study Guide of the Epistle of Paul to the Romans**

## **Romans 1**

### ***Questions on Romans 1***

1. Who is the human author of the epistle to the Romans?
2. What had God promised by His prophets in the Holy Scripture?
3. How is the eternality of Christ noted and protected?
4. Explain the phrase, “*from faith to faith*” in Romans 1:17.
5. List at least ten of the sins found in Romans 1:23-32.

## **A Study Guide of the Epistle of Paul to the Romans**

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### ***Answers to Romans 1***

1. The apostle Paul.
2. The gospel.
3. Jesus is noted to be made of the seed of David (Rom. 1:3) but He is declared the Son of God (Rom. 1:4).
4. In matchless grace God faithfully saves all who believes in Christ and receives Him as Savior by faith.
5. The sins noted include the following:
  - Changing the glory of God into an exalted man, animal and insect (v. 23).
  - Homosexuality (v. 24-27).
  - Fornication (v. 29).
  - Wickedness (v. 29)
  - Covetousness (v. 29).
  - Maliciousness (v. 29)
  - Envy (v. 29)
  - Debate or strife (v. 29).
  - Deceit (v. 29)
  - Malignity (v. 29)

- Whispers (v. 29)
- Backbiters (v. 30)
- Haters of God (v. 30)
- Despiteful (v. 30).
- Proud (v. 30).
- Boasters (v. 30).
- Inventors of evil (v. 30).
- Disobedient to parents (v. 30).
- Without understanding (v. 31).
- Covenant breakers (v. 31).
- Without natural affection (v. 31)
- Implacable (v. 31)
- Unmerciful (v. 31)
- Have pleasure in others that sin (v. 31)

***Personal Application and Reflection***

1. Write a paragraph of four to five sentences testifying to your salvation experience.
2. List three reasons why you are thankful to God.
3. Share a time when your prayer was answered but in an unexpected way.
4. How can you, like Paul pay your debt to the world by witnessing? In what form will your evangelism take shape?
5. In the list of sins in Romans 1:23-32 if you find any that are convicting because there is secret sin in the soul, will you right now confess, repent and renounce them?