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## Letter to Romans

**Author:** Apostle Paul, earlier known as Saul of Tarsus  
Both their parents were Jew  
Roman Citizen  
Spoke Greek and Hebrew well  
He studied Theology in Tarsus in modern day Turkey and also under Gamliel in Jerusalem.

**Year:** AD 57 from Church in Corinth.  
Paul dictates this letter to Tertius (Romans16:22)  
One of the longest letters written by Apostle Paul, to be precise 7111 words, 433 verses consists of 16 chapters.  
No corrections  
No rebuke  
No crisis or controversy

### **Historical background:**

Paul neither established nor visited this church at all. The church may have been established by the converts by those who were present in the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2: 9-11 and 2:41) Please do note that it's not only Jews but also gentiles were present from Rome.

From the beginning the church had people group of Jewish and Gentiles (non-Jewish). In AD 49 there was a problem between the Jews and the Jews who have accepted the Lord

Jesus Christ. Emperor Claudius who was ruling the Roman Empire asked the entire Jewish population of 40,000 to get out of Rome.

*Acts 18: 1-2, After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth.<sup>2</sup> And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them.*

After all the Jewish people forced to leave Rome the non-Jewish (Gentile) people took over the church.

In AD 54 Nero became the Emperor of Rome after the death of Claudius then he asked the Jewish people to come back for the prosperity of his Kingdom.

When the Jews returned now they encounter another problem. The existing Church has leaders from the Non-Jewish they were making it difficult for the Jewish people to be part of the church. There is a clear difference between Gentile Christians who were leaders and the Jewish Christians.

The Gentile Christians felt that God had rejected His chosen people, Jews and thus they were not willing to be one with Jewish Christian brothers.

When Apostle Paul in Corinth hears about this problem even though he wants to visit them but he did not want to lose time. Romans 15: 22-29.

Also in Romans 1:11-13 he wants to see them in person and impart spiritual gifts to them. Yet he is writing a letter to

them to stress the importance of being one church made of the Jews, chosen generation of God, and Gentile Christians.

This is why Apostle Paul writes this letter in a very different way. He uses the first chapter to greet and then he takes the whole last chapter of 16 to greet all the leaders. He mentions over 24 names in this chapter. So he wants them to show that he knows a lot of them so that they will understand his advice.

Apostle Paul wants to drive the theme in chapters 9 to 11 to do that he goes through the theological points for the first 8 chapters.

Romans can be divided into three major parts

1. Presentation of the gospel (chapters 1-8),
2. The place of Israel in God's plan (chapters 9-11)
3. Advice for Christian living (chapters 12-15).

**The following theological points are Not there in the book of Romans:**

Kingdom of God (except one verse)

Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ

Second coming of Jesus Christ

Church

Communion

Heaven and Hell

Born again

God being the Father

**Repentance**

I would like to mention very clearly that here are so many erroneous teaching comes out of this book because people don't understand that this is not the full gospel preached by Apostle Paul preached elsewhere in the churches. Main theme missing in this book is Repentance.

Given below is the summary of things preached by Apostle Paul preached in other churches.

**Acts 17:30**, *Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to **repent**,*

**Acts 20:21**, *testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, **repentance** toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Acts 26:20**, *but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting **repentance**.*

Paul uses the following words more in this letter to Romans.

God 153 Times

Christ 65 Times

Lord 43 Times

Law 72 Times

Sin 48 Times

Faith 40 Times

## **Key Theme in this letter is Righteousness!**

Other main theological points in this book are

Justification (5:1)

Sanctification (6:1-13)

Propitiation (3:23-25)

Imputation (4:6-8)

Glorification (8:16-23)

Preservation (8:35-39)

Supplication (8:26-27)

Transformation (12:1-2)

## **Erroneous Teaching out of Romans:**

1. Predestination
2. Doctrine of Election
3. Israel is rejected by God
4. Replacement Theology
5. Hyper Grace

Romans **chapter 1** talks about the homosexual in both gender, do you know why? Out of the 15 Roman emperors 14 of them were practiced homosexuality.

Sin is the problem of all the human kind. There is no difference between Gentiles and Jew. Gentiles are sinners so does the Jewish.

**Chapter 2** Paul goes on to explain the sinner being justified, so here is the theme of justification. He says that the Jews are justified by faith so does the gentiles. Paul explains that both Jews and Gentiles need the gospel to everyone needs salvation, or rescue from judgment. Although some Jews claimed to have an advantage in salvation, Paul explains that

Jews are not immune to sin and judgment. Everyone is saved in the same way. So how do people become right with God?

**Chapter 3** Paul declares that the righteousness from God, a righteousness that is given “through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe” (3:22). Believers are justified or saved by faith, not by observing the law (3:28).

Paul, answers to the question that the law is wrong? “By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law” (3:31) The law was designed to lead people to the gospel, and the gospel does not nullify the law in the same way that the Messiah does not nullify the prophecies that predicted his coming. Rather, he fulfils them. Similarly, the gospel fulfils the law, brings it to completion, and accomplishes what the law could only point at.

**Chapter 4** Paul announced that the gospel is a message about the righteousness of God being given to people because of Jesus Christ.

Paul described the problem: Everyone deserves to die because we all fall short of what God wants.

Paul described the solution: The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

It is a gift, not a result of us keeping laws. Paul proves this with the example of Abraham, who was declared righteous by God on the basis of faith before the laws were given. Salvation is by grace and faith, not by law or works.

**Chapter 5** Paul says that Christ saved us even while we were sinners. We are saved by grace, not by keeping the law. God’s grace is always larger than our sin.

That we are reconciled by the blood of Jesus Christ. The fall of Adam brought all mankind into sin and death. The grace of God, through the righteousness of Christ, has more power to bring salvation, than Adam's sin had to bring misery, as grace did super abound.

**Chapter 6** Paul deals with the gentiles have problem with the Gospel. If grace is so easy, should we bother to change our ways? Whenever the gospel is clearly presented, this question comes up. If all our sins are so easily forgiven, why worry about sin? Should we continue to sin?

So when you have received the gospel you have the freedom but don't you realise that you were dead to sin. So do not use the gospel as a license to sin.

**Chapter 7** Paul deals with Jews about their legalism of keeping the law to be right with God. He uses himself to say how he could not keep all the law especially the last commandment of covetousness. So legalism cannot get the Jews to be right with God.

Paul clarifies the relationship between law and sin in this chapter by giving us an analogy from marriage, and he speaks to the Jewish believers, because they are the ones who are most concerned about the law.

**Chapter 8** Liberty of the spirit both Jew and Gentile have the liberty to live life in Christ Jesus through the liberty in the spirit.

Israel in God's Plan is the next three chapters from 9 to 11

## **Chapter 9**

### **Israel's Rejection - Past**

God's Sovereign Choice to Show Mercy

God's Gracious Election of Israel

Israel's Present State

God's Anger and Mercy

God Chose People Who Are Not Jewish

## **Chapter 10**

### **Israel's Rejection of the Message - Present**

The Righteousness of God through Faith In Christ

The Message of Salvation to All

## **Chapter 11**

### **All Israel to Be Saved - Future**

A Remnant of Israel Remains

Gentile Branches Grafted In

Israel's Rejection Not Final

**Chapter 12** In the previous chapters the main emphasis in the book was why we need a Saviour and how we can accept Him. However, this chapter begins to deal with how a Christian ought to live out his salvation.

Understand who you are. You are not the one who saved you, Christ is. Each one of us have been placed by Christ into His body of believers. This is done as a whole unit of Christians in the body of Christ, but also in smaller units we call the local church. A church functions properly when its members, with different spiritual gifts, exercise those gifts in a way that honours Christ.

Giving guiding principles for the Christian life:

- A) Love
- B) Godly Character
- C) Thoughtfulness
- D) Dealing with enemies

**Chapter 13** Paul explains in State and in society of the Christians. Paul commands the Roman Christians to submit to civil authority because God has appointed that authority. Because the civil authorities will punish those who resist them and praise and do good to them that obey. The reason the Roman Christians pay taxes is because God has appointed the state to receive taxes and they persist in collecting them.

**Chapter 14** Paul tells both the Jews and Gentiles how they should accept each other in observing the daily living. First he talks about the food, Jews considered certain food as unholy whereas Gentile had no problem with that.

Jews were observing Sabbath whereas the Gentile were observing first day of the week.

Paul urges both Jews and Gentiles to be united in Love.

**Chapter 15** Paul tells both the group to bear one another burdens so that they can work together as one. By becoming and observing as one they will be able to glorify God in their life. Also Paul confirms his ministry of how he accomplished with Signs and wonders

**Chapter 16** Paul gives his personal greetings to almost 24 people whom he names them!

Old Testament passages quoted by Paul in the book of Romans over 85 verses. 57 verses he quotes directly.

1. Rom 1:17	Hab 2:4
2. Rom 1:22	Jer 10:14
3. Rom 2:6	Pro 24:12
4. Rom 2:6	Psa 62:12
5. Rom 2:11	Deu 10:17
6. Rom 2:11	Job 34:19
7. Rom 2:24	Isa 52:5
8. Rom 2:24	Eze 36:20
9. Rom 3:4	Psa 116:11
10. Rom 3:4	Psa 51:4
11. Rom 3:8	Jer 17:6
12. Rom 3:10, 11, 12	Psa 14:1
13. Rom 3:13	Psa 5:9
14. Rom 3:13	Psa 140:3
15. Rom 3:14	Psa 10:7
16. Rom 3:15-18	Isa 59:7, 8
17. Rom 3:18	Psa 36:1
18. Rom 4:3	Gen 15:6
19. Rom 4:7, 8	Psa 32:1, 2
20. Rom 4:11	Gen 17:10
21. Rom 4:17	Gen 17:5
22. Rom 4:18	Gen 15:5
23. Rom 7:7	Exd 20:17
24. Rom 7:7	Deu 5:21
25. Rom 8:36	Psa 44:22
26. Rom 9:7	Gen 21:12
27. Rom 9:9	Gen 18:10
28. Rom 9:12	Gen 25:23
29. Rom 9:13	Mal 1:2, 3
30. Rom 9:15	Exd 33:19
31. Rom 9:17	Exd 9:16
32. Rom 9:20	Isa 45:9

33. Rom 9:21	Jer 18:6
34. Rom 9:25	Hsa 2:23
35. Rom 9:26	Hsa 1:10
36. Rom 9:27, 28	Isa 10:22, 23
37. Rom 9:29	Isa 1:9
38. Rom 9:33	Isa 8:14
39. Rom 9:33	Isa 28:16
40. Rom 10:5	Lev 18:5
41. Rom 10:5	Eze 20:11
42. Rom 10:6, 7	Deu 30:12, 13
43. Rom 10:8	Deu 30:14
44. Rom 10:11	Isa 28:16
45. Rom 10:13	Joe 2:32
46. Rom 10:15	Isa 52:7
47. Rom 10:15	Nah 1:15
48. Rom 10:16	Isa 53:1
49. Rom 10:18	Psa 19:4
50. Rom 10:19	Deu 32:21
51. Rom 10:20, 21	Isa 65:1, 2
52. Rom 11:1	Psa 94:14
53. Rom 11:3	1Ki 19:10, 14
54. Rom 11:4	1Ki 19:18
55. Rom 11:8	Isa 29:10
56. Rom 11:8	Isa 6:9
57. Rom 11:9, 10	Psa 69:22, 23
58. Rom 11:26, 27	Isa 59:20, 21
59. Rom 11:34	Isa 40:13
60. Rom 11:35	Job 41:11
61. Rom 12:9	Amo 5:15
62. Rom 12:16	Isa 5:21
63. Rom 12:16	Pro 3:7
64. Rom 12:19	Deu 32:35
65. Rom 12:20	Pro 25:21, 22
66. Rom 13:9	Exd 20:13, 17
67. Rom 13:9	Deu 5:16-21

68. Rom 13:9	Lev 19:18
69. Rom 14:11	Isa 45:23
70. Rom 15:3	Psa 69:9
71. Rom 15:9	Psa 18:49
72. Rom 15:10	Deu 32:43
73. Rom 15:11	Psa 117:1
74. Rom 15:12	Isa 11:1, 10
75. Rom 15:21	Isa 52:15

The letter concludes with an appeal to the readers to work out their Christian faith in practical ways, both in the church and in the world. None of Paul's other letters states so profoundly the content of the gospel and its implications for both the present and the future.

Special Characteristics.Â Widespread use of OT quotations. Although Paul regularly quotes from the OT in his letters, in Romans the argument is sometimes carried along by such quotations (see especially chs. 9 - 11). Deep concern for Israel.