

# Book of Romans



AN OVERVIEW

# Agenda



- Romans Quiz
- Introduction of Romans
- Overview
- Major Themes
- Conclusion
- Practical Application



# Rome – Historical background



- Founded in 753 BC by twin sons, Romulus and Remus
- Rule shifted from a monarchy, to a republic, and then to an empire
- By the first century BC, the Roman empire spanned from England to Africa and Syria to Spain
- In Paul's time, about 1 million people lived in Rome
- It was a huge marketplace where trade and travel was unhindered

# Introduction



- The apostle Paul is the author
- He who wrote the epistle at about A.D. 56 when he was in Corinth
- The letter is approximately 7,114 words in length, making it the longest epistle he wrote to a church

# Introduction



- **Characteristics**

- It is one of two letters Paul wrote where he did not have personal dealings with the church (the other is Colossians)
- It has a treatise embedded in the personal letter
- Therefore this letter is less personal than his other ones

# Introduction



- **The recipients**
  - To a local church in Rome, made up of Jews and Gentiles
  - Thought to have been started by Jews and Gentiles, who became believers either from the time of Pentecost or early in the church's history, who migrated to Rome, though not much is known about the leadership or elders of the time
  - Are commended for their faith (Romans 1:8) and obedience (16:19)

# Introduction



- **Purpose**

- To commend their faith (Romans 1:8)
- Let them know of his hope to visit them personally (1:9-13)
- Gain their support in a planned visit to Spain (15:23, 24)
- To ensure they were firmly grounded in the Gospel
- To provide rich doctrinal teaching and practical application

# Introduction



- **Key Doctrines**
  - Sin and Judgement
  - Justification by Faith
  - Sanctification and Glorification
  - Adoption
  - Perseverance
  - Predestination and Election

# Overview



Our Problem	God's Solution	Our Response		
<p>1:1-17 Greetings and Thesis: The Gospel of Righteousness by Faith</p> <p>1:18-32 Immoral Gentiles Are Guilty</p> <p>2:1-16 Moral Gentiles Are Guilty</p> <p>2:17-3:8 Jews Are Guilty</p> <p>3:9-20 We Are All Guilty</p> <p>3:21-31 Justified by Grace, through Faith</p> <p>4 Example: Abraham Justified by Faith</p> <p>5:1-11 The Benefits of Justification</p> <p>5:12-21 Condemned in Adam, Justified in Christ</p>	<p>6 Dead to Sin, Alive to God</p> <p>7 Freedom from Bondage to the Law</p> <p>8:1-17 Life in the Spirit</p> <p>8:18-30 Glory in the Spirit</p> <p>9:1-29 Past: God Glorified in Israel's Election</p> <p>9:30-10:21 Present: Israel Set Aside Because of Unbelief</p> <p>11 Future: Israel Restored by Grace</p>	<p>12:1-2 Loving Everyone, Including Enemies</p> <p>12:9-21 Offering Yourself as a Sacrifice</p> <p>12:3-8 Church and State</p> <p>13:1-7 Stronger and Weaker Christians</p> <p>13:8-14 The Law of Love</p> <p>14:1-15:13 Paul's Plan for the Future</p> <p>15:14-33 Closing Doxology</p> <p>16:1-24 Final Greetings</p> <p>16:25-27 Closing Doxology</p>		
<b>Sin</b>	<b>Salvation</b>	<b>Sanctification</b>	<b>Sovereignty</b>	<b>Service</b>
Total Depravity	Justification by Faith	Sanctification through the Spirit	Election by Grace	Reformation of the Church and Society
God's Holiness in Condemning Sin	God's Grace in Justifying Sinners	God's Power in Sanctifying Believers	God's Sovereignty in Saving Jews and Gentiles	God's Glory in Our Obedience
God's Righteousness Revealed in Wrath	God's Righteousness Imputed	God's Righteousness Obeyed	God's Righteousness in Election	God's Righteousness Demonstrated
The Need of Salvation	The Way of Salvation	The Life of Salvation	The Scope of Salvation	The Service of Salvation

**ROMANS**  
AN OUTLINE OF

# Overview



- **Justification by Faith Alone is Necessary (1:1-3:20)**
  - “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith’.” (Romans 1:16-17)
  - Paul summarizes this gospel as being a righteousness or justification that is by faith

# Overview



- **Justification by Faith Alone is Necessary (1:1-3:20)**
  - The first three chapters of Romans are crucial for understanding our greatest problem and greatest need
  - “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” (Romans 1:18-20)
  - We are not merely ignorant of God, we HATE Him

# Overview



- **Justification by Faith Alone is Necessary (1:1-3:20)**
  - Who is the wrath of God being revealed to?
    - ✦ The ungodly
    - ✦ The ones who do good in seeking glory
  - Justification by faith alone is necessary because no one can be justified by their works
    - ✦ “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one” (3:9-12)

# Overview



- **Justification by Faith Alone is Sufficient (3:21-28)**
  - Any attempt at justification before God that does not go through Christ will result in frustration today and separation from God eternally
  - Since our sins are against an infinitely holy God, only Christ's sacrifice will be sufficient

# Overview



- **Justification by faith alone did not begin in the New Testament (4)**
  - Does justification by faith alone tie in with the Old Testament teachings? YES!
  - Abraham was justified the moment that he believed the promise of God, the moment he had faith
  - Thus his righteousness must have come not from himself, but in fact, from God

# Overview



- **The benefits of Justification by faith alone in Christ (5)**
  - Paul gives consideration to the benefits we have in Christ:
    - ✦ We are Justified (5:1)
    - ✦ We have peace with God (5:1)
    - ✦ We have access to His grace which preserves us (5:2)
    - ✦ We have hope of glory (5:2)
    - ✦ We are able to have an attitude of rejoicing even in suffering (5:3)
    - ✦ We experience the love of God poured out into our hearts (5:5)
    - ✦ We are saved from God's wrath (5:9)
    - ✦ We are reconciled to God (5:10)

# Overview



- **The benefits of Justification by faith alone in Christ (5)**
  - Are these benefits for certain ethnic groups or peoples?
  - “For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous” (5:19)
  - You think it is unfair that one sin brought condemnation, how gracious is God to allow many trespasses to be covered through the act of one man, Jesus Christ

# Overview



- **Justification by faith alone but justifying faith is never alone (6-8)**
  - That we are now justified by faith alone, does that give us a license to continue sinning? NO!
  - Justification by faith leads to a more righteous life
  - We have died to sin so that we might live a new and wonderful life with Jesus Christ as Lord.

# Overview



- **Justification by faith alone but justifying faith is never alone (6-8)**
  - Though we are dead to sin, we will still continue to sin, though there is hope of final victory for all who believe
  - The struggle within sin (the flesh) is ongoing, but the hope is in the Spirit, who gives us the strength to live as God has called us
  - This what is called progressive sanctification

# Overview



- **Justification by faith alone but justifying faith is never alone (6-8)**
  - These three chapters teach how we are to become more holy while on earth
  - Once we die, we will reach the state of glorification
  - In the chain of redemption, we see that God works without fail to redeem for himself a people
  - Chapter 7&8 holds out to us the most marvelous assurance of salvation

# Overview



- **Justification of God to man (9-11)**
  - The focus of justification by faith alone now shifts to an important question:
    - ✦ Does God really keep his promises about salvation?
  - Paul addresses this for the Jewish Christian starting in chapter 9:6-7
  - God's promises are kept to all who depend upon him in faith

# Overview



- **Justification of God to man (9-11)**
  - A few guidelines when considering this difficult topic:
    - ✦ God has the right to save some and no others (9:-19-21)
    - ✦ In both condemnation and salvation, God reveals both His justice and His mercy (9:22-24a)
    - ✦ God has not changed his way of dealing with people and continues to maintain a remnant (10:9-13)
  - Paul's justification of God in the eyes sinners comes down to a simple declaration of the power, the purposes, and prerogatives of God as God

# Overview

- **Justification by faith alone produces renewed lives and relationships (12-16)**
  - Paul finishes the book with practical outworking of Gospel truth
  - How we live Individually
    - ✦ We are to live lives in the Spirit, characterized by freedom and victory over sin and governed by the Spirit of God
  - How we live civically
    - ✦ To live in submission to the authorities established by God
  - Corporately within in the church
    - ✦ We are to think of others more highly than we think of ourselves and we are to accept one another

# Overview



- **Justification by faith alone produces renewed lives and relationships (12-16)**
  - Paul urges the church to do the following:
    - ✦ To contribute to his missionary efforts (15:23-29)
    - ✦ To pray for him (15:30-32)
    - ✦ To avoid false doctrines and those who cause divisions (16:17-20)
  - Paul states that those who have been justified by faith alone demonstrate all the above qualities and that is what our mark in life should be

# Major Themes in Romans



- Sin and Salvation
- Grace
- Righteousness
- Faith
- The Gospel
- The Church

# Conclusion



- How does this apply to your life?
- Use it to dwell on the glory of justification by faith alone
  - This isn't part of our faith, it IS our faith
- Make sure that you see how this entire book pieces together
  - Our sin, God's grace, God's choice, our life together, hang together as one divinely inspired letter to Christ's church

# Bibliography



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