

4. Introduction to Romans

1. Introduction

- 1) Author: The Apostle Paul (Romans 1:1)
 - 2) Recipients: All the saints in Rome who are loved by God (Romans 1:7)
 - 3) Date of Writing: Around A.D. 56–58
 - 4) Place of Writing: Corinth
 - 5) Purpose of Writing:
 - (1) To systematically explain the truth of the gospel
 - (2) To demonstrate that both Jews and Gentiles are under the same grace
 - (3) To prepare for missionary cooperation with the Roman church (Spain mission)
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2. Historical Background

- 1) The church in Rome was not founded by Paul. It likely began with believers who scattered after Pentecost.
 - 2) Conflict existed between Jewish and Gentile Christians, especially after Emperor Claudius expelled the Jews from Rome. When they returned, tensions intensified.
 - 3) Paul addresses this issue by emphasizing the essence of the gospel and the righteousness of God.
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3. Outline of Romans

Section	Summary	Core Theme
1:1–17	Introduction	The Gospel: Righteousness of God revealed
1:18–3:20	Sin of Humanity	All—Jews and Gentiles—are under sin
3:21–5:21	Justification	Righteousness through faith
6:1–8:39	Sanctification	Life freed from sin, led by the Spirit
9:1–11:36	Israel	God's sovereignty and plan of salvation
12:1–15:13	Practical Application	New life: Relationship with God and others
15:14–16:27	Conclusion	Paul's mission plans, greetings, doxology

4. Theological Themes

1) The Gospel

- (1) It is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes (Rom. 1:16)

2) The Righteousness of God

- (1) Righteousness is not earned through works, but granted through faith
- (2) Justification comes not through the Law but by believing in Jesus Christ

3) Justification

- (1) To be declared righteous by faith alone
- (2) Illustrated through the example of Abraham (Romans 4)

4) Sanctification

- (1) Life in the Spirit: dead to sin
- (2) Arive to righteousness (Romans 6–8)

5) God's Sovereignty

- (1) God's plan of salvation for both Israel and the Gentiles(Romans 9–11)

6) Practical Ethics

- (1) Living as a living sacrifice, loving others, and proper attitude toward authorities (Romans 12–13)

5. Significance of Romans

1) Personal Transformation:

A key turning point for many reformers and theologians—Augustine, Martin Luther, John Wesley, and more

2) Doctrinal Foundation:

Romans forms the theological bedrock of Christian doctrine—justification, righteousness, the work of the Spirit

3) Missionary Blueprint:

Clarifies the gospel message to be proclaimed to all nations

6. Conclusion

- 1) Romans is like the constitution of Paul's gospel and the heart of Christian theology.

2) Theology is not mere theory—it is life. And Romans proclaims the gospel of life.

3) Key Verse:

“For in the gospel the righteousness of 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 1:17)

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