

ROMANS: “Transformed by Grace”

Introduction (Rom. 1:15-17)

What is the most epic book you have ever read? The most impactful movie? (Old Yeller; Gone w/ Wind/Casa Blanca/Les Miserables/Braveheart) Why was it epic/impactful? Was it b/c of characters you identified with? Powerfully moving story? True story? Underdog wins??

The Book of Romans has said to have been the most important theological work ever written I have waited for seven years to teach this book to our church. (Revelation) Now is the time:

*Who we are: **Mission** = “Loving God and Others while making disciples of all people”

Vision: “Thirsty Souls restored, Lives changed, & Joyful people worshipping Jesus Christ”

Values: 1. God’s Word; 2. Prayer; 3. Family; 4. Service; 5. Unity

=A Church learning to care deeply for souls (**Soul Care**) = learning the **One Another**s of Scrip

=A Church raising up **Leaders** to lead themselves, spouses, families, church, & community

=A Church committed to the mission of God: b/c of God’s heart of RESCUE = ON Mission/souls

*NOW = what do we believe about God, His Nature, His Purposes, His Calling, His Glory

-In the Book of Romans, we see Paul lay out a spectacular story of God’s Grace toward humanity

The Book of Romans has had a HUGE impact on the Church throughout history:

READ Romans 1:15-17:

“¹⁵ So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it [gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith (by faith toward faith or *faith from first to last*); as it is written:

“But the righteous *one* will live by faith (*the one who is righteous will live by faith*).”

*These simple, yet profound words have changed lives for two thousand years:

-**Augustine** (400’s) **Doubt** haunted him. *Tolle Lege* Rom. 13:13 “Clothe yourself w/ Lord Jesus” = St. Augustine became the most prolific writer & influential thinker in the first thousand yrs of ch’s history,

-**Martin Luther** (1500’s) **Guilt** haunted him. Monk. Wore out his confessors. Univ. =Dr. Luther In Romans 1:17, Paul writes, “For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last.” This text presented young Martin with an inescapable dilemma. God demands perfect righteousness of us, and Luther knew he did not have it. But soon Luther's eyes were drawn to another line in the same verse. The “righteous will live by faith.” *What God demands of us under the law, is exactly that which God freely gives us in the gospel.* Luther’s search for peace was finally over, saved, & the **Reformation was underway.**

-John Wesley (1700’s) 10yrs guilt of sin; Moravian service Aldersgate It was there that Wesley heard read aloud the Preface from Luther's Commentary on Romans. Wesley noted that “I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt that I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation.”

-Karl Barth (1900’s) In an age when the anti-supernaturalism of Protestant liberalism threatened to bury the church in an avalanche of unbelief, one commentary on Paul’s Epistle to the Romans, almost single- handedly recovered the discipline of Biblical-theology and began to reverse the liberal tide.

Ander Nygren: “The history of the Christian church is consequently witness to the fact that the Epistle to the Romans has in a peculiar way been able to supply the impulse for the renewal of Christianity. When man has slipped away from the gospel, a deep study of Romans has often been the means by which the lost has been recovered.”

Since the Book of Romans speaks with such clarity and power about the gospel, this ancient letter virtually comes alive, especially in those periods when that gospel is lost, obscured, confused, or neglected. We need to read, meditate upon, & understand Rom. Now more th. ever

John Calvin once commented, “If we understand this epistle, we have a passage open to us to the understanding of the whole of Scripture.” Calvin said this because Romans contains over sixty citations from the Old Testament, the most of any New Testament book.

Therefore, if we understand Paul’s letter to the Romans, we have a compass to navigate our way through the rest of Holy Scripture.

CONTEXT: Paul writes this letter from Greece in 55AD (22 yrs after the Res. of Jesus). Paul writes to the scattered house churches in Rome and deals with specific questions they had asked. Thus, as awesome as Romans is, it is **NOT** a systematic treatment/theology of the Faith

How did Paul know to write such intricate New Testament Theology?

- Radically Saved on road to Damascus Acts 9 (killer to Believer) = confused, but passionate!
- Radical shift to his theology (most everything he believed about God was wrong)
- God Himself taught Paul his theology (Seminary was in heaven) **2 Cor. 12:2-4** “I know a man in Christ, who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a man was caught up to the third heaven. ³ And I know how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴ was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.”

***Galatians 1:1, 11-19** “Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through human agency, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead), **VS. 11:** For I would have you know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel which was preached by me is not of human invention. ¹² For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³ For you have heard of my former way of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it; ¹⁴ and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions. ¹⁵ But when He who had set me apart even from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus. ¹⁸ Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him for fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I did not see another one of the apostles except James, the Lord’s brother.”

How did Believers get to Rome? How as the church born there?

Acts 2:10 “visitors from Rome”

Jewish born Romans, now Christians, who are leading the church full of Gentiles/Romans

THESIS (Idea) of Romans: **RIGHTEOUSNESS**. Righteousness is God’s way for us to be in right **relationship** with Himself, People, and Creation. = right standing before a holy God. ****BEAR** How is a guilty sinner made right before a holy, righteous, and all-consuming God? How could broken, sinful, enemies of God gain right standing before the perfect Creator of the Universe? (Works? Being Good? Baptized? Law? Trusting in the church?) =For 2000 years, Christians & non-Christians alike trying to answer:

Rom. 5:1 “Therefore having been justified BY FAITH, we now have peace w/God thru our L.J.C”

Rom 1:17 (NLT) “This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.” God changes our lives by His grace, thru FAITH – NOT works/law

****Paradigm shift:** (Jewish to Christian) = Dispensation of LAW VS. Dispensation of Grace

5 Themes Throughout Book of Romans

- A. Justification by faith** (Romans 1-4) *READ **Rom. 3:21-24** “But now apart ^[d]from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been revealed, being witnessed by the ^[d]Law and the Prophets, ²² but *it is the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those ^[d]who believe; for there is no distinction,²³ for all ^[s]have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus
 - B. Union with Christ** (Romans 6-8) = Sanctification (being conformed to Christ’s image)
 - C. Predestination and Free Will** (Romans 9-11)
 - D. The Fate of the Jews;** the remnant; the summation of Covenant Theology/Replacement Th.
 - E. What does a Messianic Jew do with the Law?** What does a pagan convert do w/old practices
 - F. What about Gray areas of life/hard choices?** (Rom. 12-14)/ & **Legalism VS. Antinomianism** (Gray areas: To drink alcohol/not? Rated R movies? Music? Vape/smoke? Visit temples/mosq?)
- *****Romans ROAD:** How to lead someone to salvation using 5 key verses in Romans
(**Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9-10; 10:13** & 1 John 5:13)