

# The Book of Romans

## The Introduction

*Romans 1:1-7*

### The Importance of the Book of Romans

#### Not Problem-Solving

Unlike many of the other letters in the New Testament Paul's letter to the believers at Rome functioned as a treatise of the faith. Here is found in its fullest form the substance of our faith. (Life changing book for people such as Augustine, Martin Luther, John Wesley, John Bunyan, and more.)

#### Key Passage

*Romans 1:16-17*

### Outline of Romans

Our Need for the Gospel	<i>Romans 1:1-3:20</i>
The Basis of our Acceptance	<i>Romans 3:21-5:11</i>
The Method of our Acceptance	<i>Romans 5:12-19</i>
The New Heart	<i>Romans 6</i>
The Function of the Law	<i>Romans 7</i>
The Spirit in the Believer's Life	<i>Romans 8</i>
God's Plan for Israel	<i>Romans 9-11</i>
Practical Stuff	<i>Romans 12-16</i>

### Authorship

#### The Claim of Romans

Romans itself claims to be written by Paul. *Romans 1:1*

#### Testimony of Early Church

There is no evidence in early church history of anyone questioning Paul's authorship of Romans.

### Historical Setting

*3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey, Corinth, around AD 57*

- In *Romans 15:14-33* Paul states that he is planning on coming to Rome after he has finished his present work and has gone to Jerusalem. He plans on stopping at Rome on his way to Spain.
- Paul has already collected the offering for Jerusalem.
- Paul's references to Phoebe of Cenchrea, this city was located about 6 miles from Corinth, *Romans 16:1* and Gaius *Romans 16:23* who may have been the same man as mentioned in *1 Corinthians 1:14*.

### Paul

*Jesus Hater to Jesus Lover*

#### Paul's Background

*Acts 22, 26:5, Philippians 3:4-6* (originally named Saul, after the first king of Israel - a man after the flesh)

#### Paul's Conversion

*Acts 9, Galatians 1:11-22* (Name changed to Paul, meaning "little"- fitting as this proud man was humbled under the mighty hand of God)

## Servant of Jesus Christ

### OT Setting

- The concept of the willing servant or bond-slave as found in *Deuteronomy 15:12-17*.

A bondservant is a slave whose will is swallowed up in the will of one's master. Paul is bought and owned and ruled by Jesus Christ. Christians are slaves of Christ. He bought us by dying for us and therefore, He owns us. *1 Cor. 6:19-20* Because of our changed heart, the believer serves as an expression of love through inner desire, not outward constraint.

Being a bond-servant of Christ means utter submission to do what pleases Him - not what pleases anybody else (*i.e. Gal. 1:10; 1 Cor. 7:23*)

- Abraham, the believer, is described as a servant of the Lord. *Genesis 26:24*

Abraham's will was definitely swallowed up in the will of his Lord - even to the point of offering "up his only begotten son." (*Gen. 22; Heb. 11:17-19*) He so trusted God - in His goodness and wisdom and power - that he anticipated some great and wonderful work. Therefore, He joyfully submitted himself to "YWWH Yireh" and stepped out in obedience, giving glory to God (*Rom. 4:20-21*).

### Radical Nature of our Faith

*Romans 11:33-36*

To be a believer is to embrace God for who he is. Servanthood is a natural extension of believing in the living God.

God's glory does not reflect brightly in the hearts of men and women when they cower unwillingly in submission to His authority, or when they obey reluctantly, or when there is no gladness in response to the glory of their King. The only submission that fully reflects the worth and glory of the King is glad submission. (*1 John 4:19, 5:3; Matt. 25:14-30*) True worship is a response to true views of God (*John 4:24*).

Such faith comes out of a new heart. This is the essence of being "born again." Being born again is not a theological label, but it is a reality where sinners are transformed from people who seek "self-esteem" to people who esteem Christ! *John 3:3; John 1:12-13; Eph. 2:1-3; Jude 19; 1 Cor. 2:14; Ezek. 36:25-27; 37.*