

# The Book of Romans

## The Introduction

*Romans 1:1-7*

### Promise and Fulfillment

*Romans 1:1c-2*

We have seen how Christ called apostles to represent Him and speak for Him and to provide a foundation for His church through their writings - the New Testament Scriptures. The New Testament apostolic message is "*the gospel*" - the gospel of God Himself. The gospel of God is the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises. What God was planning and preparing then, He fulfilled in the coming of Christ. *Luke 24:25-27, 44-45; Luke 1:67-79; Acts 26:22-23; Eph. 3:3-11; Col. 2:16-17; Heb. 9:9-10*

God can be trusted. He keeps His promises. He brings them to fulfillment in greater and more glorious ways than we could have ever dreamed. *1 Cor. 2:7-10* It had never come into the heart of man just how God would fulfill the promises made "*through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures.*" Man looked for a "carnal" fulfillment. God's way was much higher and far more glorious (Isa. 55:8-9). Most of the Jewish people in Paul's day expected that the Messiah would come with power and political sway. They assumed he would defeat the oppressive rulers of the world (the Romans) and establish an earthly kingdom in Jerusalem and give Israel the preeminence. But Jesus died. He was arrested, beat up, mocked, and crucified. What kind of deliverer was this? A GREAT ONE!!!

Notice that it says "through" His prophets. These writings are holy - separate from all other writings - God-breathed (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

### The Gospel of God Concerns His Son

*Romans 1:3-4*

- *David's Son ...*

The Son of God existed before He became a human being. *Rom. 9:5; Col. 2:9; Matt. 22:41-46.* The Son humbled Himself in becoming a man - to die as the promised Lamb of God (Phil. 2:5-11).

He was born in the line of King David. He was the promised Messiah - that Anointed One who would bring in God's kingdom and rule as king in the line of David. He would conquer the enemies of God's people and bring in righteousness and peace forever. He would be the "yes" to all God's promises. *2 Cor. 1:20; 1 Chron. 17:10-14; 2 Sam. 7:11-13* Through the cross Jesus gained His great victory and brought in the promised Kingdom!

- *... and David's Lord ...*

Acts 2:29-36! The term "*with power*" refers to authority (i.e. Matt. 28:18). He has been raised up to David's throne at the right hand of God on high. God was satisfied with the finished work of Christ. As a result, Jesus has been exalted as the reigning Lord of all. *Jer. 23:5-6; Isa. 11:10-11; 25:9-12*

Isa. 35:10 - The coming of the Son of God as the Son of David would mean everlasting joy in the presence of God for all the ransomed of the Lord. The gospel of God is the good news that the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is here. The Lord reigns! Repent and believe the gospel!

Thus we see that salvation is first and foremost a Person (Matt. 11:28-29; John 6:37; John 1:12). It is not simply receiving a set of facts. Jesus must be received as the Lord that He is. Many people are surprised when we tell them that the Bible nowhere talks about "asking Jesus into your heart," or "accepting Jesus as your personal Savior." Christ is not offered to us in the Bible as only a Savior. He is heralded to us as the Lord who is, by virtue of His finished work, a sufficient Savior. The apostles never offered Christ's saving benefits apart from His Lordship. Man does not set the terms on which God will save him. Salvation is not on man's terms, for man is an enemy of the King - a traitor - a rebel in His kingdom. Thus, man is in no position to bargain. Jesus is Lord and thus, the call goes out, "Repent!"

At the heart of sin is rebellion to the rightful claims of Christ as Lord (1 John 3:4; Matt. 7:21-23). The gospel of the apostles demands that man must repent from that rebellion before there can be true forgiveness. The problem is not merely that sinners refuse to believe certain things are true, but rather, it is their refusal to bow their heart and life in allegiance and faith to the Lord that those truths set forth. Man's greatest problem is not ignorance, but rebellion (Ps. 2).

Christ is everyone's Lord right now. We do not "make" Christ Lord. We merely acknowledge gratefully, gladly, and willingly, what is already true. We submit in repentance and faith to the Christ who is the all powerful Lord (Acts 2:36; 17:30-31; John 5:22). God has highly exalted Christ and has put you in His hands. The issue is not you accepting Christ, but His acceptance of you that matters.

2 Cor. 4:5-6 - When Jesus went to Lazarus in the tomb, did He say, "Lazarus, I have a deal for you. If you take the first step, then I'll grant you life"? Salvation is of the Lord. Don't point a sinner away from God and God's power to himself and his own ability and say, "Now it's up to you." I'm glad that is not true. We do not tell sinners that their only hope is in themselves. We want them thrown to the ground in utter hopelessness and tell them, "Your only hope is the grace of God. You'd better call on Him!" Jesus, the powerful Lord, is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him. The ground of our hope is not what we do but what He's done. Look unto Jesus and be saved (Isa. 45:22-23).

### **The Spirit of Holiness Testifies of Christ's Exaltation**

*Romans 1:4*

- The coming of the Spirit at Pentecost and therefore the beginning of the New Covenant era was confirming evidence that Jesus was who he claimed to be. *Acts 2:16-39*

### **Grace Through Christ**

*Romans 1:5a*

- God's grace is poured out through the risen and reigning Son of God in power. There is no grace towards sinners apart from the life and death and resurrection of Christ (Rom. 3:26). Grace is not something we have a right to. Jesus obtained it for us. We get it freely because of the obedience and death of another.
- Paul functions as an apostle through grace (Rom. 12:6, 3; 15:15b-16). Paul's service is given by grace and empowered and enabled by grace (Rom. 15:8; 1 Cor. 15:10). Thus, all the glory goes to the Lord (i.e. "for His name" v. 5c). (See also Phil. 2:13; Rev. 4:9-11)

## **FAITH produces OBEDIENCE**

*Romans 1:5*

### **New Covenant**

Jesus purchased both the forgiveness of sins and a changed life for all those whom he represented on the cross. *Hebrews 10:11-14, Titus 3:4-6, John 3:5, Ezekiel 36:24-27*

### **Faith produces WORKS**

Faith is not saving faith if it does not produce a life that desires to live for Jesus Christ.

*James 2:14-26, Ephesians 2:10, 1 John 2:3-4*

The judgment of Solomon in 1 Kings 3:16-27 was not looking for a deed that would earn the child. He was looking for a deed that would prove that the child was already possessed by birth.

### **The goal: the glory of God**

Obedience that does not spring from faith is filthy rags (Isa. 64:6; Rom. 14:23; Heb. 11:6). It is for His name's sake that we bring forth fruit. It is His fruit and thus, He rightly gets the glory. And faith's heart motive is to see Him glorified as He so richly deserves. The believer's desire is that the name of Jesus might be known and loved and treasured and exalted and glorified. God's aim in history and in all that happens is that His name may be known and worshipped. Thus God makes all our salvation and all our ministry and all our obedience dependent upon His grace - because the Giver gets the glory! *Psalms 115:1; Psalm 50:15; 2 Chron. 16:9; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; Isaiah 48:9-11; 1 Peter 4:11*

For God to spread and exalt His name is our only hope, for in ourselves we have no hope. To exalt Himself is the most loving thing God could do. Our joy depends upon it!

## **God LOVES You**

*Romans 1:7*

### **Common Grace** (limited love)

- God loves all men in a limited way. *Matthew 5:43-48, Acts 14:14-18*
- When eternity begins those in hell will not experience the love of God. *Matthew 8:12, Revelation 20:10*
- The love of God experienced in common grace should be a motive to embrace Jesus Christ for salvation. *Romans 2:4*

### **Special Grace** (full saving love)

- Only the elect will experience the full saving love of God. *Romans 9:10-13*
- Saving love is guaranteed to the believer for all eternity. *Romans 8:35-39*

## **GRACE and PEACE**

*Romans 1:7*

### **Grace**

- Grace in salvation is the undeserved and unwanted favor of God. *Romans 3:21-26, Ephesians 2:8-9*
- He gives us what we do not deserve. We deserve eternal punishment and he gives us eternal life. *Romans 5:8, Romans 6:23*

### **Peace**

- As a result of the trusting in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord all that God has against you is satisfied and you are unconditionally accepted for all eternity. *Romans 5:1, Romans 8:31-34*
- The OT picture of this truth is found in the priestly blessing. *Numbers 6:24-26*