



# The Book of Romans

ROMANS 1:1-17

# Main Theme of Romans

*The righteousness of God which is available to all who are justified by faith in the salvation provided in Jesus Christ (1:16-17, 3:21-26).*

# Theological Message



*“The gospel reveals how God is **righteously righteousing** (i.e., **justifying**) **unrighteous individuals**—**both Jew and Gentile**—at this stage in the history of salvation.”*

--Andrew Naselli

**“In it [the gospel of Christ] the righteousness of God is revealed” (1:17)**

<b>1:1-17 – Introduction</b>	<b>1:18-32 – Gentiles → guilty</b>	<b>3:21-31</b> <b>Justification stated</b>	<b>4 – Justification illustrated</b>	<b>5 – Justification explained</b>	<b>6 – Victory over the flesh</b>	<b>7 – Victory from the Law</b>	<b>8 – Victory in the Spirit</b>	<b>9 – Israel: past riches</b>	<b>10 – Israel: present rejection</b>	<b>11 – Israel: future restoration</b>	<b>12 – To the Church</b>	<b>13 – To society</b>	<b>14:1 – 16:21</b> <b>To the weaker believer</b>	<b>16:22-27 – Conclusion</b>				
	<b>2:1-3:8 – Jews → guilty</b>																	
	<b>3:9-20 – The world → guilty</b>																	
	<b>Sin</b> <i>Righteousness Demanded</i>														<b>Salvation</b> <i>Righteousness Declared</i>	<b>Sanctification</b> <i>Righteousness Developed</i>	<b>Sovereignty</b> <i>Righteousness Declined</i>	<b>Service</b> <i>Righteousness Demonstrated</i>
	<b>1:18 – 3:20</b>														<b>3:21 – 5:21</b>	<b>6:1 – 8:39</b>	<b>9:1 – 11:36</b>	<b>12:1 – 16:21</b>

**“The just shall live by faith” (1:17)**

“In it [the gospel of Christ] the righteousness of God is revealed” (1:17)

1:1-17 – Introduction

1:18-4:11	2:1-3:20	3:9-20	3:21-5:21	4-5:21	5-6:1	6-8:39	7-8:39	8-9:1	9-11:36	10-11:36	11-16:21	12:1-16:21	16:22-27
les → guilty	s → guilty	orld → guilty	stated	illustrated	explained	er the flesh	m the Law	the Spirit	st riches	ent rejection	e restoration	Church	ociety
6:21	er believer												
<b>← TODAY'S FOCUS</b>													
<b>Sin</b> <i>Righteousness Demanded</i>		<b>Salvation</b> <i>Righteousness Declared</i>		<b>Sanctification</b> <i>Righteousness Developed</i>		<b>Sovereignty</b> <i>Righteousness Declined</i>		<b>Service</b> <i>Righteousness Demonstrated</i>					
1:18 – 3:20		3:21 – 5:21		6:1 – 8:39		9:1 – 11:36		12:1 – 16:21					

“The just shall live by faith” (1:17)

# Paul's Greeting

## Romans 1:1-7

- ▶ Paul introduces himself, 1:1-4

# Paul's Greeting

## Romans 1:1-7

### ▶ Paul introduces himself, 1:1-4

#### ➤ “servant”

- Acts 20:28; Romans 12:1; 14:8; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 7:23; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 2:24; Titus 2:14; Revelation 5:9; Matthew 6:24

# Paul's Greeting

## Romans 1:1-7

### ▶ Paul introduces himself, 1:1-4

- “servant”

- “called to be an apostle”

- Acts 9:1-7; Galatians 1:15-16; 1 Corinthians 4:1



# Paul's Greeting

## Romans 1:1-7

- ▶ Paul introduces himself, 1:1-4
  - “servant”
  - “called to be an apostle”
  - “set apart for the gospel of God”
    - Acts 22:6-21

# Paul's Greeting

## Romans 1:1-7

- ▶ Paul introduces himself, 1:1-4
  - “servant”
  - “called to be an apostle”
  - “set apart for the **gospel of God**”
    - Promised in the Prophets

# Paul's Greeting

## Romans 1:1-7

- ▶ Paul introduces himself, 1:1-4
  - “servant”
  - “called to be an apostle”
  - “set apart for the **gospel of God**”
    - Promised in the Prophets
    - Concerning Jesus Christ

# Two Descriptions of Jesus

▶ Who became a man, 1:3

# Two Descriptions of Jesus

- ▶ Who became a man, 1:3
- ▶ Who is the Son of God, 1:4

# Two Descriptions of Jesus

- ▶ Who became a man, 1:3
- ▶ Who is the **Son of God**, 1:4
  - Verified by the resurrection

# Two Descriptions of Jesus

- ▶ Who became a man, 1:3
- ▶ Who is the **Son of God**, 1:4
  - Verified by the resurrection
  - Verified by his “spirit of holiness”

# Paul's Greeting

## Romans 1:1-7

- ▶ Paul introduces himself, 1:1-4
- ▶ Paul shares his commission, 1:5-7



# Paul's Greeting

## Romans 1:1-7

- ▶ Paul introduces himself, 1:1-4
- ▶ Paul shares his commission, 1:5-7
  - As a matter of the grace of Jesus

# Paul's Greeting

## Romans 1:1-7

- ▶ Paul introduces himself, 1:1-4
- ▶ Paul shares his commission, 1:5-7
  - As a matter of the grace of Jesus
  - As a matter of his apostleship

# Paul's Greeting

## Romans 1:1-7

- ▶ Paul introduces himself, 1:1-4
- ▶ Paul shares his commission, 1:5-7
  - As a matter of the grace of Jesus
  - As a matter of his apostleship
  - Includes all the Gentiles

**John 3:16 according to Kent Hughes:**

For God—the greatest Lover  
So loved—the greatest degree  
The world—the greatest company  
That he gave—the greatest act  
His only begotten Son—the greatest gift  
That whosoever—the greatest opportunity  
Believes—the greatest simplicity  
In him—the greatest attraction  
Should not perish—the greatest promise  
But—the greatest difference  
Have—the greatest certainty  
Everlasting life—the greatest possession

# Paul's Thanksgiving and Motivations for his visit, Romans 1:8-15

- ▶ Overall Reason: Paul heard of their faith and widespread fame, 1:8-10

# Paul's Thanksgiving and Motivations for his visit, Romans 1:8-15

- ▶ Overall Reason: Paul heard of their faith and widespread fame, 1:8-10
- ▶ Specific Reason: Mutual Encouragement, 1:11-13

# Paul's Thanksgiving and Motivations for his visit, Romans 1:8-15

- ▶ Overall Reason: Paul heard of their faith and widespread fame, 1:8-10
- ▶ Specific Reason: Mutual Encouragement, 1:11-13
- ▶ Personal Reason: A Sense of Obligation, 1:14-15

# Paul's Confidence in the Power of the Gospel, Romans 1:8-15

## A Description of Rome

(Kent Hughes' commentary), Rider Haggard writes, *"How pitiless she was!...Amid all the ruins of her cities we found none of a hospital, none...of an orphan school in an age that made many orphans. The pious aspirations and efforts of individuals never seemed to have touched the conscience of the people. Rome had no conscience; she was a lustful, devouring beast, made more bestial by her intelligence and splendor."*



# Paul's Confidence in the Power of the Gospel, Romans 1:8-15

▶ What was the answer to this “lustful, devouring beast”? The GOSPEL would transform.

▶ HOW?

“The righteousness of God is revealed” (1:17; 3:5, 21, 22, 25, 26; 10:3 [2x])

# What is this “Righteousness of God”?

- **Option #1: WHAT GOD IS**—God’s attribute of being just and righteous. Humanity’s condition is the opposite: “ungodliness and unrighteousness of man” (1:18).

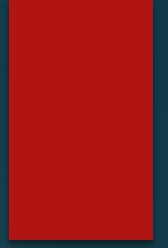
# What is this “Righteousness of God”?

- Option #1: WHAT GOD IS—God’s attribute of being just and righteous. Humanity’s condition is the opposite: “ungodliness and unrighteousness of man” (1:18).
- **Option #2: WHAT GOD GIVES**—God’s gift of a righteous status to sinful people (3:21-22; 2 Cor 5:21; esp Rom 10:5 and Phil 3:9). God legally declares people to be righteous before him.

# What is this “Righteousness of God”


- **Option #1: WHAT GOD IS**—God’s attribute of being just and righteous. Humanity’s condition is the opposite: “ungodliness and unrighteousness of man” (1:18).
- **Option #2: WHAT GOD GIVES**—God’s gift of a righteous status to sinful people (3:21-22; 2 Cor 5:21; esp Rom 10:5 and Phil 3:9). God legally declares people to be righteous before him.
- **Option #3: WHAT GOD DOES**—God’s activity of saving sinful people. He rights what is wrong.

# What is this “Righteousness of God”?



**ALL THREE OPTIONS: WHAT GOD IS, WHAT  
GOD GIVES, and WHAT GOD DOES**

*God—who is just and righteous—gives the gift of a righteous status to sinful people—who are ungodly and unrighteous—legally declaring them to be righteous before him and saving them by righting every wrong.*



*“The gospel reveals how God is righteously righteous (i.e., justifying) unrighteous individuals—both Jew and Gentile—at this stage in the history of salvation.”* --Andrew Naselli