



Romans



THEME VERSE: "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins."
Romans 3:23-25

Author

The apostle Paul, a Jew who studied under Gamaliel, a teacher of the Pharisees. He was a tentmaker by trade, and originally persecuted the Christians in his mistaken zeal to please God. Paul wrote 13 of the 21 epistles in the New Testament.

Date

Paul likely wrote Romans from Corinth during his 3rd missionary journey in A.D. 57 (Acts 20:2-3). He was not the founder of the church in Rome, nor had he ever been to Rome, though eventually was imprisoned in Rome, where he wrote more epistles.

Purpose

The Roman Church included both Jewish and Gentile Christians. Paul wrote in order to clarify important truths- that no one could be justified by obeying the law; that all are sinful, deserving of death and in need of salvation; that God's provision for salvation is through faith in His Son, the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. Paul confronted those who were trying to get new believers to go back under the law.

Method

Jewish and Gentile Christians were very different from one another, the Jews having been set apart and given the law by God, the Old Covenant, while the Gentiles had come to faith under the New Covenant, faith in Jesus Christ alone. Paul contrasts the two covenants in order help people truly be free from sin and the constant striving to earn or maintain salvation. God delivered us FROM sin in order that we might live FOR Him.

Outline

Chapters 1-8	Doctrine- God's Perfect Justice and Divine Grace
Chapters 9-11	Israel's Place in the History of Salvation
Chapters 12-16	Practical Application for the Christian Life