

# Teaching Notes for the Book of Romans

## **(1:1-17) THE INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST**

### **1:1-7 – The Focus of the Gospel (Jesus Christ)**

- (v1) Author: Paul; “apostle” sent one; “set apart for Gospel” Paul’s mission = proclaim good news, explain impact
- (v2) Source of Gospel: Xanity not new, promised fulfillment of Judaism as God promised through prophets **Mt 5:17**
- (v3) Focus of Gospel: Gospel all about Jesus [life, death, resurrection, ascension]
- (v3a-4) Proof of humanity: David, flesh Proof of Deity: Jesus’ resurrection, only God defeats death
- (v5-6) Purpose of Gospel: “obedience of faith” Gospel is a command from God “repent and believe”...disciple...grow
- (v7) Audience: the Roman Christians (primarily Gentile) are now loved by God [in Christ] & “saint” set apart 4 Him
- † The focus of Paul’s message and ministry is Jesus, who alone brings salvation to the world. [Nothing else worthy.]

### **1:8-17 – The Promise of the Gospel (Salvation Apart from Law)**

- (v8) Amazing! The Gospel is alive in Rome!; (v9-12) Paul desires to come to them (never has) to bless, be blessed
- (v13-15) Paul longed, prayed, planned to go to Rome, but hadn’t **15:20-22** God’s desires must guide our ministry
- (v16-17) Theme of Romans: Gospel is power for Salvation! “everyone who believes” Jew [promises], Gentile **10:13**
- “righteousness of God” God’s faithfulness to provide a means for sinners to be justified before Him
  - “faith to faith” <sup>[many int]</sup> right standing with God is by faith from start to finish; “live by faith” more than moment
- † Power of our ministries is the Gospel. It sets people free from bondage to sin, satan, death...Need till see Him.

## **(1:18-4:25) THE NEED FOR THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST** (Condemnation & Justification)

### **1:18-32 – The Heathen’s Need for the Gospel** [focus: unrighteous who reject God’s revelation need Gospel]

- (v18) “wrath of God” His personal anger / just judgment against sin [present & future]; “suppress” push away
- (v19-20) Revelation of God: natural / general [creation]...wisdom, order, love...Power: sun, moon...[w/o excuse]
- (v21) Rejection of God: no reverence, no thankfulness...instead they turned from Him and became darkened.
- (v22-23) Replacement of God: will worship something “exchanged” traded God in for idols that have no holiness
- Exchanged glory for garbage, natural for unnatural, truth for lies, creator for creation...God does scariest thing
- (v24-32) Reprobation by God: “gave over” (v24, 26, 28) You want idols? Perversion? Sin? See if they’re better to you
- Only God’s gracious protection keeps us from falling into the depths of perversion of which we are possible.
- † The Gentiles are in need of God’s grace b/c they have rejected God and His wrath has given them over to idols.

### **2:1-11 – The Hypocrite’s Need for the Gospel** [focus: self-righteous who judge others need Gospel]

- (v1-3) Self-righteous have Law but don’t obey are w/o excuse [1:20] “practice same” maybe not same degree [Mt 5-7]
- (v4-5) They have presumed upon God’s mercies & supposed that b/c He had not punished them, He was pleased.
- (v6-12) God will judge all people based on their deeds [Rev 20:11-15]; Obed. rewarded on last day **Rom 8:1**
- † Those who have the Law but do not obey it prove they are in no better position before God, they are condemned.

### **2:12-29 – The Hebrews’ Need for the Gospel**

- (v12-13) God is not pleased by possession of the Law, He is pleased by obedience to it.
- (v14-16) Gentiles who don’t have the Law have natural rev. of conscience, they know right & wrong [headhunter]
- (v17-20) The Jews who had the Law boasted that they knew God, His will, & His way...there was problem...
- (v21-24) They had Law, but disobeyed it. Thought that b/c they were Jews, knew truth, had covenant sign...ok
- (v25-29) Obed. gives circum. value; God delights in Spirit-led obed. not empty ritualism

### **3:1-20 – All of Humanity’s Need for the Gospel**

(v1-4) Jews have the Law & prophets...What if they are unfaithful & have to be judged...God unfaithful? No!  
(v5-8) If our sin shows God to be righteous, is it wrong for God to judge us? [human reason]...Outrageous idea  
(v9-18) All men are rebels: Jews, Gen, Law, No-Law, Cir, Uncir...(v13-17) Head to Toe (v18) Root Cause of Rebellion  
(v19-20) No one is justified by keeping the works of the Law b/c all fall short [Jew, Gentile]...the Law shows sin.

### **3:21-31 – The Heart of the Gospel (God’s Righteousness Apart from Law)**

(v21) “right. of God” **1:17** God’s character seen in His saving action “apart from the Law” not in opposition to it  
(v22) “faith” how righteousness is acquired; “in Christ” object of faith; “all” scope of the offer  
(v23) all are in need of the Gospel [1:18-3:20]; (v24) “justified” declared righteous (legally); “by grace” unmerited  
(v25) “propitiation” Jesus’ blood was shed 2 satisfy wrath; “passed over” God didn’t punish sins, waited till Jesus  
(v26) “just...justifier” only way God can be good & merciful is the cross...judge sin [just] forgive sinners [justifier]  
(v27-31) No boast...through faith to all...“uphold Law” Law’s intent = teach our hearts of need 4 God’s grace → faith

### **4:1-25 – The Requirement of the Gospel (Faith)** [example of justification by faith – Abraham...pre-Law]

(v1) What did Abraham earn in his flesh (circumcision)? (v3) **Gen 15:6** God declared Abr. right. b/c why? Believed  
(v4-5) when we work, we don’t get grace, we get what we deserve...faith is how one receives righteousness  
(v6-8) David [under Law] proclaims right. only given to the forgiven; (v9-10) “counted” **Gen 15** “circum.” **Gen 17**  
(v11-12) circum. exter. sign of inter. reality; “father of all” God’s saved Abr by faith 2 get more mercy 2 more people  
(v13-14) “heir of world” possible only through faith; (v15) “Law brings wrath” b/c people don’t obey it...  
(v21) **Heb 11:6, 13** (v23-25) Abraham’s declaration of right. was not just for him, but 2 teach us how 2 B justified  
† Abraham was justified by faith as the ultimate example that people are not made righteous by works of the Law.

### **(5:1-8:39) THE RESULT OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST** (Sanctification)

#### **5:1-11 – The Result of the Gospel: Freedom to Rejoice in Hope**

(v1) “peace w/ God” *What?* (v6 ungodly v8 sinners v9 wrath of God v10 enemies) war is over...no more wrath **8:1** rebel / self-right  
(v2) “access” by faith ushered into...“grace” unearned, undeserved...“stand” fearless confidence [Moses, Dan, Is, Ezek]  
• “rejoice in hope of glory of God” speaking of return of Jesus...the unveiling of God’s glory **8:18...3:23** we fall  
(v3-5) “rejoice in suffering” *Why?* Know God doing something in us...fueled by His love 4 us...**Js 1:2-3** Illustr: silver  
(v6-10) Great hope, security, joy in whatever we face b/c God loves us...peace w/ Him...if loved us as enemies, child!  
(v11) “rejoice in God” summary...we have peace w/ God through Jesus & now rejoice in God through Jesus

#### **5:12-21 - The Result of the Gospel: Freedom from the Curse** [Adam → death, Jesus → life...reverse curse]

(v12) “one man” Adam’s rebellion ushered the curse of sin upon the world...resulting in “death”...spiritual virus  
(v13-14) “sin...before” Adam to Moses, clearly sin (death)...“not counted” 2:12... “not like” direct command  
(v15-17) Representative heads of Humans Old Man: Adam...sin brought death; New Man: Jesus’ death brought life  
(v18) Doesn’t mean all people are saved, but that Christ’s work is sufficient for all **1 Jn 2:2** (v19) summary of work  
(v20-21) Sin reigned (scepter death)...Grace reigns in righteousness (scepter eternal life) → Jesus is Savior & Lord  
† King sin does not easily give up his control over those who once formally served him. He is constantly calling.

## **6:1-23 - The Result of the Gospel: Freedom from Sin's Slavery** [Free from sin's penalty, power, not presence]

(v1) "continue" if grace abounds...should we take advantage? (v2) "died" call of Gospel **Mk 8:34-35, Gal 2:20**  
(v3-4) "baptized" baptism is an external symbol of an internal reality...old man died, now "newness of life"  
(v 5-6) "death like His" old man died..."resurrection like His" in future, but now as well..."body of sin" instrument  
(v 7-11) "consider" [pr. impr] constantly think of sin as being dead to you, you to it; Remember its lies, Christ killed it  
(v12) "reign...obey" it wants to own you...but it doesn't have rights over you **1 Cor 6:19-20** free from its power!  
(v13) "present" [make available **12:1**] your body = instrument for someone's pleasure (v14) "sin will not" promise...  
• "under law...grace" Contrast 2 ages: Mos. Cov [Law] & New Cov [Spirit]...Law brought sin, wrath...Spirit power, free  
(v15) Are you free from obedience & commands since you are in Christ? No! Greater obed, deeper commands  
(v16) We are slaves to someone [will never free] sin or God (v17-21) Spirit changes heart **2:29** empowers us to present  
(v22-23) Oh how sweet it is to be set free to no longer walk in condemnation, but to be free & pursue eternal life

## **7:1-25 - The Result of the Gospel: Freedom from Law** [Luke 5:33-39]

(v1) "those" Jews, Gentiles...Mos. Cov. is binding until death (v2-3) Illustr: marriage cov. is binding until death  
(v4) Through Christ we died to the covenant of Law; (v5) sinful passions aroused by law...Illustr: Garden, no...Eden  
(v6) "new way of Spirit" (ch. 8)..."not the old way of the written code" (ch. 7:7-25)  
(v7) Is the Law evil since it stirs up sin? No, but the Law drew out what was in my heart **3:20**  
(v8-9) "sin lies dead" we are not alert to it..."alive apart from Law" had no knowledge of sin...Illustr: VT Jr. year  
(v10-12) If one obeys the law, there is life...but we all break it, so flesh is stirred by command to disobey, kills us.  
(v13) Did the Law bring death? No. Sin was brought into the light & seen just how bad it was through the Law.  
• Struggle Describes Believers: 1) speaking in pres. tense; 2) unbelievers don't desire to keep Law  
• Struggle Describes Unbelievers: 1) HS not mentioned; 2) Xians are not "sold under sin...captive to sin" (7:14, 23)  
(v14-16) Paul trapped b/c he's powerless to fight sin by the Law...  
(v17-20) Not passing blame / playing victim, stating the fact that he hates what he does & that his flesh drives it  
(v21-25) The constant battle of trying to do  
• For us: Legalism produces failure / frustration "attempt to please God or defeat sin apart from God's Spirit & grace"  
• No mow Sun., long dresses, Harry Potter, no music w/ drum, no dance, No drink, no rated-R (Passion), QT, fast weekly  
• Only Jesus saves us from the battle against sin. Only the Spirit frees us to walk in a way pleasing to God.

## **8:1-39 - The Result of the Gospel: Freedom, Hope, & Security in the Spirit**

(v1) "no condemnation" summary of all we've seen so far...Jesus frees us from the Penalty & Power of sin!  
(v2-3) God did what we could never do in or by ourselves...He condemned it becoming man & going to the cross  
(v4) Only in Spirit can we do what Law demands...Only in Spirit can we overcome sin / flesh & love God / others  
(v5-8) One who thinks about & desires sin rather than God's pleasure & will is "of the flesh...sets mind" there.  
(v9-11) If you have HS, you are God's child [seal of salvation]...your body will die, but God will raise you as Christ  
(v12-13) We must battle sin by HS [J.Owen "always be killing sin or it will be killing you"]...(v14-17) Adoption as God's  
(v18-22) We shall see His face...Creation: longs for Jesus' return...subjected by Adam's sin...thorns & thistles  
(v23-27) We too wait for return of Christ who will fully & finally free us...until then HS helps us know God's will  
(v28-30) 1 of the great facts we know as we suffer & persevere is that God is sovereignly overseeing our salvation  
(v31-39) God's love for His children gives us great courage to face anything He calls us to.

## **(9:1-11:36) GOD'S WISDOM AND MERCY IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST**

### **9:1-29 – God's Purpose in Election: Mercy & Glory for Jews & Gentiles** [national, individual election]

(v1-5) Same HS who sanctifies him also produces a deep compassion for Israelites who don't know their Messiah  
(v6-8) B/c Israel is unbelieving doesn't mean God lied...He didn't promise to save all physical descendants of Abr.  
• Blood relation to Abr. doesn't save you [Jews, Muslims]...not children of God...who is? **4:16** believers in promise  
(v9-18) 3 Examples of God's elect: Isaac / Ishmael (v7-9)...Jacob / Esau (v10-13)...Moses / Pharaoh (v14-18)  
• God gives mercy to whom He chooses to fulfill His purposes (v17) hardening 1 man, many received mercy [Rahab]  
(v19-21) Paul takes a hard stand & says that God has the ultimate right to do what He knows is best...most glory  
(v22-23) What if God hardens some so that many more might believe? Pharaoh / Judas / Israel...  
(v24-29) The testimony of the prophets is that God would save a remnant of Israel & would save many Gentiles  
(v30-33) Israel didn't pursue Law by faith...attempted to estab. their own righteousness...Why they killed Jesus  
• God's sovereignty never lessens human responsibility...Human decisions are not insignificant  
• All deserved God's wrath & the amazing part is that He gave some mercy...The tension is a mystery **Dt 29:29**  
• We must be careful to never make ourselves out to be more wise, gracious, or loving than God.

### **10:1-21 – Paradox of God's Purpose: Israel Stumbles & Gentiles Receive Mercy**

(v1-2) Paul earnestly desires that Israelites be saved; (v3) "righteousness of God" **Gal 3:7-14**  
(v4) Jesus fulfills & removes the necessity of the Mosaic Law **Mt 5:17**; (v5) You want to be righteous? Keep the Law  
(v6-7) We don't need to travel to heaven to please God...we don't need to overcome the grave - Jesus has done this!  
(v8-13) Gospel contains power of salvation **1:16-17** [what God has done]...given to those who believe [Jew & Gentile]  
(v14-17) The Gospel ("word of Christ") needs to be taken to the Jews so that they can hear and believe  
(v18) David Ps 19 Gen. rev. laid found. for Gospel; (v19) Moses Dt 32 God extended grace to make Israel jealous  
(v20) Is 65:1 God sought after Gentiles who didn't know or care about Him; (v21) Is 65:2 Israel rejected God's love  
† Israel has forsaken Messiah but God is calling them to repent by making them jealous w/ Gentile conversions.

### **11:1-36 – Outworking of God's Purpose in History: More Mercy to More People**

(v1) Paul is Exhibit A that Israel has not been forgotten by God; (v2-6) God is saving a remnant of people by grace  
(v7-10) God has opened the eyes of Israel's elect, but has hardened the rest...**Isa 9, 29, 43; Dt 29; Ps 69**  
(v11-12) God's hardening is not permanent, but rather it is a means to get more mercy to more people.  
(v13-15) Gospel to Gentiles meant to make Israel jealous & save remnant...Rejection=life...how much more accept!  
(v16) 2 Illustr: dough & root [Abr, Isaac & promises] lump & branches [Jewish people] many Jews will B saved **Zech 12:10**  
(v17-20) Unbelieving Jews broken off, Gentiles grafted in...Do not be arrogant! God's grace saved you...keeps you.  
(v21-24) Perseverance in belief is the issue from God's perspective. If God can bring in wild, He can restore natural.  
(v25-27) God in His wisdom has hardened Israel's hearts to get the Gospel to Gentiles, then will save "all" who believe  
(v28-36) God has used disobedience & hardening to get more mercy to more people! How amazing is our God!

## **(12:1-15:13) GOD-HONORING WORSHIP THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST** [live Gospel!]

### **12:1-13 – Living Sacrifices: Humbly Love as the Body of Christ (Among Believers)**

(v1) In light of the mercy He has altered history in order for you to receive...“living sacrifice” God wants you!  
(v2) Do not be conformed to the lies, deceit, thought of the world (pride, self)...set mind on Spirit...Gospel thinking  
(v3) Have right view of yourself (humility); (v4-8) God has equipped each of us to honor Him...worship w/ your life  
(v9-13) Summary of how to love those who are part of the Body...Not in competition or judging or division.

## **12:14-13:7 – Living Submissively: Humbly Trust God’s Justice (Among Enemies)**

(v14-16) Echoing Jesus **Mt 5:44**...Show care & compassion...Do not be filled w/ pride, but humility.

(v17-21) Do not cling to your rights or take things into your hands in the midst of persecution **1 Pt 2:21-24** trust

• Christ teaches us that to glorify God we must learn to love others more than need their love.

(v1-7) No place harder to submit to than corrupt gov....Disobey only when command sinful (humbly) **Acts 5:29**

• I suspect Paul is subtly addressing the situation w/ in the church...if you can love Nero, you can love each other

## **13:8-14 – Living Lawfully: Fulfilling the Law through Love (Among All People)**

(v8) Whole Law: Love...**Mt 22:34-40** Great Commandment...Love & Law belong together **8:4**

(v9-10) By obeying this commands by Spirit for glory of God & good of others...you love God & man.

(v11-14) Time of our salvation is close...let us not be distracted w/ sin...Clothe ourselves w/ Christ, no chance for sin

## **14:1-12 – Putting on the Lord: Be Free from Judgment** [ch 14-15: built up to these issues, major point]

(v1) “weak” those convicted of need to practice Jewish rituals in worship; “strong” conscious free from conviction

• Romans 14 is about how the believers must fulfill the Law by loving each other despite their different convictions

• The issue of food is central to the argument b/c: 1) it is a major part of Jewish worship; 2) fellowship hinges on it

(v2) Some are convicted one way, some another; (v3) strong must not judge the weak, weak must not just strong

(v4) Jesus is the ultimate judge of each person, we ought be very slow to judge how others hold their convictions

(v5-9) Ultimately we each belong to the Lord and do what we do for His glory...whether in freedom or restriction

(v10-12) What is your motive in judging others? What right do we have? God is the final judge all will answer to

• Crucial to love in church: Home school? Breastfeed? Drink? Dance? Birth control? Bible Version? Potter? TV?

## **14:13-23 – Putting on the Lord: Pursue Peace with Each Other**

(v13) Commit your efforts not on judging each other, but rather on loving, blessing, and building each other up

(v14) In Christ, all things [not moral issues] are matters of conscience; (v15) its sinful to lead against conscience

(v16-19) There is so much more to focus on...God’s kingdom is not about us, its about Him!

(v20) “stumble” to make one stumble means that you lead them to do something against their conscience

• Illustr: if a brother is convicted they shouldn’t have beer & you convince them its ok, they sin & you did too

(v21) It is good to limit your freedoms for the sake of others; (v22) it’s a blessing to be free, but don’t abuse it

(v23) If you go against your conscience you sin against God...Faith = how justified in salvation & sanctification

## **15:1-13 – Putting on the Lord: Serve Each Other As Christ Served**

(v1-2) Our goal as believers is not to be right / get our way, but rather please [love] each other. **13:8**

(v3-4) Christ = ultimate example [v3, 5, 7, 8]...OT points to Him & is fulfilled in Him...OT teaches us of Christ

(v5-6) Prayer...may God [who gives endurance & encouragement] give you the grace to live this way [by Spirit]

(v7) Point of section (book) love each other as Christ loved you...this kind of love fulfills our purpose: glorify God

(v8-9a) Christ came...1) fulfill promises to Israel & 2) extend mercy to Gentiles...Christ came for both, love each other

(v9b-13) David 2 Sam 22:50, Ps 117:1...Moses Dt 32:43...Isa 11:10 → testify of God’s plan [mercy & hope] to Gentiles

## **(15:14-16:27) GOD'S WORK THROUGH PAUL FOR THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST**

### **15:14-21 – God's Power Fuels Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles**

(v14-16) Paul speaks boldly b/c he wants to ensure the church is pure of sin & acceptable offering to God **12:1**

(v17-21) Paul knows that anything good that has come has been b/c of Christ & through Christ's power.

• Paul is fulfilling the mission God has given him [unreached people]...Following pattern of **Acts 1:8**

### **15:22-33 – Paul's Plan to visit Rome**

(v22-24) Paul's reason for not visiting them yet is b/c God had not allowed him to...He was fulfilling his mission

(v25-27) **Acts 21-23**...Paul taking Gentile \$\$ to Jewish believers [Phil, Thess, Cor]...“owe it” like caring for old parents

(v28-33) Paul wants unity in the church so when he comes there, they will help to further the Gospel to Spain

### **16:1-16 – Paul's Personal Greetings** [refers to 26 people by name & many others inferred]

(v1-2) “Phoebe” a “servant” [deacon]...“Cenchreae” seaport adjacent to Corinth

(v3-4) “Prisca & Aquila” faithful Jewish couple **18:2** (Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> MJ) [left Rome 49, back after 54, now 57] Model of marriage

(v5) “Epaenetus” Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> convert on 3<sup>rd</sup> MJ...(v6) “Mary” unknown...(v7) “Andronicus & Junia” been in jail w/ Paul

(v10-11) “family of Aristobulus” possibly grandson of Herod the Great...“Herodion” possibly relative of Herod

(v12) Interesting that 4 of these ladies are said to have worked hard for the Lord (v6 Mary)

(v13) “Rufus” **Mk 15:21** this is very possibly the son of Simon of Cyrene [N. Africa]

(v16) “holy kiss” similar to a handshake today...but had more of a family love [South American, French, Italian]

### **16:17-27 – Paul's Final Exhortation and Doxology**

(v17) Paul considered unity crucial, but not unity at any cost [like today]...False teachers are to be avoided.

(v18) Their fruit shows who it is that they serve...not Jesus & His gospel, but rather themselves **Phil 3:9**

(v19) Their obedience of faith was famous **1:5, 8**...“be wise...innocent” be on guard, be discerning **Mt 10:16**

(v20) “crush Satan under your feet” In Christ, we have the hope of joining Him in finally fulfilling **Gen 3:15**

(v23) “Gaius” probably one of the few people Paul baptized in Corinth **1 Cor 1:14**

(v24) Missing? “*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*” Not attested in most manuscripts (v20)

(v25-27) “strengthen” because it is the power of God for salvation **1:16-17**