

The Letter to the Romans

A very brief introduction

From:	Paul, the Apostle
To:	The Church in Rome (a mix of both Gentile & Jewish Christians)
Subject:	The gospel, sin, righteousness, salvation and how we should live
Sent:	55-57 AD

The Letter to the Romans is arguably the single most important work of Christian theology ever written. It has played a key role throughout Christian history in the renewal of faith both for individuals and for the church. Of all the books in the bible, Romans comes closest to what we might call a 'Christian doctrine' and there is much in it to inspire, challenge, provoke and encourage. As one Commentator writes, 'having been specially engaged with the Epistle to the Romans for more than a quarter of a century, I still find it always fresh and cannot read it without delight.'

In this letter, Paul writes passionately with verve and powerful rhetoric to argue the most important case of all: by faith in Jesus Christ we can have peace with God and the gift of eternal life. How does this happen? What does it mean? These are the fundamental questions Paul is addressing.



If Twitter existed in Paul's day perhaps this is what he might have said... thankfully for us it didn't!

romans-in-tweets

-  **@ApostlePaul** Jesus – great guy, but also Son of God and now Lord. He calls all people to belong to him (Rom 1:1-6)
-  **@ApostlePaul** Can't wait to see you and tell you about the Gospel – the power of God for our salvation (1:7 – 17)
-  **@ApostlePaul** We're all 'sinners' – no one's righteous despite the good stuff you do - but God has made us righteous by Jesus dying and us having faith in him (1:18-3:31)
-  **@ApostlePaul** We were all dead by being descendants of Adam (who rebelled against God), but through faith in Jesus, we become like Jesus and have eternal life (4-5)
-  **@ApostlePaul** So now we're 'dead to sin' and 'alive in Christ' - if we believe in him - and this new life is available now by the Holy Spirit - a taster of what's to come (6-8)
-  **@ApostlePaul** God is faithful despite people's unbelief – God will have mercy on whom he will have mercy (9 – 11)
-  **@ApostlePaul** Live for God and love each other. We have different gifts – use them. Live responsibly in society. Do not be judgemental. Big THANKS to all my mates (12-16)

Our Sermons Series

Date	Theme	Reading
8 th Jan	Who was this Jesus?	Rom 1:1-6
15 th Jan	Justified by grace	Rom 3:9-26
22 nd Jan	Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ	Rom 6:1-14
29 th Jan	Life through the Spirit	Rom 8:1-16
5 th Feb	God's great love for us	Rom 8:28-39
12 th Feb	Living Sacrifices	Rom 12:1-8
19 th Feb	Living lives of Love	Rom 12:9-21

For further reading:

C E B Cranfield, *Romans – A Shorter Commentary* T & T Clark: Edinburgh

Tom Wright, *Romans for Everyone* SPCK: London (Parts 1 & 2)

John Stott, *The Message of Romans (The Bible Speaks Today)* IVP: Leicester

Morna D Hooker, *Paul: A Beginners Guide* Oneworld: Oxford