

New Testament Survey

The Book of Romans

- I. Attestation and Authorship¹
 - A. Ascribed to Paul by early church fathers, Clement of Rome, Justyn Martyr, Hippolytus, Polycarp, and Ignatius.
 - B. The authorship of Paul and canonicity of Romans is not questioned by the early church.
- II. Background and Destination
 - A. Written to the believers in Rome - Romans 1:7.
 - B. The Church at Rome
 - 1. It's beginning is a mystery. Most likely it was begun by believers who returned to Rome after Pentecost (Acts 2:10).
 - 2. It was probably mostly made up of Gentiles, as Rome was a Gentile city.²
- III. Occasion and Date
 - A. Written approximately A.D. 56-57 from Corinth during Paul's second missionary journey.
 - 1. It is clear that Paul had not yet been in Rome when he wrote the epistle - Romans 1:13-15.
 - 2. Cenchrrea (Romans 16:1), is a small town next to Corinth from which Paul wrote the Epistle and sent it by Phoebe to the church at Rome.
 - B. Paul never states his purpose for writing the book, although he does say that it was his desire to visit the Roman church at some point in order to minister there (Romans 1:13-15).
- IV. Purpose and Plan³
 - A. To instruct the believer's at Rome regarding salvation and to protect them from the influence of the Judaizers.
 - B. To explain the unbelief of Israel and the fact that God has not finished his work with Israel.
 - C. To encourage the Roman believers to life a godly life because of the great salvation given to them by God.
- V. A Basic Outline

¹ Henry C. Thiessen, *Introduction to the New Testament*, (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Co., 1987), p 220.

² For an extended discussion of this see William Hendricksen, *New Testament Commentary, Romans*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1986), pp. 15-23.

³ Thiessen, pp. 226-227.

- A. Introduction - 1:1-17
 - B. The Plight of Mankind - 1:18-3:20
 - C. The Provision of God - 3:21-8:39
 - 1. Justification by Faith - 3:21-31
 - 2. Abraham - An Example of Justification - 4:1-25
 - 3. Results of Justification - 5:1-21
 - 4. The Christian's Struggle With Sin- 6:1 - 7:25
 - 5. Security of Salvation - 8:1-39
 - D. The Place of the Jew in the New Covenant - 9:1-11:36
 - 1. God Has Not Broken His Promises - 9:1-33
 - 2. Israel's Rejection of God - 10:1-21
 - 3. The Future Restoration of Israel - 11:1-36
 - E. Our Response to Justification - 12:1-21
 - F. Our Duty to all Men - 13:1-14
 - G. Our Duty to other Christians - 14:1-23
 - H. Our Duty to the Gospel - 15:1-32
 - I. Closing Salutations - 16:1-27
- VI. Chapters To Remember
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| Romans 1 | The Power of the Gospel |
| Romans 2-3 | All The World Is Guilty |
| Romans 4 | The Faith of Abraham |
| Romans 5 | Two Kings: Adam and Christ |
| Romans 6-7 | The Believer's Struggle with Sin |
| Romans 8 | Security in the Spirit |
| Romans 9-11 | God's Plan for Israel |
| Romans 12-15 | Practical Godliness |
- VII. Points and Peculiarities
- 1. Key words are "justification" and "believe".
 - 2. Romans is the greatest epistle ever penned by the Apostle Paul.

VIII. A Closer Look

A. Romans 1

1. Introduction - Romans 1:1-17
2. The Condemnation of the Heathen - Romans 1:18-32.

B. Romans 2

1. The Condemnation of the Moral Man - Romans 2:1-16
2. The Condemnation of the Jew - Romans 2:17-3:8
 - a. The False Security of the Law - Romans 2:17-24
 - b. The False Security of Circumcision - Romans 2:25-27
 - c. The False Security of Pedigree - Romans 2:28-29

C. Romans 3

1. The Advantage of the Jew - Romans 3:1-8
2. The Universal Condemnation of Men - Romans 3:9-20
3. God's Righteousness Revealed - Romans 3:21-31

D. Romans 4

1. Abraham as a Model of Justification by Faith - Romans 4:1-25
 - a. Abraham Justified Apart From Works - Romans 4:1-8
 - b. Abraham Justified Apart From Circumcision - Romans 4:9-12
 - c. Abraham Justified Apart From the Law - Romans 4:13-15
 - d. Abraham Justified by Faith - Romans 4:16-25

E. Romans 5

1. The Results of Justification - Romans 5:1-11
2. Two Kings: Adam and Christ - Romans 5:12-21

F. Romans 6-7

1. Sanctification Implies We Are Dead to Sin - Romans 6:1-13
2. Sanctification Implies We Are Free to Serve God - Romans 6:14-23
3. Sanctification Implies We Are Dead to the Law - Romans 7:1-13
4. Sanctification Implies We Are At War - Romans 7:14-25

G. Romans 8

1. The Glorification of the Believer - Romans 8:1-39
- H. Romans 9-11
1. Israel's Unbelief Was Ordained By God - Romans 9
 2. Israel's Unbelief Was Their Own Fault - Romans 10
 3. Israel's Unbelief Is Temporary - Romans 11
- I. Romans 12-15
1. A Living Sacrifice - Romans 12:1-2
 2. Service to Others - Romans 12:3-21
 3. Honor Authority - Romans 13:1-7
 4. Wake Up - Romans 13:8-14
 5. The Weaker Brother - Romans 14:1-23
 6. Unity in Christ - Romans 15:1-13
 7. Paul's Ministry - Romans 15:14-33
- J. Romans 16
1. Personal Greetings - Romans 16:1-24
 2. Concluding Doxology - Romans 16:25-27