Why is the book called Romans? Its original recipients were the members of the church of Rome

Written by the Apostle Paul

We will read in this letter that Paul sought to visit the church in Rome, but he was prevented from doing so. Paul’s main mission was to spread the gospel message to gentile cities and churches, and he mainly did that by visiting them and personally giving them apostolic instruction on the gospel. He would then write them letters after the fact correcting their theology and behavior or rebuke ungodly living. Rome was one of the largest gentile cities and he could not visit them, so he wrote this masterpiece to teach them gospel doctrine and practical instruction.

The overarching theme of Romans is the Gospel of Jesus Christ which explains the righteousness that comes from God: the glorious truth that God justifies guilty, condemned sinners by grace alone through faith alone. (John MacArthur Study Bible pg. 1455)

Chapters 1-11 present the theological truths of that doctrine, and 12-16 talks about how to practically apply those things to a believer's life.

It’s important to know who wrote it and why they are writing it. It’s extremely important to know its context.

Two very important rules when studying the Bible:

1. Always let Scripture interpret Scripture.
2. Always look at the context

Exercise: Wow! What a turkey! Am I in a wooded area dressed in camo? Or a bowling alley?

People read one verse and try to interpret it without knowing the context around it.

**Romans**

1:1-15 Greetings and introduction

1:16-17 Theme of the letter.

**Romans 1:1-7**

Paul very briefly describes what the Gospel message or good news is:

Vs. 1 Paul was set apart or chosen to spread God’s good news.

Vs. 2 we see that this good news was promised all along through the prophets in the holy Scriptures (Old Testament)

Vs. 3-4 We see who the gospel is concerning (concerning His Son, Jesus Christ) Who is the Son of God who has power over death. (That is the good news) We now have Someone who has the power to defeat death for us, and since He has the power of resurrection, He can also resurrect us.

* Jesus is found in every book of the OT.

Vs. 5 Through whom we have received grace. Grace is the most crucial part of the gospel message. We did not earn this salvation, there is nothing human beings can contribute, we did nothing. It is God’s gift to us. Grace means gift. You can’t earn gifts. They are freely given.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** For by **grace** you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the **gift** of God. Not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Vs. 5 “to bring about the obedience of faith” Another crucial part that many people who call themselves Christians either don’t understand or get wrong. Saving faith always produces obedience and submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. (Something I was missing the first 25 years of my life)

Vs. 6-7 We see the effects of the gospel. We are the called or the chosen. We are loved by God, and God has set us apart from sin unto Himself.

**Romans 1:8-12**

Vs. 8 Paul is giving a commendation to the Christian Roman citizens as he does in most of his letters. In this case they have strong faith

Vs. 9 Paul says, “whom I serve in my spirit.” Service is a big key in the Christian walk, it can also mean worship. Service is how we worship God in a sense. But this kind of service is always genuine and from the heart, never out of pride or selfishness, its always from the spirit, not the flesh.

* Paul always longed to come to Rome but was prevented by God. Paul wanted to impart a spiritual gift to them and to establish them. This means when Paul the apostle came to a church, everyone knew that church had been established because an apostle of Christ had been there, taught them, corrected them, etc...

Vs. 12 – We see Paul’s humility. Paul wasn’t just encouraging other believers; they were encouraging him also.

* Talk about small groups, what happened in your life when you were saved? How has God worked in your life, what struggles are you going through? How can we help?

**Romans 1:13-15**

The fruit Paul is talking about obtaining in new converts to the faith, He is eager to spread the Gospel of Christ and to bring new people into the faith. (What we should all be eager to do)

Greeks and barbarians, wise and foolish, there is no partiality with God. God looks at everyone the same, not the way the world views people. The Gospel must go to all people no matter their social status.

**Romans 1:16-17**

This is the thesis or theme of the whole book of Romans: The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Vs. 16 – The Gospel is only effective because it carries with it the power of God. Only God’s power can is able to overcome man’s sinful nature and give him new life.

* Salvation basically means deliverance or rescue.

Vs. 17 “For in it (The Gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed…”

* Righteousness is the state or condition of perfectly conforming to God’s perfect law and holy character.
* Only God is inherently righteous, but the Gospel reveals as Paul will point out in Romans, that on the basis of faith and faith alone, God will impute His righteousness to ungodly sinners.
* Why does God do this? Because the only way you can exist in heaven, is to have the righteousness of God. The perfect standard that no one on this earth can achieve apart from God.

When you have faith in someone what does that mean?

* Biblical faith means you have trust and dependability on God. Do you trust God with your life? Do you depend on Him for all aspects of life? If you trust Him with your life, you need to give Him your life.

Matthew 16:25 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

* Saving faith always produces obedience and submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.