

“Romans”

Introduction

Part2

- 1. Historical books**
- 2. Pauline epistles**
 - a. Those written to churches**
 - b. Those written to pastors**
- 3. General epistles**

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is more than facts to be believed; it’s also a life of righteousness to be lived.

As Rome expanded, its wealth and prosperity expanded, but no nation has ever passed the prosperity test, so all of the problems associated with prosperity—*increase in vice, arrogance and self-centeredness, like a cancer, came along.*

Historically, no pagan culture has ever really had lasting value, *but* when Christianity comes into western civilization in conjunction with the thinking of the Greeks and Romans, it allows what is beneficial in those civilizations to endure.

This was the wisdom and the sovereignty of God and just as the Scripture says, *“Jesus came in the fullness of time.”*

Rome stood strong until it eventually internally collapsed from the weight of its own sinfulness in 1453.

At the conclusion of *Romans*, Paul is aware that he is reaching a transition point in his apostolic ministry.

The church in Rome was well known and it had been established for several years by the time of this letter.

The theology of *Romans* is balanced by practical application, because Paul sees the believer’s position as the basis for his practice.

God offers the gift of His righteousness to everyone who comes to Christ by faith.

Paul did not write *Romans* to address specific problems in the church but to prepare believers for his strategic visit.

***Romans* is primarily a preventive, not a corrective epistle.**

Christ’s death and resurrection are the basis for the believer’s redemption, justification, reconciliation, salvation and glorification.

Ultimately, all blessing or discipline from God to us must be filtered through His justice.

God's motivation is love;

His decision is sovereignty, but neither love nor sovereignty can go any farther than justice will take them.

Once you adjust to the justice of God, everything else in your life will fall into place.

Divine justice administers what divine perfect righteousness demands.

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Only faith in the object of Christ can provide that instant adjustment.

Only justice and no other part of God's essence can forgive sin.

Recovery adjustment to the justice of God is never a licence to sin; it is the encouragement for the believer to adjust to the justice of God, recover from sin and continue in his spiritual momentum.

Maximum truth in the soul of the believer, frees the justice of God to provide blessing for the mature believer.

The issue in the Christian life is that we adjust to the justice of God and receive blessing from Him; or the justice of God will adjust to us and we receive divine discipline from Him. Salvation maladjustment is the basis for spending eternity in the LOF, as well as the basis for much of the great sorrow, tragedy, heartache, and disaster in history.

If we add anything to naming our sins, that's legalistic and legalism and grace are mutually exclusive.

Maladjustment or adjustment to the justice of God is the issue in life.

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We will see that adjustment to the justice of God is the true meaning of justification.

The purpose of government is not to provide protection from failure; but rather to defend righteousness and to provide an environment where righteousness can flourish to the best of its ability within a fallen system.

This is why biblical Christianity emphasizes the grace of God; understanding the sin problem as a constitutional defect which man cannot overcome on his own; so there has to be an external solution that is totally independent of human ability.

Scripture was written by God through men, using their personalities, vocabularies, gifts, talents and background in order to express the eternal truths of God to man in a way that doesn't violate their human nature or personality; so it communicates exactly what God intended.

Many things stated in Romans are personal to the author of this epistle and consistent with what we know about the life and ministry of the apostle Paul by the chronology in the book of Acts.

Despite the attempts of some in the 19th century to debunk Pauline authorship, by the beginning of the 20th century most arguments were seen as ridiculous and so today there's virtually no question about Pauline authorship.

Authority is to be respected as a divine foundational establishment principle.

To live by faith means embracing a lifestyle that contradicts most of life.