

**A ROMP
THROUGH ROMANS
IN 45 MINUTES**

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Washington, DC
February 10, 2021

ROMANS

- **Who by?** (Romans 1:1)
 *“**Paul**, a servant of Jesus Christ,
 called to be an apostle”*
 - The same Paul who writes Galatians (1:1, 13-14)
 - and Philippians 1:1, 12-14, 3:5-6)

- **Where to?** (Romans 1:7)
 *“To all God’s beloved **in Rome**”*

- **Where from?** (Romans 16:1-2)



Probably
Corinth in
Greece: *I
commend
to you our
sister
Phoebe,
a deacon
of the
church at*

*Cenchræe, ² so that you may welcome her
in the Lord as is fitting for the saints, and
help her in whatever she may require from
you, for she has been a benefactor of many
and of myself as well.*

Other Indications that point to Corinth

→ **Acts 18:1-19** . . Paul in Corinth for 18
months (c.49-50; cf. Claudius expulsion of Jews
from Rome); sails for Syria from the port of
Cenchræe

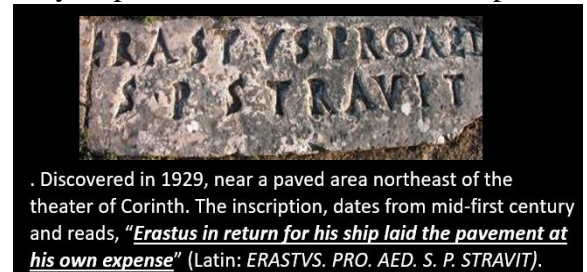
Names of People in Romans, Acts, 1 Corinthians

- **Romans 16:21-24** – Greetings from: **Timothy**,
Lucius, Jason, **Sosipater (=Sopater?)**, Tertius,
Gaius, **Erastus the city treasurer** . . .

→ **Acts 20:2-3** . . Paul in S. Greece, probably
Corinth, for 3 months –with **Sopater, Gaius**.
Then sails for Syria.

→ **1 Corinthians 1.14**: “*I thank God that I
baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius*”

Especially important . . . The Erastus Inscription



- **When?**
- After 2nd (or 3rd) visit to Corinth? . . .
- 20-27 yrs after Jesus → **AD 52? 57?**
 → **Romans 15:25-27** going to Jerusalem
 with an offering from Macedonia &
 Greece
 → **Romans 16:3-16** – knows many people
 in Rome!

OUTLINE OF ROMANS

I. ROMANS 1:1-6, 16-17

Paul’s Ultimate Message → Good News

Example . .

Romans 1:16-17

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel;
it is **the power of God for salvation
to everyone** who has faith,
to the Jew first and also to the
Greek.

¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God
(*God’s passion for right-relatedness*)
is revealed through faith(fulness?)
for faith;
as it is written,
“*The one who is righteous
will live by faith.*”

II. ROMANS 1:7-17

Personal Relationships with Roman Christians . . . travel plans . . (see 15:19-16:27)

III. ROMANS 1:18-3:31

First: the Bad News! . . The Problem!

The Nature and Consequences of Human Sin

i. The Nature of sin

- The story of the Garden of Eden lingers in background. Genesis 2:17-3:24
- The foundational sin to Paul (Rom.1:25) is “exchanging the truth about God for a lie”

ii. Consequences of sin

= The loss of right-relatedness with God
(*righteousness/ “dikaioσunē”*)

Leads to . .

- **Death! Judicial** – we are accountable for sin: we know it, we do it, we laugh at it
- **Death! Moral** – lose the correct center and everything else loses balance – all hell breaks loose
- **Death! Extensive** --touches all ethnic/racial peoples, including “God’s people”

IV. ROMANS 4

The Beginning of Good News:

The Importance of Abraham vs. Moses

a. The authority for the Jews is Moses

- the Biblical Books of that bear his name
- the first five books of our Bible
- sometimes known as “the Law”

b. Paul argues – paradoxically --

- that in the Books of Moses –the “Law”
- Moses does not promote himself as the Spiritual Model for all lives,
- but promotes **Abraham** (Genesis 12-17)

begs the question Who is Abraham?

→ **Abraham** – is “the Gentile / first Jew”
– forefather of us all – Jew and Gentile

→ **Abraham** – expresses **faith**

NOTE: in Greek, the word “*pistis*” is translated by three English words: *faith, belief and trust*

Abraham’s “*pistis*” is what God was looking for to restore right-relatedness

Genesis 15:6 – “*Abraham believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.*”

V. ROMANS 5, 6

The Good News Spelled Out

Consequences of *Right-Relatedness* with God

– based on Abrahamic-type *Faith*

Romans 5:1

“Since we have been justified

(Greek = *dikaioō*

→ made “*rightly-related*” or “*righteous*”)

by faith, we have . . .”

1. Peace made with God

- a. established by Jesus’ sacrificial death;
- b. confirmed by the Holy Spirit poured into us;
- c. not negated even by suffering

2. Hope as an assured future

- a. Not merely optimism in general – *wishful thinking*
- b. But established by God’s action in history in Jesus’ resurrection
- c. that includes transformation that is both personal *and cosmic* (see Romans 8:19-23)

3. God’s Amazing Love

- a. Not theoretical
- b. But demonstrated in history in the costly death of Jesus

4. New Moral Power

- a. **Not received** by *keeping the law of Moses*
 - i. **But by** having a *faith* (trust, belief) in God, like Abraham
- b. **Not Driven** by a *passion to keep God’s Law*
 - i. **But by** a passion for *righteousness/right-relatedness* within the new relationship with God (*a relationship that is nevertheless still informed by God’s Laws – esp. 10 Commandments*)

- c. **Not Shaped** primarily by Covenants/Laws made with Adam (Genesis 2:17) or Moses

But by Jesus' Death & Resurrection

- **A death** which gives us moral direction as an example to follow that was honored by God in resurrection
- **A resurrection** which assures us of Moral power – God's Easter power to bring life out of death – literally, spiritually and morally – empowering us to overcome the power of sin to enslave us (a new Exodus!) . . .
Beginning now, and Fulfilled later.

VI. ROMANS 7:1-8:13

“BUT, what about . . .”

Answering Objection One:

But how can, and why should, the Covenant Law of Moses no longer be valid?

A. Romans 7

- i. **Laws/Covenants can be changed**
in different circumstances especially with a death! e.g. marriage

- ii. **The Mosaic Covenant and its Laws need to be changed**

because

-- Even tho' the Laws of the Mosaic Covenant

- can show us what sin is
- expose its presence in our lives by stirring it up within us.

-- They **contain no power**

- to save our lives from spiritual and moral death and decay
 - e.g., from the desire to rebel against God and break God's law
 - from the power of literal death to destroy our bodies

B. Romans 8:1-13

– **An Aside: If there is no power to change in the Laws of Moses, where can such power be found?**

i. **Jesus HAS the needed power**

- By his living presence (the Holy Spirit)
- In the covenant relationship he makes with us, sealed by his death/in his blood
- In due time, as in the resurrection of Jesus, God will undo even death in our mortal bodies

ii. **This power is not ours automatically.**

To receive it, we are responsible

- to respond in faith to God's actions in Christ (similar to Rom.6)
- to copy Jesus' willingness to die by putting to death the deeds of the body that are not pleasing to God
- to embrace Jesus' new life, by seeking God's new life for us
- to rely on and use the gift and power of God's presence within us (the Spirit)

VII. ROMANS 8:14-39

Answering Objection Two:

- i. **But How do I know that God's powerful presence by the Spirit is actually in me and is real?**

- ii. **How do I know that this “theology” is not merely a figment of my imagination? (especially if my transformation – sanctification -- is not immediate)?**

A. **What every Christian should experience** **The Spirit brings us A Divine Confidence**

1. about new relationships
 - with humans (*a new family – the church*)
 - and with God (*adoption, sonship*)
2. that change will happen in the universe & us in God's good time (see Beatitudes, Matt. 5)
3. that the Spirit is praying for us even now
4. that God is at work for us and in us in absolutely everything
 - redeeming the good, bad and ugly.
5. in God's unshakeable love, made rock-solid by the love shown in the sacrificial/voluntary death of Christ Jesus”

VIII. ROMANS 9—11

Answering Objection Three:

- i. But what of the covenant with God's "first people" -- Israel?
- ii. Has God broken the Covenant Contract or His Promises to them? Has God's word failed?
- iii. Is God's love of Israel over?

A. Romans 9, 10

1. What of the covenant with God's "first people" -- Israel?
Jews are still advantaged in many ways (e.g., entrusted with the Scripture!)
2. Has God broken the Covenant/Promises to them? Has God's word failed? Has God failed?
 - a. Remember that God's Word in Scripture (the Law) is being fulfilled in many ways remember . . .
 - i. God Providing an unexpected Son? – Isaac – the child not of flesh but of promise
 - ii. God Choosing the unexpected (younger) Jacob over (older) Esau?

Further Objections:

-- Q: If this is all about God's sovereign choices, then isn't this all unfair – especially God's wrath?

A. Let God be GOD!

A. Remember – If God has wrath, it is not his primary characteristic:

- God's wrath is preceded and driven
- by God's passion for mercy

-- Q: But doesn't God choosing anyone as a favorite undo human responsibility?

- A. Maybe so . . . YET, on the other hand . . .
- doesn't Mercy also undo responsibility?
 - And do you object?

A. But Israel IS responsible

1. They made free-will choices to not read Scripture closely, and missed the fact that their hero, Moses, says that Abrahamic faith is more important than Mosaic law-keeping

2. They chose to pursue the laws of Moses as if they were

- permanent not temporary,
- first in history, not second

3. They forgot that the Creator God revealed by "hero" Moses was not just interested in them—but in everyone God made

B. Romans 11

-- Q. But what of God's passion for Israel? Is it over?

- a. God is still at work in his ancient people the Jews through Jesus – they have not "stumbled so as to fall."
- b. Gentiles: beware!!
 - There is no room for boasting either from Jews (*as first in the door*) or from Gentiles (*as if superior to Israel*).
 - There is no room for anti-semitism: Gentiles must pray for the salvation of God's "first people."

IX. ROMANS 12-15

1. Life in the Presence of God

– represented by the Spirit of Christ
– represented by Temple/Tabernacle imagery

2. Life within the Family of God/Body of Christ

12:1-2 The Basic Moral Posture → "Living Sacrifice"



"Present your bodies . . . and minds

- Think re Jesus – what Christ has done
- Think about "where you are" → Holy of Holies
- Think about what Goes on in the Temple
Sacrifices
Priests – working together

12:3-8 Living in Community: using your gifts/talents for the common good (*Priestly tasks; talents, etc.*)

12:9-21 Living with Individuals: Thirty Admonitions on “What love looks like in practice” (*each of these admonitions can be tied to Jesus’ teaching*)

1. ⁹Let love be genuine;
2. hate what is evil,
3. hold fast to what is good;
4. ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection;
5. outdo one another in showing honor.
6. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal,
7. be ardent in spirit,
8. serve the Lord.
9. ¹²Rejoice in hope,
10. be patient in suffering,
11. persevere in prayer.
12. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints;
13. extend hospitality to strangers.
14. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you;
15. bless and do not curse them.
16. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice,
17. weep with those who weep.
18. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another;
19. do not be haughty,
20. but associate with the lowly;
21. do not claim to be wiser than you are.
22. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil,
23. but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.
24. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
25. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”
26. ²⁰No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them;
27. if they are thirsty, give them something to drink;
28. for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.”
29. ²¹Do not be overcome by evil,
30. but overcome evil with good.

13:1-8 Living with a secular government
(“Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s”)

¹ Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants

13:9-10 Living by the Ten Commandments
(so Jesus in Sermon on the Mount)

⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

13:11-14 Living in God’s Time-line (*Jesus’ “eschatology” parables – master leaves; returns later*)

¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;

14:1-15:12 Living with Individuals of Differing Backgrounds, Traditions and Cultures

¹⁴¹³Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another.

¹⁵²Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor.

Paul steers his content back to the initial theme of Romans: Jews and Gentiles brought together in the household of God:

¹⁵⁷*Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, (into)/for the glory of God.*

⁸*For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised (Jews) on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles (“ethnics”) might glorify God for his mercy.*

- **Paul uses Jesus’ teaching** on *not judging, making unclean food clean; the “least of these”*
- **Jesus’ action** on understanding the “holy day” – the Sabbath

15:13-33 Paul’s own life as a model for “Living Sacrifice”

²⁰Thus I make it my ambition to proclaim the good news, not where Christ has already been named, so that I do not build on someone else’s foundation

16:1-27 Paul's own life within the Body of Christ – the vast mix of his associates and friends

- ⁷Greet **Andronicus and Junia**, my relatives who were in prison with me; they are **prominent among the apostles**, and they were in Christ before I was.
- ⁸Greet **Ampliatius**, my beloved in the Lord.
- ⁹Greet **Urbanus**, our co-worker in Christ, and my beloved **Stachys**.
- ¹⁰Greet **Apelles**, who is approved in Christ.
- Greet those who belong to the **family of Aristobulus**.
- ¹¹Greet my relative **Herodion**.
- Greet those in the Lord who belong to the **family of Narcissus**.
- ¹²Greet those workers in the Lord, **Tryphaena** and **Tryphosa**.
- Greet the beloved **Persis**, who has worked hard in the Lord.
- ¹³Greet **Rufus**, chosen in the Lord; (*see Mark 15:21 – Simon of Cyrene*) and greet his mother—a mother to me also.

THE CONCLUSION

Romans 16_25-27

²⁵Now to God
who is able to strengthen you

- according to my gospel
- and the proclamation of Jesus Christ,
- according to the revelation of the mystery

- that was kept secret for long ages

²⁶but is now disclosed,

- and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles,
- according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith

²⁷to the only wise God,
through Jesus Christ,
to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

¹⁵¹³May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.