

COMMENTARY

ROMANS

INTRODUCTION: This letter (epistle) was written by the Apostle Paul to the existing church at Rome around 57 A.D. Paul had never been to Rome at this point of his life but anticipates going. This letter introduces him and his teaching to the Christians there. They are told not only about the need of salvation and life in Christ but also, how they are to live as Christians.

Chapter 1:

vs. 1-7 Paul's introduction here, is rather lengthy, compared to some of his other letters. The reason for that is: people in Rome had never met him, whereas, those that he wrote to in other letters, had met him when he was there in their city helping to establish a body of believers.

He explains his role as a preacher of the Gospel of Christ, and then briefly summarizes his message. In this way, the readers would know exactly what Paul was proclaiming. He further states, that this message of salvation is being taught not only to the Jews, but to the non-Jews as well.

vs. 8-17 Paul addresses them and commends them for their faith in God, which others knew of and talked about. He informs them of his prayers for them and desire to visit, so that he may be able to help them grow and will find encouragement from their life. He tells them that he is anxious to teach and preach the gospel, for he is proud of the power of God that it represents in the matter of salvation.

vs. 18-26 Paul then begins to show the Christians in Rome, his belief of the gospels necessity, as man has turned away from God. He writes extensively how people were trying to ignore and replace God and how God had turned these people over to a futile life which would lead to death and destruction. It is interesting to note the similarities of Paul's day with ours. He showed how man tried to ignore God and then came the "Sexual" revolution. This same revolution, in Paul's day, led to an increase of sin. Notice, what Paul includes in that list: envy, gossip, boastful, disobeying parents; are included with murderers, God-haters, and those who invent ways of doing evil. SIN IS SIN IN GOD'S SIGHT!

COMMENTARY

ROMANS 2:

vs. 1-16:

Paul quickly has shown the need that mankind has for salvation. He now begins in with those who are quick to see others faults and fail to see their own. He warns his readers that they are in the same situation for even though they might be quick to judge, they also sin. Paul points out that God's judgement on these people will be fair; whereas man would not be impartial. Paul also suggests that another reason people might be quick to judge is that they want those "sinners", to get what's coming; and by having that type of attitude, they show contempt for God's kindness, patience and forgiveness. These attributes of God, help bring people to God and His love.

Paul states that eternal life will only be for those who persevere in doing good; whereas wrath and anger will be the reward of the self-seekers. It will make no difference what your nationality or belief is in that day, if you are outside of Christ, you will be punished.

Paul now handles a question that many people wonder about. He states that those who do not learn of Christ in this life, will be judged according to the standards of right and wrong in their society and conscience. On that basis, who will be saved, since there are none righteous?

vs. 17-29:

Paul looks at the attitude that the Jews had maintained for many a year. They felt that since they were God's people, that He would never cast them off. Paul shows that it makes no difference how much of God's will and Word you know, unless you apply it to your life. He states that those who are Jews, yet fail to obey God's Word, will be punished; whereas a non-Jew, who does what God desires, will receive praise from God.

Christians need to learn from this passage the lesson that we had better be living for Christ every day, otherwise, we are no better off than before we accepted Christ!

COMMENTARY

ROMANS 3:

vs. 1- 8:

Paul then asks his readers, the question he feels is in their mind; "What good is it then, to be a Jew?" The answer is that the promises that God has made to that nation and its homeland will continue in spite of the unfaithfulness of some of the Jews. Not only that, but, as a Jew, they had access to God's Laws and commands and could benefit from them.

Paul felt that some of the Christians at Rome might feel that mans unfaithfulness would be such a contrast to God's faithfulness, that it would work out to God's advantage and He would not punish. Paul says that this will certainly not be the case, but God will punish sin wherever it is found.

vs. 9-20:

Paul now demonstrates how the Scriptures clearly declare that everyone is a sinner, is deserving of death, no matter what their background might be. The Law of God was given to make man conscious of the wrongfulness of his actions and not to save men by declaring them righteous.

vs. 21-31:

Now that he has demonstrated mans lost state, Paul goes on to show that man can be righteous in God's sight only through faith in Christ. In Christ, man is made justified (JUST IF I'D never sinned) in the sight of God, because of God's grace and Jesus' purchasing our pardon on Calvary. Jesus was the sacrifice for our sins and we are now made clean by placing our faith in Him.

Paul shows that this salvation is available to all man. It is available as each places their faith in Christ. The law remains of value to us, for it makes us aware of our shortcomings; just as it was intended to do!

STUDY GUIDE

ROMANS 1:

1. How does Paul describe himself?
2. What was Jesus declared to be by the Spirit of holiness?
3. What was Paul and others, to call people to?
4. What was reported all over the world about the Christians of Rome?
5. Why did Paul long to come to see the Roman Christians?
6. Why was Paul not ashamed of the gospel of Christ?
7. What has clearly been seen, from the creation of the world
8. According to verse 21, what 2 things have men failed to do?
9. What does man worship and serve, rather than the Creator?
10. What happened when men committed indecent acts with other men?
11. What have those, who try to ignore God, become filled with?
12. What do those, who do these things, deserve?

BONUS:

1. What does Paul's desire to visit Rome, teach us as Christians?
2. Cite examples of how Christians can show pride in their faith.
3. What do you learn from the list of sin in verses 29-31?

STUDY GUIDE

ROMANS 2:

1. Why does Paul say that we condemn ourselves when we judge others?
2. What does God's kindness lead one towards?
3. To whom will God give eternal life?
4. For whom will there be wrath and anger?
5. Who will be declared righteous?
6. What will God judge, through Jesus Christ?
7. According to verse 17, what did the Jews rely on and brag about?
8. What question does Paul ask in verse 23?
9. What happened if the Jew would break the law? (see verse 25)
10. Who will be regarded as circumcised?
11. Who is a Jew, according to Paul in verse 29?
12. Who praises the one who is a Jew inwardly?

BONUS:

1. How are you tempted to judge others?
2. How do you think that God will judge those who have never heard about Jesus and salvation through Him?

STUDY GUIDE

ROMANS 3:

1. What have the Jews been entrusted with?
2. Will the Jews lack of faith, nullify God's faithfulness?
3. What are some claiming that the Christians had said?
4. Who are under sin?
5. What does Paul, in his quote, say that "no one does"? (see verse 10-12)
6. What marks the way of these sinners?
7. Why does the law, say what it does to those who are under it?
8. What do we become conscious of, through the law/
9. What has been made known, to which the Law and Prophets testify?
10. What came by Christ Jesus; according to verse 24?
11. Who does God justify?
12. How is man justified?

BONUS:

1. What do you think that it means, that "God is faithful, even when His people aren't"?
2. Is Paul's statement "there is no one righteous" a negative and unrealistic view towards the world?
3. What does it mean to you personally, that you can be made righteous through faith?

