

Overview of Romans

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Introduction:

- A. I am going to endeavor to cover most of the book of Romans.
- B. Listening to the word of man is profitless but listening to the word of God bears much fruit in your life.
- C. The word of God can change your life.

I. Let's begin with chapter 15:22-33.

- A. I'm going to use an overhead projector and encourage you to take notes.
 - 1. Paul wrote to Rome from Corinth in preparation for his visit to Rome.
 - 2. He was traveling through Asia Minor and hoped to visit Rome.
 - 3. He did visit Rome but not in the way he had hoped for he traveled there as a prisoner.
 - 4. Paul was converted in Damascus and went to Tarsus. (Acts 13)
 - 5. Barnabas invited Paul to Antioch to teach the Bible.
 - 6. After receiving a missionary calling in Antioch Paul and Barnabas and John Mark traveled on their first missionary journey.
 - a. During their travels they would visit synagogues.
 - b. They had trouble with Jewish people who opposed them, both jealous Jews and Judaizers that thought even Christians needed to keep the Mosaic Law.
 - c. In Jerusalem the Judaizers and Paul and Barnabas had it out regarding the use of the Law for a Christian.
 - d. The council decided it was not necessary for a Gentile to become a Jew in order to follow Christ.
 - 7. Even after the Jerusalem council the Christians in Antioch had trouble with the Jewish believers as was evidenced by Peter's refusal to eat with the Gentile Christians.
 - 8. On the second missionary journey they could not preach in Asia but were directed to Macedonia by the Spirit of God. (Acts 16)
 - a. They went to Macedonia and began in Philippi where they were thrown in jail.
 - b. From there they went on to Athens where Paul spoke at Mars Hill.

c. Next they went on to Corinth.

d. Then eventually on to Jerusalem.

9. From here they desired to go a third time through Macedonia.

a. During Paul's third journey, the second trip, to Corinth he wrote the book of Romans.

b. Leaving Corinth he again headed for Jerusalem and was warned not to go there for fear of persecution by the Jews.

c. Eventually Paul was arrested in Jerusalem where the Jews plotted his death.

d. During this time Paul preached to several Roman officials.

e. Paul appealed to Caesar and thus was sent to Rome.

10. Paul was a controversial man.

B. Romans is a great theological treatise where there is not specific problem addressed. Rather Romans is a presentation of New Testament theology.

1. Romans is laid out as a Christian catechism.

2. Chapter 1:1-17 is a personal introduction of Paul.

3. Chapter 1:18 to the end of chapter 2 begins a case for sin.

4. Paul deals with the righteousness of God and the privilege of the Jew.

5. Righteousness enters the world through Jesus Christ.

6. There is no room for boasting.

7. The Jew has no advantage over the Gentile.

8. The nature of the Law is dealt with.

9. The implication of justification is stated as a fact.

10. This question and answer style ends with chapter 11 where Paul deals with the future of Israel.

C. Romans a Christian catechism.

1. Chapter 1-2 is Paul's introduction.

2. Chapter 1:18-the end of chapter two contains a discussion of man's depravity

3. Chapter 2:17-3:20 deals with the unbeliever and the law, where the Jew is included with unbelievers.

a. Jews need to become like Gentiles

b. Jews need to renounce loyalty to the Law to become Christian.

4. Chapter 3:21-31 Paul deals with deliverance from sin.

a. He uses Abraham as an illustration.

b. Christ is the deliverer of all ages.

c. Imputation is defined here.

5. Chapter 6:1-23 the believer and sin is dealt with.

a. The believer is not to continue in sin.

b. The reign of sin is the context here.

6. Chapter 7 deals with the law and the believer.

7. Chapter 8 deals with the deliverance of the believer by the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

D. What are the implications of a man's inability to earn heaven?

1. Election is the solution.

2. The election of a nation is not to salvation but to privilege, whereas election of individuals is to salvation.

3. Not all Israel is of Israel.

4. Not all born of Isaac are of the promise.

5. Election and grace go hand in hand.

6. Men are elected to heaven by grace.

7. Though men are elected to salvation from the foundation of the world all people have an obligation to believe.

E. The future of Israel.

1. Chapter 9 Israel is elected.

2. Chapter 10 Israel is rejected.

3. Chapter 11 Israel is accepted.

- a. God has more for Israel.
- b. They are the people God deals with.

F. Believers are the subject of the end of Romans.

- 1. Chapter 12 deals with believers in the church.
- 2. Chapter 13 deals with believers in the world.
- 3. Chapter 14:1-15:7 deals with believers and liberty.

- a. How does a Christian live in liberty?
- b. God accepts us therefore we must accept ourselves and one another.

II. Overview.

- A. Chapter 1-2 deals with sin, the emphasis on man.
- B. Chapter 3:21-5 salvation, the emphasis on God.
- C. Chapter 6-8 sanctification, the emphasis on man.
- D. Chapter 9-11 Israel the emphasis on God.
- E. Chapter 12-16 Christians, the emphasis on man.
- F. Faith is a great theme in this book.
- G. Slavery is another great section.
- H. Righteousness is another great theme.
- I. Salvation is another great theme.
- J. I want to give you an assignment.

- 1. Read 1:1-3:20 in at least two different translations.
- 2. Read 3:21-5:21 in at least two different translations.

III. Closing application.

- A. Chapter 12:1-2 says we are to present our bodies as living sacrifices to God.
 - 1. Our minds are to be renewed.
 - 2. We are to know the will of God.

3. Day by day decisions require our immediate attention and we need confidence that we can know the will of God.

4. We can find the will of God for daily decisions by

a. Not being conformed to the world.

b. By being transformed by the word of God.

c. We are the sum total of all we hear and see.

d. The way we react to stimuli reveals how we are being transformed.

e. We would blush if others saw some of our thoughts.

f. How do I control the subconscious mind?

g. I must not be conformed to this world.

1. We don't need to find out what's going on in the world.

2. We need to be careful what we watch and listen to.

3. My friend is a successful salesman that travels a lot and lives in plush hotel rooms alone where he faces much temptation.

h. We need to be transformed in our minds by putting good stuff in our minds.

1. We need to hide God's word in our hearts.

2. To be godlike is to think godlike thoughts, which requires work.