

GRACE BY DESIGN

The Building Blocks of Grace

A Study of Romans 1:1-17

WEEK 2: Introduction to Romans

Reach Bible Fellowship

Todd Wangsness

Grace By Design: Study Outline

Week 1:	Romans	Overview of Grace and Salvation
Week 2:	Rom 1:1 – 1:17	Introduction to Romans
Week 3:	Rom 1:18 – 2:16	Justification – Ignorance is not an Excuse
Week 4:	Rom 2:17 – 3:20	Justification – Knowledge isn't Good Enough
Week 5:	Rom. 3:21 – 3:24	Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 1
Week 6:	Rom. 3:25 – 3:31	Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 2
Week 7:	Rom. 4:1 – 4:25	Justification – Faith vs the Law
Week 8:	Rom. 5:1 – 5:11	Sanctification – Peace with God 1
Week 9:	Rom. 5:12 – 5:21	Sanctification – Peace with God 2
Week 10:	Rom. 6:1 – 6:14	Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 1
Week 11:	Rom. 6:15 – 6:23	Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 2
Week 12:	Rom. 7:1 – 7:25	Sanctification – The Law Can't Save (But the Spirit Can!)
Week 13:	Rom. 8:1 – 8:17	Sanctification – Life in the Spirit
Week 14:	Rom. 8:18 – 8:30	Glorification – From Suffering to Glory
Week 15:	Rom. 8:31 – 8:39	Glorification – God's Everlasting Love
Week 16:	Rom. 9:1 – 9:33	Israel's Rejection and God's Purpose
Week 17:	Rom. 10:1 – 10:13	Israel and the Mystery of the Church 1
Week 18:	Rom. 10:14 – 10:21	Israel and the Mystery of the Church 2
Week 19:	Rom. 11:1 – 11:36	The Salvation of the Jewish people
Week 20:	Rom. 12:1 – 12:2	Living the Transformed Life
Week 21:	Rom. 12:3– 12:8	Gifts of the Spirit
Week 22:	Rom. 12:9– 12:21	The Christian Walk
Week 23:	Rom. 13:1 – 13:14	Love Fulfills the Law
Week 24:	Rom. 14:1 – 14:21	Not Judging the Weak in Faith
Week 25:	Rom. 15:1 – 15:25	Bearing One Another's Burdens
Week 26:	Rom. 16:1 – 16:25	Conclusion and closing remarks

Grace By Design: Introduction to Romans

Unique Characteristics of Romans

- **Paul answers a unique question of how God's righteousness can become man's possession**
- **Written to a church with whom Paul had no previous dealings**
- **At 60 Old Testament quotes, it contains more OT quotes than all of Paul's other writings combined**
- **Commonly used words:**
  - **God** — **153 times**
  - **Law** — **74 times**
  - **Messiah** — **66 times**
  - **Sin** — **48 times**
  - **Lord** — **43 times**
  - **Faith** — **40 times**
  - **Righteousness** — **36 times**

Grace By Design: Introduction to Romans

Romans 1

:1-4 ***Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.***

- ***"Bondservant"***
  - **Paul identified himself as a bondservant to Jesus**
  - **Slavery was legal in Rome – the Romans knew what slavery meant**
  - **Paul willingly enslaved himself to Jesus**
  - **We must also willingly adopt this attitude to be fruitful in the Lord**
  - **After accepting Jesus, we are to LIVE for Him (Gal 2:20)**

Grace By Design: Introduction to Romans

- ***"Promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures … born of the Seed of David"***
  - **As mentioned last week, there is a crimson thread of continuity from Genesis to Revelation. Here are just a few:**
    - **Rom 16:20 / Gen 3:15 "He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel."**
    - **Gen 12:2-3 / Gal 3:16, 19 "In your seed, all families … will be blessed"**
      - **Foreshadowing of the New Covenant**
    - **Jer 31:31 Promise of New Covenant (written around 600 BC)**
      - **Deafening silence about the New Covenant for 600+ years until Jesus inaugurates it in the Upper Room with His disciples (Ref Luk 22:20)**
    - **Psa 22 Prophecy of Jesus' crucifixion (David wrote this around 1000 BC)**
    - **Isa 53 The Suffering Servant (Isaiah written around 740 BC)**
    - **Rev 13:8 Jesus "slain from the foundation of the world"**
    - **More on this topic when we get to Romans 3:21-26**
  - **Some try to pit the OT against the NT, but:**
    - **"The NT is in the Old concealed…the OT is in the New revealed."**

Grace By Design: Introduction to Romans

Romans 1

:5-6 ***Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, 6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; 7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called [to be] saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.***

- ***"among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ"***
  - ***Rom 8:29-30 "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.***
- **"called saints" - The "to be" should not be in there. It was added to the original text.**
  - **The NT refers to all believers as "saints" (Grk 'hagios' meaning set apart for sacred use)**

Grace By Design: Introduction to Romans

Romans 1

:8-12 ***First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. 9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers, 10 making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you. 11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established— 12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.***

- **Paul shows his shepherd's heart. He longed to see them and to help make sure they were established.**
- **That they may be mutually encouraged.**

Grace By Design: Introduction to Romans

Romans 1

:13 ***Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles.***

:14-15 ***I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. 15 So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.***

- **Paul felt indebted to preach the gospel to the educated and uneducated, the wise and unwise**
- **Refers back to verse 1 where he regarded himself as a bondslave to Jesus**
- **His attitude is a departure from many teachers**
  - **He felt compelled to preach the gospel**
  - **He did not consider that he was doing something special**
  - **It was his DUTY to share the gospel to all that would hear it**

Grace By Design: Introduction to Romans

Book of Romans Theme Scripture:

1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

- **Romans 1 – 8 are an exegesis (expanded explanation) for these two verses**

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ …"

- **We should not be ashamed either!**
  - **What's easier to believe?**
    - **The creation we see around us just happened by chance…**
    - **Or, that an intelligent Creator brought it all into being?**
- **The evidence of "Intelligent Design" we see around us shows that the reality of God and the gospel message are <u>logically</u> rational.**
  - **It ***<u>is not</u>* a leap of faith or foolishness to believe in God.**
  - **The bible says ***<u>it is foolish</u>* to NOT believe in God! (Psa 14:1)**

Grace By Design: Introduction to Romans

"for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes"

- **"power of God" is the Greek word *dunamis* (where we get dynamite)**
- **The gospel is God's dynamite that provides salvation!**
- **"Salvation" is not just limited to the moment of accepting Christ as our Savior. It includes:**
  - **The Past (Justification): Romans 1 – 4**
  - **The Present (Sanctification): Romans 5:1 – 8:17**
  - **The Future (Glorification): Romans 8:18 – 8:39**
- **The scope of Salvation is very large, but also quite limited**
  - **It is for '*everyone*'**
  - **But limited to only those '*who believe*'**
    - **Joh 3:16 "whosoever believes"**
  - **2 Pet 3:9 God wants ALL to come to repentance, but won't force anyone**

Grace By Design: Introduction to Romans

"to the Jew first, and also to the Greek"

- **Paul addresses the topic of Salvation (and Guilt!) to two groups of people**
  - **Those who know about God (people "*with the Law*")**
  - **Those who don't know about God (people "*without the Law*")**
- **Salvation applies to ALL people who have ever lived; past, present and future**
- **It applies to those "before the cross" and those "after the cross"**

Grace By Design: Introduction to Romans

"For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

- **Here we see Paul showing that Salvation is about more than Justification (accepting Jesus as your Savior)**
- **He shows that those who are justified shall then *"live by faith"*.**
  - **This points to the second aspect of Salvation, which is our Sanctification;**
  - **Pictured by a life of dependence on the Holy Spirit and His power day-by-day to deliver us from the power of sin through faith**
  - **It is quoted from the OT in Hab 2:4 and is used in two other places in the NT (Gal 3:11 and Heb 10:38)**

Grace By Design: Introduction to Romans

- **Some Questions to Ponder**
  - **What is the "Law"?**
    - **Are we "under the Law"?**
  - **Can we be "perfect" (sinless) in this life?**
  - **What does it mean to be "called"? Is that the same as a "calling"?**
  - **What does it mean to "believe"?**
    - **Is it different than "Faith" or are they synonymous?**
  - **Is there a difference between being "justified by faith" and "living by faith"?**

Grace By Design: Introduction to Romans

- **The next two sections are hard-hitting. Paul pulls no punches.**
- **Fact: Until we are "saved" (justified), we are under God's wrath**
- **However, God has provided a clear path to salvation for us to avoid His wrath**
- **That path is ONLY through Jesus**
  - **He is the Way, Truth and Life (Joh 14:6)**
  - ***2 Cor 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***
  - ***2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.***
  - ***Eph 3:16-20 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.***