

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE

ROMANS

----- Lesson 1 -----

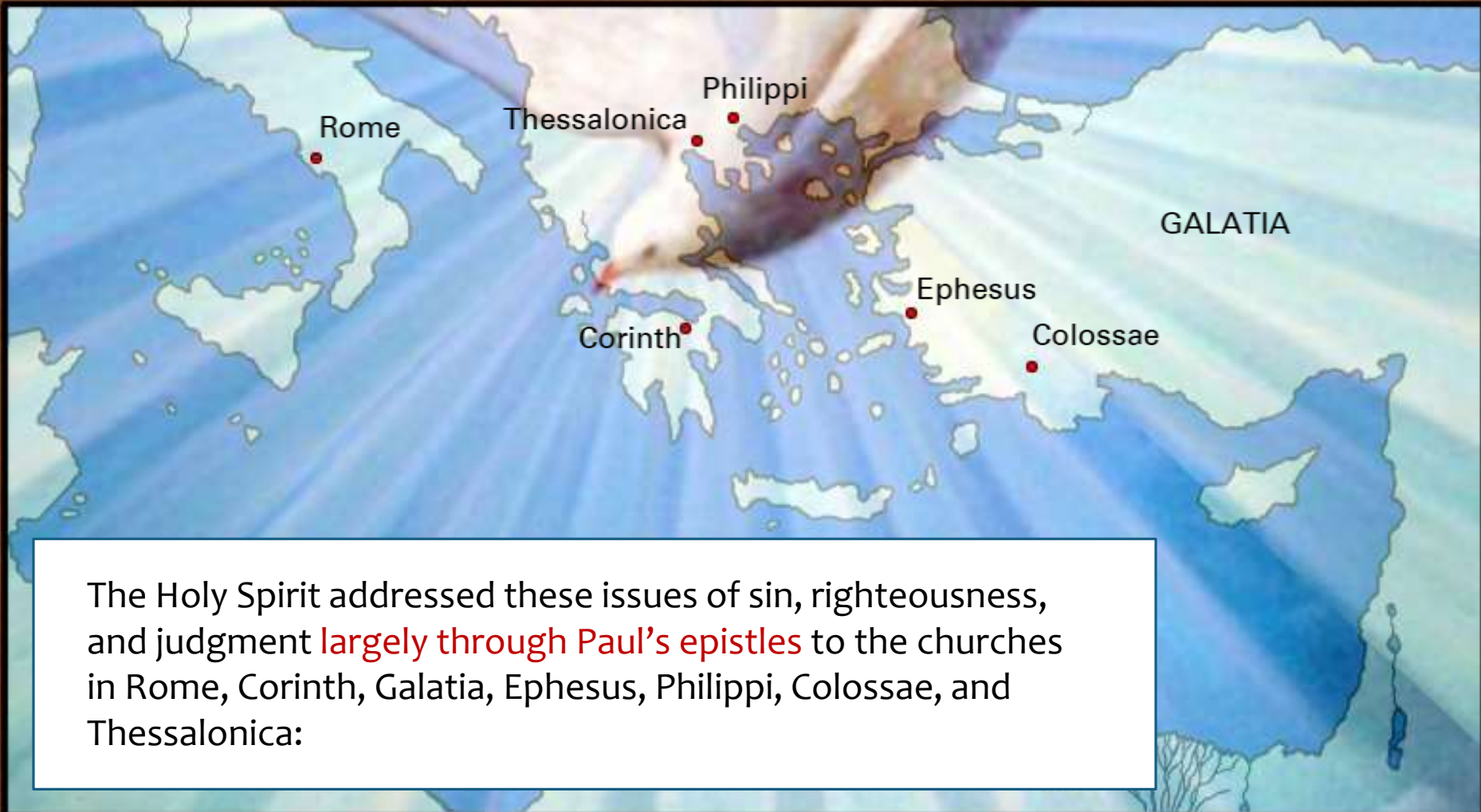
The Introduction to the Epistle
(Romans 1:1-17)



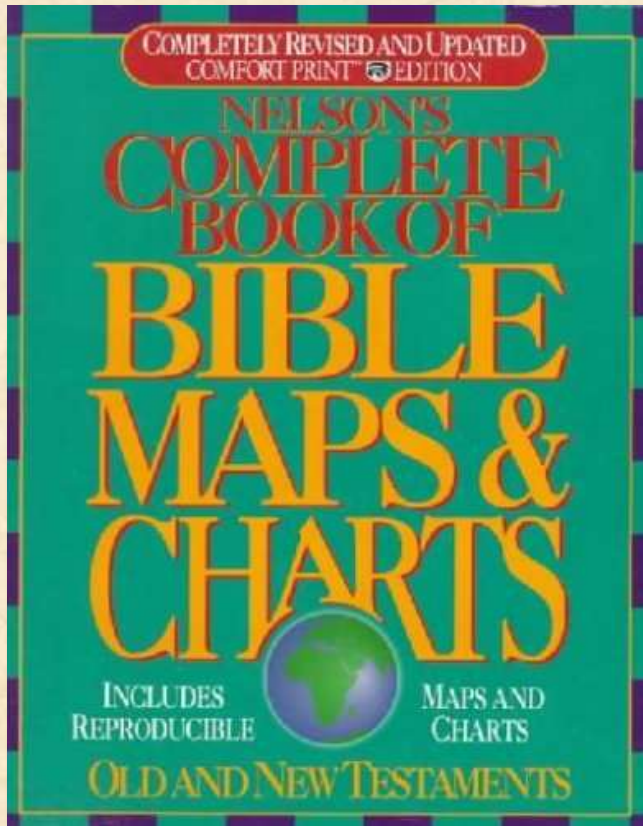
Jesus said that the arrival of the Holy Spirit (whom he called *the Comforter*) would bring in a new era of spiritual understanding for anyone with eyes to see and ears to hear:

John 16:7-13

- ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, **the Comforter** will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.
- ⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:
- ⁹ **Of sin**, because they believe not on me;
- ¹⁰ **Of righteousness**, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;
- ¹¹ **Of judgment**, because the prince of this world is judged.

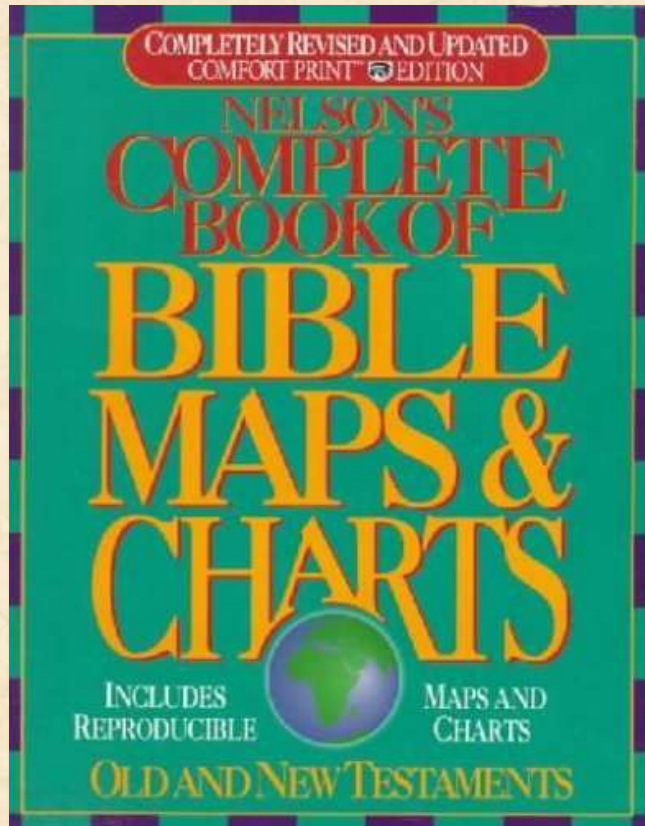


The Holy Spirit addressed these issues of sin, righteousness, and judgment **largely through Paul's epistles** to the churches in Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colossae, and Thessalonica:



“Romans is theologically **the most important** of all the epistles written by Paul, and it contains his most comprehensive and logical presentation of the gospel.”

Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts



The outline used in this study is from this same book. It is not the final authority on the structure of the Epistle to the Romans, but it is a helpful aid to our understanding.

THE STRUCTURE OF ROMANS

INTRODUCTION	(1:1-17)
PART 1: The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God	(1:18 to 8:39)
PART 2: The VINDICATION of the Righteousness of God	(9:1 to 11:36)
PART 3: The APPLICATION of the Righteousness of God	(12:1 to 15:13)
CONCLUSION	(15:14 to 16:27)

THE STRUCTURE OF ROMANS

INTRODUCTION	(1:1-17)
PART 1: The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God	(1:18 to 8:39)
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CONCLUSION	(15:14 to 16:27)

Romans has THREE main parts, plus an introduction and a conclusion.

THIS LESSON:

INTRODUCTION

(1:1-17)

(a) The Salutation

(1:1-7)

(b) The Prayer

(1:8-12)

(c) The Theme

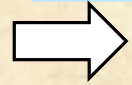
(1:13-17)

We begin with the introduction. It also has three parts.

THIS LESSON:

INTRODUCTION

(1:1-17)



(a) *The Salutation*

(1:1-7)

(b) The Prayer

(1:8-12)

(c) The Theme

(1:13-17)

The first 7 verses are Paul's greeting to the church in Rome.

Verses 1 to 7 are one long sentence.

- 1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ,
called to *be* an apostle, separated
unto the gospel of God,
- 2 (Which he had promised afore by
his prophets in the holy scriptures,)
- 3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our
Lord, which was made 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:
- 5 By whom we have received
grace and apostleship, for
obedience to the faith among
all nations, for his name:
- 6 Among whom are ye also the
called of Jesus Christ:
- 7 To all that be in Rome,
beloved of God,
called to *be* saints:
Grace to you and peace
from God our Father,
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:1-2

- ¹ Paul,
a servant of Jesus Christ,
called to be an apostle,
separated unto the gospel of God,
- ² (Which he had promised afore by his
prophets in the holy scriptures,)

Paul begins his letter by listing the things that gave him the authority to be a spokesperson for God.



The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:1-2

- ¹ Paul,
a servant of Jesus Christ,
called to be an apostle,
separated unto the gospel of God,
- ² (Which he had promised afore by his
prophets in the holy scriptures,)

First of all, Paul was a servant of the King of kings. He cared about pleasing the Master, not winning the favor of the people.

Galatians 1:10

- ¹⁰ For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.



The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:1-2

- ¹ Paul,
a servant of Jesus Christ,
called to be an apostle,
separated unto the gospel of God,
- ² (Which he had promised afore by his
prophets in the holy scriptures,)

He was called to be an apostle.

The theologian Matthew Henry wrote that apostles are “the chief ministers entrusted with all the powers necessary to found a church, and make an entire revelation of God's will.”



The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:1-2

- ¹ Paul,
a servant of Jesus Christ,
called to be an apostle,
separated unto the gospel of God,
- ² (Which he had promised afore by his
prophets in the holy scriptures,)

This was not a matter of personal choice. He was called by God, divinely selected and appointed to this life.

Paul warned about people who appoint themselves to this ministry without God's hand on their lives. They are false apostles.



The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:1-2

- ¹ Paul,
a servant of Jesus Christ,
called to be an apostle,
separated unto the gospel of God,
² (Which he had promised afore by his
prophets in the holy scriptures,)

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

- ¹³ For such *are* false apostles,
deceitful workers,
transforming themselves into the
apostles of Christ.
¹⁴ And no marvel;
for Satan himself is transformed
into an angel of light.
¹⁵ Therefore *it is* no great thing if
his ministers also be transformed
as the ministers of righteousness;
whose end shall be according to
their works.



The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:1-2

- ¹ Paul,
a servant of Jesus Christ,
called to be an apostle,
separated unto the gospel of God,
- ² (Which he had promised afore by his
prophets in the holy scriptures,)

Paul had been separated by God,
set apart from a larger group in
order to serve the gospel of God.



The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:1-2

- ¹ Paul,
a servant of Jesus Christ,
called to be an apostle,
separated unto the gospel of God,
- ² (Which he had promised afore by his
prophets in the holy scriptures,)

First, he was unto salvation. He said, “God ... separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace” (Gal. 1:15).



The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:1-2

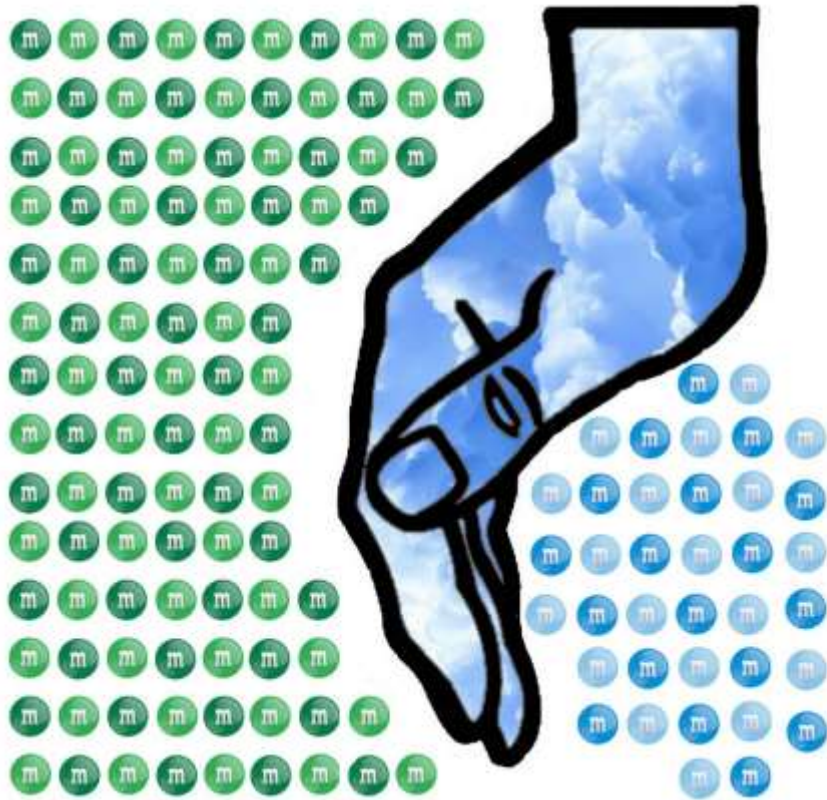
- ¹ Paul,
a servant of Jesus Christ,
called to be an apostle,
separated unto the gospel of God,
- ² (Which he had promised afore by his
prophets in the holy scriptures,)

Next, he was separated by the Holy Spirit for a special job.

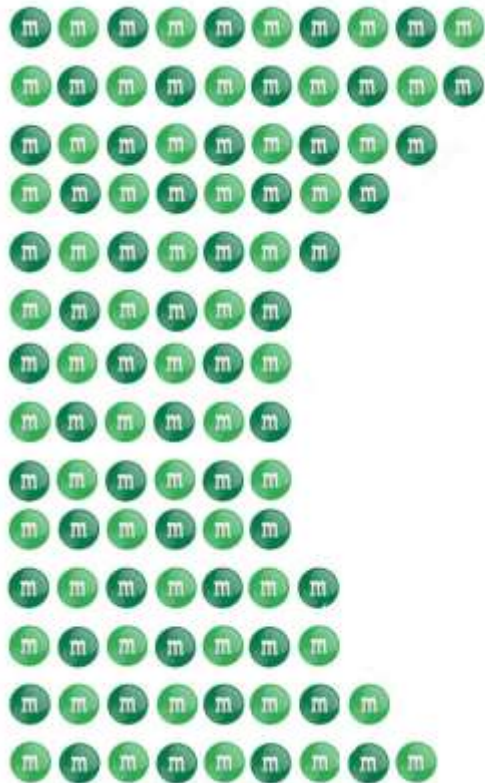
Acts 13:1a, 2

- ¹ Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers ...
- ² As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.





Separated unto salvation



Separated to a particular service

The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:1-2

- ¹ Paul,
a servant of Jesus Christ,
called to be an apostle,
separated unto the gospel of God,
- ² (Which he had promised afore by his
prophets in the holy scriptures,)

He also separated *himself* from all things that would prevent him from serving God:



The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:1-2

- ¹ Paul,
a servant of Jesus Christ,
called to be an apostle,
separated unto the gospel of God,
² (Which he had promised afore by his
prophets in the holy scriptures,)

He also separated *himself* from all things that would prevent him from serving God:

2 Corinthians 6:17-18

- ¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,
¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.



The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:1-2

- ¹ Paul,
a servant of Jesus Christ,
called to be an apostle,
separated unto the gospel of God,
- ² (Which he had promised afore by his
prophets in the holy scriptures,)

The gospel of God is the story of the promised Messiah that was foretold in the prophets of the Old Testament.



The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:3-4

- ³ Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made 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:

Having established his personal credentials, Paul now declares the credentials of the One who sent him, Jesus Christ our Lord.



The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:3-4

- ³ Concerning **his Son** Jesus Christ our Lord, which was **made 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:**

Paul named three things that give Jesus the right to be called Lord:

He is the Son of God,
the rightful heir to David's throne,
and the Resurrected One.



The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:5

- ⁵ By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:
- ⁶ Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

The grace of God and man's required obedience to that grace are key points of this epistle.



The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:5

- ⁵ By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:
- ⁶ **Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:**

Here, Paul states the authority of those he writes to:

The *called* of Jesus Christ comprise the *church* of Jesus Christ.



The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:7

⁷ To all that be in Rome,
beloved of God,
called to *be* saints:
Grace to you and peace
from God our Father,
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now we read a specific greeting to the Christians in Rome, followed by Paul's customary benediction:



The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:7

⁷ To all that be in Rome,
beloved of God,
called to *be* saints:
Grace to you and peace
from God our Father,
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We should never forget that God's word to us is the word of the Bridegroom to his bride.



The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:7

⁷ To all that be in Rome,
beloved of God,
called to *be* saints:
Grace to you and peace
from God our Father,
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We should never forget that God's word to us is the message of the Bridegroom to his bride.

Song of Solomon 6:3:

³ *I am* my beloved's,
and my beloved *is* mine:
he feedeth among the lilies.



The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:7

⁷ To all that be in Rome,
beloved of God,
called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace
from God our Father,
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A saint is not a special rank among believers. All believers are called saints – holy ones – because they are the temple of the living God.

Acts 9:32

³² And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all *quarters*, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda.



The Salutation (1:1-7)

Romans 1:7

⁷ To all that be in Rome,
beloved of God,
called to *be* saints:

Grace to you and peace
from God our Father,
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The words **GRACE** and **PEACE** summarize the message Paul was called to preach and teach.

This blessing is found in all of Paul's letters to the churches:



1 Corinthians 1:3 *Grace be unto you, and peace,* from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:2 *Grace be to you and peace* from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:3 *Grace be to you and peace* from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 1:2 *Grace be to you, and peace,* from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2 *Grace be unto you, and peace,* from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: *Grace be unto you, and peace,* from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians *which is* in God the Father and *in* the Lord Jesus Christ: *Grace be unto you, and peace,* from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:2 *Grace unto you, and peace,* from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1:1-7 in Review

Paul's qualifications –

A servant, called to be an apostle, separated

Christ's qualifications –

The Son of God, the heir to David's throne,
the Resurrected One.

The believers' qualifications –

The beloved of God, called to be saints.

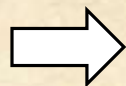
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(b) The Prayer

(1:8-12)

(c) The Theme

(1:13-17)

Now we read Paul's opening prayer.

Romans 1:8-12

⁸ 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 any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.

¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;

¹² That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

The Prayer (1:8-12)

Romans 1:8-9

- ⁸ 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;

Matthew Henry Commentary

“We must express our love to our friends, not only by praying for them, but by praising God for them.”



The Prayer (1:8-12)

Romans 1:10-12

- ¹⁰ Making request, if by any means now at length **I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.**
- ¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;
- ¹² That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

Paul's petition had three parts:

1. To come to see them in a journey that was sanctified by God.



The Prayer (1:8-12)

Romans 1:10-12

- ¹⁰ Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.
- ¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;
- ¹² That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

Paul's petition had three parts:

1. To come to see them in a journey that was sanctified by God.
2. To give them a spiritual gift that would establish them in the faith.



The Prayer (1:8-12)

Romans 1:10-12

- ¹⁰ Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.
- ¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;
- ¹² **That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.**

Paul's petition had three parts:

1. To come to see them in a journey that was sanctified by God.
2. To give them a spiritual gift that would establish them in the faith.
3. To be with them to enjoy the comforts of mutual faith.



THIS LESSON:

INTRODUCTION

(1:1-17)

(a) The Salutation

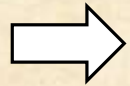
(1:1-7)

(b) The Prayer

(1:8-12)

(c) The Theme

(1:13-17)



The final part of the introduction sets the theme of this epistle.

(c) The Theme

Romans 1:13-17

- ¹³ Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.
- ¹⁴ I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.
- ¹⁵ So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

- ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
- ¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

The Theme (1:13-17)

Romans 1:13

¹³ Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

It had long been Paul's desire to minister in Rome, and for the best of reasons:



The Theme (1:13-17)

Romans 1:13

¹³ Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

It had long been Paul's desire to minister in Rome, and for the best of reasons:

Colossians 1:28 says, "We preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:



The Theme (1:13-17)

Romans 1:13

¹³ Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, **(but was let hitherto,)** that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

The NLT translates this, **“but I was prevented until now.”**



The Theme (1:13-17)

Romans 1:14

¹⁴ I am debtor both to the Greeks,
and to the Barbarians;
both to the wise, and to the unwise.

Because of the Great Commission,
we owe it to the world to speak the
Gospel to them.

Mark 16:15

And he said unto them,
Go ye into all the world, and preach
the gospel to every creature.



The Theme (1:13-17)

Romans 1:15

¹⁵ So, **as much as in me is**, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

Paul's example shows us how much effort it will take if we want to run our race to the end.



The Theme (1:13-17)

Romans 1:16

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for **it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;** to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

This is the great theme of Paul's life, and this epistle:



The Theme (1:13-17)

Romans 1:17

¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith:

as it is written,

The just shall live by faith.

This quote is from Habakkuk 2:4
Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up
is not upright in him:
but the just shall live by his faith.



The Theme (1:13-17)

Romans 1:17

¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith:

as it is written,

The just shall live by faith.

This comes from Habakkuk 2:4
Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up
is not upright in him:
but the just shall live by his faith.

This completes the introduction.



THE STRUCTURE OF ROMANS

INTRODUCTION

(1:1-17)

UP NEXT

PART 1: The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God (1:18 to 8:39)

A. *The Need for God's Righteousness*

(1:18-3:20)

In the next lesson we will begin Part One of Romans.

Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. What is the structure of the Epistle of Romans that will be used in this study?
2. What are the three parts to the Introduction?
3. What three things gave Paul the authority to write this letter?
4. In what two ways did God separate Paul for the Lord's service?
5. In what way did Paul separate himself for the Lord's service?
6. According to Romans 1:3-4, what three things gave Jesus authority to be Lord?
7. What two words are found in ALL of Paul's greetings to the churches?
8. According to Romans 1:7, what are the two things that qualify believers to read Paul's message?
9. In Romans 1:10-12 what are the three parts of Paul's prayer?
10. What is the theme to Romans that is stated in Romans 1:16?

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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