

## Introduction to The Pauline Epistles and Romans

<b>The Man and His Epistles</b>	
<b>Saul or Paul</b>	Saul of Tarsus was a Jewish Rabbi who was a citizen of Rome. Saul was his Jewish name, while Paul was his Roman name. He emphasized “Paul” after his Macedonian call to reach the Gentiles. Both make him uniquely qualified to be the greatest Ambassador for the Gospel who ever lived. As a Roman, he could travel the Roman roads freely throughout the Empire. As a Jew, he was educated under Gamaliel. Following his conversion on the Road to Damascus, he became God’s spokesman.
<b>Epistle</b>	Epistle comes from a Greek word that means “letter” or “message.” They were often dictated to a scribe, who wrote them down on a scroll before being delivered by a trusted messenger. Timothy, for example, served as a deliverer of many of Paul’s epistles. Epistles also follow a straightforward format: (1) An Introduction (author; audience; greeting, etc); (2) A Body (main message); (3) Conclusion (general blessing; personal notes to individuals, etc).
<b>78%</b>	78% of the New Testament, 21 of 27 books, are Epistles. Of those, 13 were written by the Apostle Paul. The rest are called the Catholic/General Epistles. Catholic means “universal” and they are called that because they have a universal audience, not a specific one.
<b>Catholic/General Epistles</b>	Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John, and Jude.
<b>Paul’s Epistles</b>	Paul’s Epistles are generally divided into three subgroups. (1) Prison Epistles – Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. They were written during Paul’s two-year house arrest in Rome. (2) Pastoral Epistles – 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus. They were written to pastors. (3) General Epistles – Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians

<b>Introducing Romans</b>	
<b>Most Influential Book in NT</b>	The Book of Romans, not Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John, has been the most influential book in the NT in terms of its impact on societies/peoples on every continent.  “This epistle is really the chief part of the NT...It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. We can never read it or ponder over it too much; for the more we deal with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes.” (Martin Luther, Father of the Reformation).
<b>Reason</b>	Paul had one Goal in mind when writing the Book of Romans: to explain the Gospel in order to get the Jews and Gentiles who made up the church to see each other through the eyes of the Cross and the Christ. The Gospel, from Paul’s perspective, was the answer to interpersonal relationships. That’s why he takes so much time to explain the Gospel in the Book of Romans.
<b>In a Word and Phrase</b>	Gospel / “Righteousness of God”
<b>Key Verse</b>	“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith.’” (Romans 1:16-17)

<b>The Gospel Road in Romans (1-11)</b>	
(1) <b>The Wrath of God is Being Revealed: Immorality:</b>	<sup>1:18</sup> The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, <sup>19</sup> since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. (ch 1)
(2) <b>The Wrath of God is Being Revealed: Self-Righteousness:</b>	<sup>2:1</sup> You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. (ch 2)
(3) <b>Therefore, no one is Righteous by their Behavior:</b>	<sup>20</sup> Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. (ch 3)

- (4) **A Righteousness from Heaven is Therefore Required and Only Comes Through Faith:** <sup>21</sup> But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup> This righteousness is given through faith in<sup>[b]</sup> Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (ch 3)
- (5) **It's Nothing New. Abraham Was Justified by Faith:** <sup>2</sup> If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. <sup>3</sup> What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness. (ch 4)
- (6) **This Justification by Faith Gives Us Peace and Hope:** Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we<sup>[a]</sup> have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we<sup>[b]</sup> boast in the hope of the glory of God. (ch 5)
- (7) **This Justification by Faith Makes us Dead to Sin and Alive in Christ:** <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life (ch 6).
- (8) **We Are Now, Therefore, Released from Bondage to the Law and are now in Bondage to Christ:** <sup>4</sup> So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. (ch 7)
- (9) **And We Are Not Condemned, Nor Will We Be in the Future. Ever.:** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you<sup>[a]</sup> free from the law of sin and death (ch 8).
- (10) **Because God is For Us:** <sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who<sup>[i]</sup> have been called according to his purpose. . . . <sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? . . . <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (ch 8)
- (11) **And Don't Worry Jews. God Has a Plan for Israel, His Chosen People:** <sup>25</sup> I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, <sup>26</sup> and in this way<sup>[a]</sup> all Israel will be saved. As it is written: “The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. <sup>27</sup> And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.” (chs 9-11)

#### The Gospel Results (Why Paul Explains the Gospel): Interpersonal Relationships (ch 12-16)

- (1) **We Live Sacrificially:** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. (ch 12)
- (2) **We Serve Humbly:** <sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. (ch 12)
- (3) **We Love Sincerely:** <sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. (ch 12)
- (4) **We Submit to Governing Authorities:** Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup> Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. (ch 13)
- (5) **We Accept Christians Where They Are and Avoid Stumbling Blocks So They Can Grow:** <sup>13</sup> Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. <sup>14</sup> I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. (ch 14)
- (6) **We Bear With Each Other's Failings and Build Them Up, Not the Opposite:** We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. <sup>3</sup> For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>4</sup> For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. (ch 15)
- (7) **We Keep Guard and Watch Out for Those Who Cause Divisions:** <sup>17</sup> I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. <sup>18</sup> For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. (ch 16)