



THE BOOK OF

ROMANS

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 1:1-17

Joel W. Harder

Introduction

- Romans sets forth most clearly the essence of the Biblical message...
- of how a Holy God gets sinful man into heaven without compromising Himself.
- “[Romans is] the book, that is the explanatory book of the most important book that’s ever been written.” - *Tommy Nelson*
- “Can’t be studied without a revival in a person, a body, and a society.”

Luther's Introduction to Romans

- We find in this letter, then, the richest possible teaching about what a Christian should know:
- the meaning of law, Gospel, sin, punishment, grace, faith, justice, Christ, God, good works, love, hope and the cross.
- We learn how we are to act toward everyone, toward the virtuous and sinful, toward the strong and the weak, friend and foe, and toward ourselves.

Luther's Introduction to Romans

- Paul bases everything firmly on Scripture and proves his points with examples from his own experience and from the Prophets, so that nothing more could be desired.
- Therefore it seems that St. Paul, in writing this letter, wanted to compose a summary of the whole of Christian and evangelical teaching which would also be an introduction to the whole Old Testament.

Luther's Introduction to Romans

- Without doubt, whoever takes this letter to heart possesses the light and power of the Old Testament.
- Therefore each and every Christian should make this letter the habitual and constant object of his study.
- God grant us his grace to do so. Amen.
 - ▣ Translation by Bro. Andrew Thornton, OSB, for the Saint Anselm College Humanities Program. (c)1983 by Saint Anselm Abbey.

V1: Author

- Paul
- Apostello, sent forth ones
- Eye witnesses to go out with the message
- The Gospel: “Good Message”

V2: Source

- Old Testament Prophets
- Not new
- Continuation and fulfillment of the OT

V3: Focus

- Concerning God's Son
- Descendant of David
 - ▣ Docetism (doceteo – to seem)
- Son of God
 - ▣ Theanthropic man

V4: Proof

- He arose from the Dead
- Spirit of Holiness – a divine term
- Full Title, **Lord Jesus Christ**
 - ▣ Lord: Divinity
 - ▣ Jesus: Humanity
 - ▣ Christ: Office
 - Prophet
 - Priest
 - King

V5: Purpose

- To move one to action, to believe
- What is the Act of Faith?
- ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”
 - ▣ John 6:29
- The purpose of the Gospel is to bring you to your knees and confess, “You are my God and my King!”

V5: Scope

- To all nations

V6: Recipients

- Called
 - Summoned by God to be His
 - ⁹ *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Pet. 2:9)*
- Loved
 - By God
- Saints
 - Holy Ones, set apart

VV8-15: Occasion

- Immediate Reason for Writing
 - ▣ To clear up any misunderstanding about Paul's intentions
- Paul was thought to be afraid to come to Rome

Afraid?

- V1 1: Praying/Longing to get to Rome
- Wants to see them grow from what he has to offer
- He will be encouraged being among them. Why?
- V1 3: He's Prevented
- V1 4: He's Obligated
- Greeks and the Barbarians
 - ▣ Intelligentsia and the uneducated

The Summit of the Bible



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- Romans 1:16-17
- “The greatest words ever penned by a mortal.” Tom Nelson

For I am
NOT ASHAMED
of the Gospel it is **POWER**
of THE **GOD** for
Salvation to
everyone **WHO**
BELIEVES

Romans 1:16

The Uniqueness of the Gospel

- What is the standard of righteousness to get into heaven?
- “The righteousness that God’s righteousness requires Him to require.” Puritan definition of the righteousness of God.
- Where can you get it?
- Where can’t you get it?
- Sin is ***punished*** in the Gospel.
- Moral perfection is ***provided*** in the Gospel.

Uniqueness of Gospel Cont.

- “Here we have the text of the whole Epistle of Romans:
 - ▣ “First, the words ‘the gospel’ so dear to Paul, as will appear.
 - ▣ “Next, the universal saving power of this gospel is asserted.
 - ▣ “Then, the secret of the gospel’s power – the revelation of God’s righteousness on the principle of faith.
 - ▣ Finally, the accord of all this with the Old Testament.” –
(William Newell, 1970)
- God’s Righteousness imputed to those *who live by faith*.

Habakkuk 1:1 2-2:5

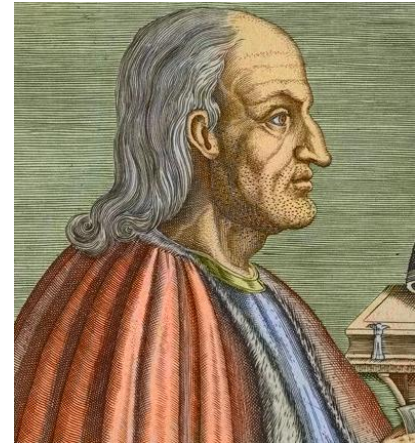
- The righteousness of God
- The prevailing of evil
- The devouring of righteous by the Evil One
- What is Habakkuk's complaint?
 - ▣ What do I say to this world?
- Puffed up soul
 - ▣ Self-righteous
 - ▣ Self-reliant
 - ▣ Self indulgent

Power of God

- What it means to be a Christian; faith is in Christ.
- THE Power of God
 - ▣ Boldness comes from conviction of the uniqueness of God's salvation.
 - ▣ No Plan B
 - ▣ Paul understands the realities of the nature of man, condemnation, hell, and justification.

Fides Quaerens Intellectum

- “From faith for faith...”
- Dealing with doubt
- Faith Seeking Understanding
- "God often works more by the life of the illiterate seeking the things that are God's, than by the ability of the learned seeking the things that are their own." – St. Anselm of Canterbury
- Looking to the person of Jesus
- It is always about a relationship



Changed the World?

- Augustinian Monk
- Tormented with fear that he couldn't earn heaven
- Sent to Wittenberg to teach Bible
- Eyes fell on Romans 1:16-17

