

Why Romans

1) What is Romans?

Romans is a letter written by the Apostle Paul right around A.D. 56 as Paul is in Corinth at the close of his 3rd Missionary journey. **It is a systematic expression of the Gospel, the good news of God's Christ, which serves as the central core of the Christian faith.**

The Jew tended to put too much emphasis on keeping the ritual of the OT Law

The Gentile tended to put too little emphasis on the morals contained in the OT Law

And so Paul will labor hard in this letter to not only show them their inherent guilt and sin before God, but also to clarify that a righteous standing before God (justification) is not by keeping the Mosaic Law (or any law), but entirely by grace through faith.

AND our living in the "newness of life" is not by following the external Law code, but by yielding to the Spirit's work inside our heart. This will lead us to uphold the moral fabric of the Mosaic law, but ALSO to go beyond it to love God and neighbor in ways the Law never specified.

Paul's strategy was to bring unity by emphasizing the Gospel itself as the framework upon which the Christian life and faith and fellowship is to be built.

2) Why write this letter? How is it useful for us today?

a) To Unify the Church around the Gospel

b) To Clarify the Gospel

c) To Build Confidence in the Gospel

d) To Encourage Gospel Ministry

3) Content

Ch. 1-4	Righteousness & Guilt, Faith & Family
Ch. 5-8	Hope & Change (all along the way)
Ch. 9-11	Confidence in God & His Gospel
Ch. 12-15	Transformation & Unity
Ch. 15-16	Mission and Fellowship

4) Gospel Introduced – Romans 1:1-5

a) Slave of Christ Jesus

Chosen, Set Apart

b) The Gospel of God

c) God's Son

1. Messiah

2. Son of God in Power

3. Jesus Christ our Lord

d) Obedience of Faith