

Subject: *Introduction to Romans*

Scripture: *Romans 1:1-12*

As we begin our journey through the Book of Romans it will be worthwhile to consider a few things to get us ready.

Why should we study the Bible?

1. All Scripture is inspired by God

2 Timothy 3:16 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

Matthew 4:4 *It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

The truth of the Bible matters.

2. Scripture produces spiritual life and growth

James 1:18 *Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

1 Peter 1:23 *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

1 Peter 2:2 *As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.*

3. Scripture protects us from false teachers and their teaching

Ephesians 4:14 *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.*

1 Timothy 4:1 *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.*

1 John 4:1 *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

Why should we study the Book of Romans?

1. Romans is the most complete statement of the Christian faith

When we think of Romans some of us automatically think of the plan of salvation or the Romans Road, but there is so much more in this book. If God only wanted to tell us how to be saved, He could have put that in one chapter or even one verse. In Romans God tells us not only how to be saved, but why we need to be saved and how to live after we are saved.

2. Romans is written for God's people in the local church

This is not a book just for preachers and teachers, for the seminary and Bible college. This book was written for members of the church at Rome. It is a letter (epistle, official letter) written by the Apostle Paul to a church where he wanted to visit, but had never been before.

3. Romans is one of the foundational books in the Bible

All 66 books have their place and all are inspired by God, but some books of the Bible give us the truth that we build our lives and our church upon. I believe there are at least four foundational books of the Bible, and if you know these you will be well grounded in your Christian life: Genesis (the book of beginnings), The Gospel of John (the person of Christ), Hebrews, and Romans (the work of Christ, salvation, and the Christian life).

What should we learn from the Book of Romans?

<u>Romans 1-3</u>	<u><i>God's Righteousness is Needed</i></u>
<u>Romans 3-4</u>	<u><i>God's Righteousness is Provided</i></u>
<u>Romans 5-8</u>	<u><i>God's Righteousness is Received</i></u>
<u>Romans 9-11</u>	<u><i>God's Righteousness for Jews and Gentiles</i></u>
<u>Romans 12-16</u>	<u><i>God's Righteousness in Everyday Life</i></u>

- 1) All people need salvation
- 2) All people can have salvation
- 3) All people are saved the same way
- 4) All people receive the same blessings of salvation
- 5) All people experience the same struggles in salvation
- 6) All people have eternal security in salvation
- 7) All people are expected to serve and glorify God for salvation

What kind of book is Romans?

1. It is a logical book
2. It is a profound book
3. It is an influential book

It greatly influenced the course of church history. It sparked the Reformation and had a lasting impact on many Christian leaders. Martin Luther called it “the chief book of the New Testament.” He said, “It can never be read or pondered too much and more it is dealt with, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes.” William Tyndale wrote this in his English translation, which was published about 100 years before the King James Version: “No man can verily read it too often or study it too well, for the more it is studied the easier it is, the more it is chewed the pleasanter it is, and the more carefully it is searched the more precious things are found in it, so great treasure of spiritual things lies hidden therein.”