

Parson to Person

ROMANS 1 (PART 1)

“Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; to all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. 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, making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you. For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles. I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also” (Romans 1:1–15 NKJV).

Paul the Apostle wrote the Book of Romans from Corinth sometime in 57-58 A.D. before his journey to Jerusalem, arrest, and incarceration in Caesarea by the Sea. His letter anticipated a future trip to the Italian capitol where Paul intended to provide and receive mutual blessing with the Roman Christians (see 1:12). His audience in Rome was a mixture of both Jews and Gentiles as is made clear in the text. This fact however is difficult to track as Paul both abruptly and gradually changes focus throughout the book. A careful student will see the gradual transitions when looking for them.

The Book of Romans is said by many to be Paul’s greatest work. It is one of the thirteen epistles written by Paul as found in the New Testament. In it Paul explains that God offers His gift of imputed righteousness to everyone who trusts Christ for salvation (see 1:16–17 and 3:21–26).

The purpose of the letter includes at least six major elements: (1) To prepare the believers in Rome for his visit; (2) To build up the believers’ faith; (3) To encourage the Church made up of both Jews and Gentiles; (4) To carefully explain the nature of man and the salvation provided them; (5) To document God’s continuing plan for both the Church and Israel; and (6) To exhort the believers in their walk.

The Book of Romans is foundational to our faith. In fact, many have referred to the book as the “Constitution of Christianity.” Truly, it is a Theological and Soteriological masterpiece.

As we begin our gentle slow-paced journey through the book, we will see both the simple and the sublime, the milk and the meat, the Theological/Soteriological, and the practical. I trust you will be as excited as I am to begin this adventure.

I love you all, Pastor Paul