



Sunday June 03, 2018
Creator And Creation (Romans Chapter 1)

We will read through and study Paul's epistle to the Romans.

BACKGROUND ON PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS

During his **second missionary journey (A.D. 49-52)** Paul stayed at Corinth for about 18 months (Acts 18:11). Aquilla and Priscilla were Jewish believers who had come to Corinth from Rome because of an edict issued by the Roman emperor Claudius, **in A.D. 49**, ordering all Jews to leave Rome (Acts 18:1-3). They worked with Paul making tents and ministering. Paul would have heard much about the believers at Rome from Aquilla and Priscilla.

Later during his **third missionary journey (A.D. 53-58)**, Paul spent most of his time, about 3 years in Ephesus (Acts 19). From there he went into Macedonia (Acts 20:1), and then on into Greece (Acts 20:1-3) which would have included cities like Athens and Corinth. When Paul was in **Corinth**, he wrote to the believers at Rome, about **A.D. 57**.

Just to get the context of things, let's look at the end of the letter.

From Corinth - Bible And Archeology

The reason we say he was at Corinth when he wrote the letter:

Romans 16:23

Gaius, my host and the host of the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, and Quartus, a brother.

Paul states that he is staying in the house of **Gaius**, who is very likely the same Gaius mentioned in **1 Corinthians 1:14**.

Erastus is the city treasurer or steward, or head of the public works department (as translated in the NIV), we see he lived in Corinth (2 Timothy 4:20). Confirmation of his existence and his title was found in the city of Corinth. Archaeologists working on an excavation of a first century road uncovered a stone with Erastus named as aedile in a Roman pavement found east of the theater in Corinth. This inscription, uncovered **in the late 1920s**, reads "Erastus for his aedileship paved (this) at his own expense." An aedile was an official magistrate of public works.

[Sources:

www.biblehistory.net/newsletter/erastus.htm

corinthianmatters.com/2011/08/17/the-search-for-the-historical-erastus/]

Paul's Travel Plans

Towards the end of the letter, Paul shares that he was heading to Jerusalem to bring the offering to help the saint there. He also writes about his difficulties in the regions of Greece and Macedonia and his intent to travel to Spain from Jerusalem. His plan was to stop at Rome on his way to Spain.



Read Romans 15:22-33

ROMANS : KEY HIGHLIGHTS

With this background, let's present some key highlights or emphasis we will see in the book of Romans.

Romans - The Gospel

Romans is about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have in this epistle one of the clearest presentations of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Romans - Our spiritual journey

Starting with the existence of God (Romans 1), the sinful depravity of man (Romans 1-2), the consequences of sin (Romans 3), Christ's atoning work (Romans 3-4), justification and righteousness by faith (Romans 5), overcoming sin through the Cross (Romans 6-7), walking in righteousness by the Spirit (Romans 8), and living the Christian life (Romans 12-15), Paul describes our spiritual journey.

Romans - The Righteousness of God

A major theme through the book of Romans is righteousness. This word 'righteousness' is used 36 times throughout this book.

God being righteous in judging sin (Romans 1-2)

God being righteous in forgiving sin on the basis of Christ's atoning work (Romans 3-5)

God imparting His righteousness to the believer (Romans 5)

The believer walking in righteousness by the Spirit (Romans 6-8)

The believer living a righteous life (Romans 12-15)

LET'S GET STARTED

So let's cover Chapters 1 & 2 Today.

We will only be able to provide a summary/overview of some key truths.

Due to limitations of time, we will not be able to expound and examine every verse in details - although this is something we'd encourage you to do in your personal reading and study.

ROMANS CHAPTER ONE

As with almost every New Testament letter we see an opening introduction (From: whom is the letter), then addressing the audience (To: whom the letter is written) and an introduction of the subject of the letter or reason for the letter being written.

Read Romans 1:1-7

1:1

a bondservant, a slave of Jesus Christ : a bondservant is one who has chosen to be a slave completely surrendered to his master for life

called to be an apostle : invited, appointed to be a sent one



Notice how he identifies himself first as a slave to Christ, and then talks about his office as an apostle.

Whose we are is more important than the role we have.

separated, set apart to the gospel of God.

As we have mentioned the gospel is a major theme of this epistle.

1:2 The Gospel was there in the Old Testament, proclaimed by the prophets in the Old Testament

1:3-1:4 The Gospel is about Jesus Christ. In the natural, he came as a descendant of David. But He was truly identified or marked out as the Son of God by the power He demonstrated through the Holy Spirit and by being raised from the dead.

1:5 we receive grace (Greek 'charis') and apostleship ('commissioning, sending, mission') through Jesus Christ.

The grace and commissioning on our lives comes through Jesus Christ.

God has given this so that we can make people obedient to the faith

Paul uses this phrase of being "obedient to the faith" in other places:

Romans 15:18 here Paul talks about making Gentiles obedient to the faith through, signs wonders and miracles.

Romans 16:26 refers here to people coming to the obedience to the faith

2 Corinthians 9:13 for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, ..

This tells us that there is a coming into submission, a yielding involved in coming to Christ and believing the Gospel.

The attitude that 'i believe in Jesus' but I will do my own thing is really not coming to the obedience of the faith.

1:6-1:7

believers are

- ✓ called of Jesus Christ
- ✓ beloved of God
- ✓ called to be saints

Just as Paul mentioned in 1:1 that he was called to be an apostle, now he tells believers that all of us are also "called" (invited and appointed)

The Lord Jesus Christ has invited us and appointed us.

We are called to be saints (Greek 'hagios' = holy, set apart, consecrated).

We are also the beloved of God.

God extends His grace and peace to us.



1:8

The believers at Rome were being heard of and spoken about everywhere in the Roman empire. Rome was the capital city in the Roman empire...and news of what happened there spread everywhere.

It is interesting that the faith of these believers was spoken of.

Two important lessons:

A) We need to impact cities and establish powerful communities of believers - because what happens in the city gets out to regions around it and beyond it

B) We need to be believers whose faith is spoken of...lets start where we are...

1:9

I serve God with my spirit : ours is a spiritual service first and foremost. Then the natural follows. in the Gospel of His Son : once again Paul emphasizes his service has to do with the Gospel Though Paul did not yet meet/see the believer at Rome, he did two things: (A)he thanked God for them (B)he prayed for them

1:10-1:12

Paul prayed for a "prosperous journey" (KJV) or "a way" (NKJV) to Rome to meet the believers there.

Here is what actually happened:

Paul was accused by the Jews in Jerusalem (Acts 22), apprehended by the Romans, and then sent to Caesarea escorted by 200 Roman soldiers, 70 horsemen and 200 spearmen (Acts 23:23). Paul was held a prisoner for two years in Caesarea (Act 24:27). From there Paul appealed to Caesar (Act 25:11-12). So Paul was sent to Rome (Acts 27:1-2). This was a rough journey, where there were stranded at sea for 14 days, ended in shipwreck, and landed at Malta. Paul got bit by viper but experienced no harm (Acts 28:1-6). And then after another 3 more months of sailing they arrived at Rome (Acts 28:14). The believers from Rome came and met him even before he actually reached Rome (Acts 28:15-16). Paul spent two full years in Rome under house arrest and freely ministered to all who came to him (Acts 28:30-31). The believers were surely blessed and the church strengthened.

So it really was about 2 and 1/2 to 3 years after this letter was written that Paul actually got to Rome, brought there as a prisoner after a very difficult journey.

A lesson for us to learn here.

Sometimes the journey itself may be very difficult...but for us fulfilling the will of God, that is prosperity, that is success.

Paul was able to spend two full years at Rome and impart into the life of the church at Rome.

1:11-12

"For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift (*'pneumatikos charisma'*), 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."



we see that believers can be established, strengthened, and made firm when there is a sharing or imparting of one or more spiritual gifts. The word "impart" in Greek is "metadidomi" meaning "to give a share of, impart"; "meta" = with, "didomi" = give. Same word is used in Romans 12:8, Ephesians 4:28 and in Luke 3:11 where it says that if a man has two coats let him give one to another who has none. So where there is a sharing of spiritual gifts, both the giver and the recipient are strengthened and encouraged together.

1:13-1:15

We see Paul's heart here. He felt indebted to all men to give them the Gospel, cultured or not, wise or unwise.

1:16

This is a powerful statement.

We must not be ashamed of the Gospel

The Gospel is the power of God that brings salvation to all who believe.

1:17

in the Gospel, God's own righteousness is revealed as we go from faith to faith.

We will see in later chapters, how God Himself can be just - to condemn sin and still justify the sinner - in the Gospel.

1:18-1:19

One thing we need to be clear, is that God's wrath - or displeasure - is towards all form of ungodliness and unrighteousness. God is displeased - angry - with ungodliness and unrighteousness.

Man attempts to suppress, hold down, hide the truth through unrighteousness.

Verse 19 states that what can be known about God is plain to see, because God has shown it to us. However, we attempt to hide the truth through our wickedness. So literally, no one can say I didn't know there was a God. The atheist who says 'there is no God' and the agnostic who says 'if there is a God, I don't know for sure' - are really without any excuse.

Now how has God made it plain for people to know that He is there?

1:20 God makes Himself know to man through His creation. This is evidence enough that He exists.

1:21-1:22

Man refused to recognize, glorify and thank God. We see so much of this in society today.

Instead he became vain (foolish, wicked) in their imagination, reasoning, thinking which led to his heart becoming foolish and darkened (could no longer see).

Thinking he was being wise, he actually was walking in foolishness.



1:23-1:26

We see what is said in 1:23-1:24 is repeated 1:25-1:26

When we worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator, this only results in greater uncleanness and immorality.

1:26-1:27 is a clear reference to homosexuality

So here we see that homosexuality is wrong.

1:28-1:32

When we leave and wander away from God, we end up becoming immoral in our thought and deed.

God let's us go.

However, all this only puts us under the righteous judgment of God.

So in this chapter, thus far, Paul puts forth the fact that God has made Himself know, but man has chosen to walk away from God.

Man has chosen to serve created things, wander away in wickedness and is in a place under God's wrath and righteous judgment.

In the subsequent chapters Paul continues to show us, how God makes a way to reconcile us back to Himself.

Prayer & Ministry Time



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday June 03, 2018
Creator And Creation (Romans Chapter 1)

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Romans 1*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Reflect on Paul's passion for the Gospel as shared in Romans 1:13-16. How can we be people with similar passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

2, Based on what we read - what are the consequences when we replace the Creator with creation? This replacement could be either the willful worship of His creation or even the pursuit of 'created' things, which essentially replaces the Creator with what is of this world?

3, We do not hear much about the "wrath of God" or "the righteous judgment of God" these days in what is communicated in the Church. The wrath of God and the righteous judgment of God is toward ALL ungodliness and unrighteousness. Would God's attitude toward ungodliness and unrighteous be different depending on who is committing it - the believer committing ungodliness versus an unsaved person doing the same thing?



If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

Close by thanking God together.