

# Survey of Romans

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## Introduction

1. Author & Audience (1:7, 8; 16:22).
2. The dispute between the Roman Catholics and the Protestants on the founding of the church at Rome. According to Roman Catholic tradition, Peter was the founder. Actually, the founder of the church at Rome was not Paul (1:10-15; 15:20-22) or Peter
3. Peter was a minister to the Jews (Gal.2:9). The church at Rome was a ministry primarily to Gentiles (1:5-7, 13-15; 11:13, 28-31; 15:15,16) even though some Jewish believers were there (2:17-3:8; 3:21-4:1; 7:1-14; 14:1-15:12). The church at Rome most likely sprung up by the providence of God leading converts from other places to live in this distinguished city of the day.
4. Time of the book of Romans (Rom.15:25-29). Paul was writing his epistle to the Romans close to the end of his third missionary journey and last visit to Jerusalem. It was probably written during his three month stay in Corinth (Acts 18:23-24:14, especially 20:3-6). Sent by Phoebe, a servant in the church at Cenchrea, near Corinth (Rom.16:1-2) probably around the year A.D. 55.
5. Purpose for the book of Romans: To proclaim the gift of God's righteousness westward (15:15-24).

## Outline

Introduction and theme (1:1-17)

*Corruption of Nature:* Man's need for God's righteousness (1:18-3:20)

*Justification:* The imputation of God's righteousness (3:21-5:21)

*Sanctification:* The demonstration of God's righteousness (6:1-8:14)

*Glorification:* The destiny of God's righteousness (8:15-39)

*Sovereignty:* The confirmation of God's righteousness (9:1-11:36)

*Holiness:* The practice of God's righteousness (12:1-16:27)

## Main Points and Application

1. A strong zeal and passion for proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ is present at the beginning of this epistle (1:13-16). What is our obligation to present the gospel to others (Acts 1:8)? Paul said he had planned to come to Rome and bear fruit among them. What is our plan to tell someone the good news of Christ?
2. After completing Paul's introduction (Rom.1:1-17) he proceeds to a discussion concerning the corruption of man's nature, namely man's need for God's righteousness (1:18-3:20). Will the God of all love condemn anyone (see Rom.1:18)?

3. The justification section of the book of Romans is 3:21-5:21. Justification is through the imputation of God's righteousness alone.  
From Larger Catechism #70, "Justification is an act of God's free grace unto sinners (Rom.3:22-25; 4:5), in which he pardons all their sins, accepts and counts their persons righteous in his sight (2Cor.5:19,21; Rom.3:22-28); not for anything wrought in them, or done by them (Tit.3:5-7; Eph.1:7), but only for the perfect obedience and full satisfaction of Christ, by God imputed to them (Rom.5:17-19; 4:6-8), and received by faith alone (Acts 10:43; Gal.2:16; Phil.3:9)."
  
4. The sanctification section in the book of Romans is 6:1-8:14.  
LC #75, "Sanctification is a work of God's grace, whereby they whom God hath, before the foundation of the world, chosen to be holy, are in time, through the powerful operation of his Spirit applying the death and resurrection of Christ unto them, renewed in their whole man after the image of God (Eph.1:4; 4:23-24; 1Cor.6:11; 2Thes.2:13; Rom.6:4-6); having the seeds of repentance unto life, and all other saving graces, put into their hearts (Acts 11:18; 1Jn.3:9), and those graces so stirred up, increased, and strengthened (Eph.3:16-19; Col.1:10-11), as that they more and more die unto sin, and rise unto newness of life (Rom.6:4-6, 14; Gal.5:24)."
  
5. The Glorification section is 8:15-39.
  
6. The final two sections of the book of Romans include a discussion on God's sovereignty, his confirmation of righteousness (9:1-11:36) and a discussion on holiness practiced by the believer (chaps.12-16).
  
7. What three responsibilities are given to the believer in Romans 12:1-2?
  
8. Why is it important what kind of life Christians live according to Romans 14:10?