



ROMANS

We will be a congregation who knows, honors, and reads the Bible.

“I grasp the story of the Bible, respect it as authoritative, know how to read it, and actually read it.”

World of the New Testament, Around A.D. 50



- Writes many letters, 13 are canonized in NT.
- His understanding of doctrines like Justification, Sanctification, Resurrection have become normative.
- Trail-blazing church planter
- Likely the most famous Christian teach in Asia during his time (Acts 19:10)
- Persecuted, imprisoned, and martyred
- Ideas about human nature, theology, ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology (among other things) still recognized by 2B+

Interpretive Key to Romans

POLITICAL

ETHNIC It's not a theology book. It's a
CLASS letter to a group of churches
dealing with a specific issue.

RELIGIOUS

UNITY!

SCOT MCKNIGHT

Reading Romans Backwards

A GOSPEL OF PEACE IN
THE MIDST OF EMPIRE



- Chapter 16 – You meet the people.
- Chapter 14-15 – You see their problems.
- Chapters 12-13 – You see Paul's practical hopes.
- Chapters 1-11 – You get his theology on it.

Romans 16

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a deacon in the church in Cenchrea. Welcome her in the Lord as one who is worthy of honor among God's people. Give my greetings to Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in the ministry of Christ Jesus. In fact, they once risked their lives for me. I am thankful to them, and so are all the Gentile churches. Also give my greetings to the church that meets in their home. Greet my dear friend Epenetus. He was the first person from the province of Asia to become a follower of Christ. Give my greetings to Mary, who has worked so hard for your benefit. Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews, who were in prison with me. They are highly respected among the apostles and became followers of Christ before I did. Greet Ampliatius, my dear friend in the Lord. Greet Urbanus, our co-worker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys. Greet Apelles, a good man whom Christ approves.

Romans 16

And give my greetings to the believers from the household of Aristobulus. Greet Herodion, my fellow Jew. Greet the Lord's people from the household of Narcissus. Give my greetings to Tryphena and Tryphosa, the Lord's workers, and to dear Persis, who has worked so hard for the Lord. Greet Rufus, whom the Lord picked out to be His very own; and also his dear mother, who has been a mother to me. Give my greetings to Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers and sisters who meet with them. Give my greetings to Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and to Olympas and all the believers who meet with them. I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

• Phoebe

• Priscilla

• Aquila

• Epenetus

GENTILE

• Mary

• Andronicus

• Junia

• Ampliatus

• Urbanus

• Stachys

• Apelles

• Aristobulus

• Herodion

• Narcissus

• Tryphaena

• Tryphosa

• Persis

• Rufus

• Rufus' Mom

• Asyncritus

• Phlego

• Hermes

• Patrobas

• Hermas

• Philologus

• Julia

• Nereus

• Nereus' sister

• Olympas

Mark 15:21

A passerby named Simon, who was from Cyrene, was coming in from the countryside just then, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. (Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus.)

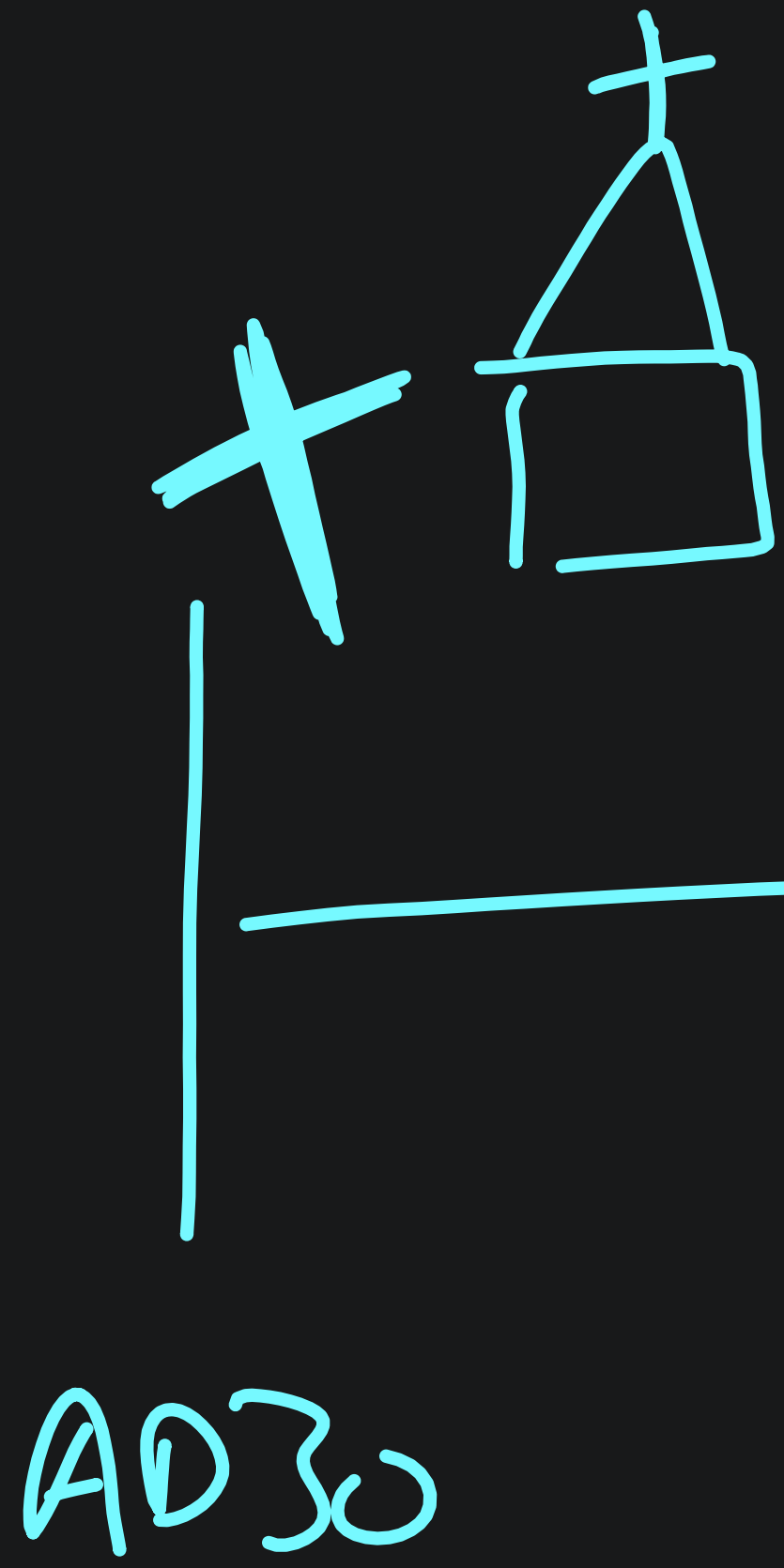


Rome - 1st Century BC

- There are elites, but also slaves.
- There are men, but also significant women.
- There are rich, but also poor.
- There are Jews, but also Gentiles.

Romans 16:22-23

I, Tertius, the one writing this letter for Paul, send my greetings, too, as one of the Lord's followers. Gaius says hello to you. He is my host and also serves as host to the whole church. Erastus, the city treasurer, sends you his greetings, and so does our brother Quartus.



"CHRISTUS"

CLAUDIUS
EXPELS

Jews - Rome

Nero

Romans

AD 49-53

55-57

AD 60

Acts 2:7-11

They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene **visitors from Rome** (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!”

Claudius' Expulsion - AD 49-53

Acts 18:2 - After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome.

STRONG

WEAK

Gentiles

Jews

Culture Privilege (majority)

Religious Privilege (“the elected”)

Eat meat sacrificed to idols

That’s idolatrous!

Pork, Shrimp, non-Kosher food

Nope! Unclean!

Jesus + Nothing

Jesus + Torah

Liberty

Tradition

“Despised” them!

“Judged” them!

Romans 14:2

For instance, one person believes it's all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables.

Romans 14:5

In the same way, some think one day is more holy than another day, while others think every day is alike.

STRONG

WEAK

Gentiles

Jews

Culture Privilege (majority)

Religious Privilege (“the elected”)

Eat meat sacrificed to idols

That’s idolatrous!

Pork, Shrimp, non-Kosher food

Nope! Unclean!

Jesus + Nothing

Jesus + Torah

Liberty

Tradition

“Despised” them!

“Judged” them!

Romans 14:17-19

For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too. So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.

(14-16) Core Ideas

- “Hi everybody!”
- Quit judging and hating and fighting over nonessential stuff! (Strong vs. Weak)

(1-4) Core Ideas

1. All humanity (gentile + Jew) is trapped in sin and needs rescued
 2. That rescue won't be through obeying the law
 3. Rescue happens for anyone through faith in Jesus + faithfulness of Jesus
 4. The result is a multi-ethnic family like God promised Abraham (Gen 12:1-3)
- Doctrine of Justification: New Status (Vindication) + New Family (Inclusion) + New Future (Transformation)

Romans 3:23-25

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in His grace, freely makes us right in His sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when He freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed His life, shedding His blood.

(5-8) Core Ideas

- God has done for the new family what he did for Israel but on a grander scale.
- 5 • Leads them out of slavery of the Sin of Adam (> Egypt)
- 6 • Leads them from death to life through waters of baptism (> Red Sea).
- 7-8 • Leads them through the wilderness of life by the Spirit (> the Torah).
- 8 • Leads them to future transformation of humans and all creation (> Promised Land).
- Key Doctrines: Human Depravity, Baptismal Regeneration, Grace, Redemption, Sanctification, Glorification

Romans 8:15-17

So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, "Abba, Father." For His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are His children, we are His heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share His glory, we must also share His suffering.

(9-11) Core Ideas

- Retelling of God's story from Abraham to the Church of Romans
- Why it makes sense that Gentiles have been grafted into God's family
- Key Doctrines: Divine Election, Gentile Inclusion, Covenant Faithfulness

Romans 10:9,12-13

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved ... Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on Him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

(12-13) Core Ideas



- Peace with those inside the church
- Peace with those outside the church

Romans 12:9-18

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

Romans 12:9-18

Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

We fight for unity.