

***"Romans, Dispensationally Considered — Its Themes Revealed"***  
***Soaring with Paul — Ten Miles High and No End in Sight!!***

***Our Text: Romans 1:1 / 16:27***

***"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ,  
called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (Which he had  
promised afore by his prophets in the Holy Scriptures,)  
Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who was made 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..."***

***... Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the  
preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was  
kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest, and by the  
scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting  
God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:  
To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever.  
Amen."***

## **Soaring with Paul — Ten Miles High and No End in Sight!!**

### **Overview:**

- ***Some Key Quotations from Luther's Commentary on Romans***
- ***What About This Letter — Some Introductory Comments***
- ***Key Themes Summarized by Key Verses Using Key Words***
- ***An Exhortation to Faithfulness to the Message of the Romans Letter***

### **Martin Luther's Introduction to His Commentary on Romans:**

***"This epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament and the very purest Gospel, and is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. It can never be read or pondered too much, and the more it is dealt with the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes.***

***...***

***To begin with we must have knowledge of its language and know what Paul means by the words law, sin, grace, faith, righteousness, flesh, spirit, etc., otherwise no reading of it has any value. You must not understand the word law here in human fashion ..."***

### **My Introductory Words:**

***Why are so many commentators so glowing in their comments about this letter? Because in it God gave his message to Paul for us, the members of the Church which is his Body.***

- ***Its message is nothing other than the Gospel of God's Grace for sinners such as ourselves. What in a nutshell is that message?***
  - ***God is righteous in his offering to us of the free gift of salvation***
  - ***In the gospel and in the gospel alone, is the power of God to salvation***
  - ***As sinners, we are in desperate need of the Grace of God and His righteousness***

- *Having received God's free gift of grace, we are never to be ashamed of the gospel*
- *We, as God's children possess the very righteousness of Christ Jesus, are heirs of God and of Christ, and are of all people, most blessed and happy.*
- *Let each of us receive and rest in this most precious truth for today: God is satisfied with Jesus and He is satisfied with us. Praise the Lord! Go from this place with a song in your heart and on lips. He is worthy to be praised.*

### **What About This Letter?**

- ***Who wrote it?*** The Apostle Paul, as Romans puts it, the apostle to the Gentiles.
- ***When was it written?*** In A.D. 56, probably from Corinth (see the period mentioned in Acts 20:1-3)
- ***Who were the recipients?*** The saints in Rome (not identified here as the church, interestingly enough).
- ***Why was it written?*** To establish the gospel, to confirm Paul's apostolic ministry and authority, to define the boundaries of the Lord God's dispensational plan for Israel and the nations-- in short, to provide the basic teaching, doctrinal and practical, that every person in this sin cursed world needs for salvation and fullness of life.
- ***What is its meaning?*** Both doctrinally and practically, Paul provides here probably the best view of what it means to be a "saint" of God to be found anywhere in the Bible. Saints are not deceased Roman Catholics who have been "worshipped" not only in this life, but continue to be worshipped and looked to in prayer after they are gone --- saints are you and you are the saints, those who through the mighty power of Christ's death and resurrection have by faith become set apart as God's holy property, and for His use and enjoyment. Consequently, you are His and He is yours, now and forever!!
- ***What does it mean to us today?*** Just what it meant nearly 2000 years ago to those in Rome who rejoiced over it when they first read it. OH JOY!!

**When was the position of this letter in relation to Paul's other letters and the Gospels?**

**The Letters of Paul:**

Galatians AD 48  
1,2 Thessalonians AD 50  
Philippians AD 54  
1, 2 Corinthians AD 54-56

Romans AD 57

Colossians / Philemon / Ephesians AD 60  
1.2 Timothy / Titus AD 63-64  
Hebrews AD 64?

**The Gospels:**

Mark AD ~65  
Luke/Acts ~80-85  
Matt ~85-90  
John ~90-100

**Two Outlines of the Letter:**

***Bullinger's ("Church Epistles"), Shorter Structural Outline***

- A. 1:1-1:16 The Gospel
  - B. 1:7-1:15 Background/Introduction
    - C. 1:16 - 8:39 Doctrinal
      - D 9:1 - 11:36 Dispensational
    - C 12:1-15:7 Practical
      - D 15:8-15:13 Dispensational
  - B 15:14 - 16:24 Background / Conclusion
- A 16:25 - 16:27 Paul's Gospel — The Mystery

**My Thematic Outline (Based on Word Usage Alone):**

- *Law (78)*
- *Justification (65)*

- **Faith (59)**
- **Sin and Sins (48)**
- *Death (46)*
- **Righteousness (39)**
- *Spirit (34)*
- *Flesh (25)*
- **Grace (24)**
- *Reckon (20)*
- *Gospel (14)*
- *Wrath (12)*

*So in our remaining time today, to get a good idea of what this amazing letter is saying to us today, we will look at some of these words in the verses in which they are found. We will finish next time what could not be finished today and our plan is to look in depth at the letter section by section in our following meeting. But for now, let's gain an understanding of some of the major themes of this letter by reading some key verses. May they be a blessing to you.*

### Law (78):

*Perhaps it might seem a little amazing, but the doctrinal word most used in Paul's letter to the Romans is the word ... can you guess? Probably not. For it is the word "law"!*

- The Word:

- **[READ ] Rom. 3:19** Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.
- **[READ ] Rom. 3:20-21** Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;
- **[READ ] Rom. 3:28** Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.
- **Rom. 5:13** (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.
- **Rom. 6:14** For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.
- **Rom. 7:9** For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.
- **Rom. 8:3** For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:
- **Rom. 10:4** For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

- The Content:

- ***That the Law was on Paul's mind always might surprise us but it shouldn't. For the apostle was the master of the Law until his dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus. As he writes of that in the letter to the Philippians, giving it up with all the baggage that it brought along was the ongoing challenge of his life. It was that that brought him into constant trials and tribulations and the thorn in his flesh that constantly troubled him was due to his rejection of that Law and its governess over his life and the life of believers under the new Dispensation of the Grace of God. This had all been prophesied through Ananias.***

- ***So the Law and brought bondage and not liberty to the spirit of the believer. That is Paul's message in Romans and it is so very relevant to us today. For what does the enemy of our souls want so much, but to bind us by Law and religion. But what is being taught in the churches today largely, but "christian" law and religion. The seminaries teach it so their graduates do as well. But God ...!***

***Rom. 3:20-21 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets ...***

### **Justification (65)**

- **The Word:**
  - ***[READ ] Rom. 3:24, 26 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: ... To declare, [I say], at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.***
  - ***Rom. 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.***
  - ***[READ ] Rom. 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.***
  - ***Rom. 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:***

### **The Content:**

- ***Justification is the grand theme of Romans (v. 26). The reason for the Reformation was Luther's contention that the Church had entirely lost the truth about this subject.***
- ***Justification is all of faith and never of works! Sola Fides, not by faith plus something we must supply but by faith alone.***

***Rom. 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.***

### **Next Time:**

- **Faith (59)**
- **Sin and Sins (48)**
- *Death (46)*
- **Righteousness (39)**
- *Spirit (34)*
- *Flesh (25)*
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**An Exhortation to Faithfulness to the Message of the Romans Letter:**

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God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:  
To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever.  
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**Will we be faithful to the word of this message of Paul in the Romans? Will we?**