

THE BOOK OF ROMANS  
THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE CHURCH AT ROME

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO GRACE.  
THE FOUNDATION OF NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY.

**ROMANS 1:1-6**

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX-1036      Sunday, April 11, 2021

**THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:**

**“Called To Be”**

The Gospel of Grace, The Foundation of New Testament Theology  
According to Grace By The Argumentation of the Apostle Paul

**SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:**

**Grace, Faith, Works, Paul, Law, The Spiritual vs. The Carnal**

Romans 1:1-6

Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, CALLED TO BE an apostle, separated to the Gospel of God 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. 5 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, 6 among whom *(the nations of this world)* you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

In the year 500bc., Socrates wrote to Plato saying;  
*“It may be that deity can forgive sins, but I do not see how.”*

Socrates’ consideration is for good reason.  
Man is a Trichotomy.

From the Outset it Must be Said: That the Book of Romans is the most systematic presentation of theology found anywhere in Scripture and is beyond anything found among the world’s religious.

When & Where was this book written to the Romans?  
(a: 57-58 ad. from Corinth, Greece)

What does the book of romans answer for the believer?  
(a: the holiness of God, atonement, hypocrisy, salvation, the law, the gifts, gentile redemption, Israelology, and more... )

Whom was it written to?

(a: the numerous house churches at Rome)

Why was it written to them?

(a: to curb the growing threat of division between the gentile and Jewish believers – replacement theology was infiltrating the church at Rome)

Background Details to The Book of Romans.

Written to Christians living in and around the city of Rome.

### **Romans 1:7, 15**

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., :15 So, as much as is in me, I am ready to **preach** the gospel to you **who are in Rome** also.

## **The Church at Rome**

It's unclear how the church in Rome originally began. The best explanation is that the Romans albeit Jewish pilgrims, citizens, travelers, merchants and almost certainly the Roman military, and possibly politicians who were present at Pentecost eventually made their way back to Rome as converted followers of Jesus Christ. These converts would have naturally started a church in one of the many synagogues located in Rome. However, the saying "All roads lead to Rome" was a popular saying in that day and it demonstrates the city's importance and accessibility to the empire.

### **Acts 2:1-11**

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, *(which is Sunday May 23rd. 2021)* they were all with one accord in one place. **2** And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. :**5** And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. **6** And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. **7** Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? **8** And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? **9** Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from **Rome**, both Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretans and Arabs —we hear them speaking in our own tongues **the wonderful works of God.**"

## **Rome's Diversity Made for an Evangelistic Explosion**

In the 1<sup>st</sup>. century AD, Rome's population was recorded to be just at 1 million people (many slaves) in an area less than ten square miles in size.

Of this large population, historians estimate that there was between 40,000 to 50,000 Jews in the city. The Jewish population dates back to the 2<sup>nd</sup>. century BC as part of the Jewish Diaspora.

**Rome was not only the epicenter of the Roman Empire,**  
it was also the most ethnically diverse location within the Roman Empire.

### **According to the book of Daniel, Chapter 7,**

God tells the Hebrew prophet Daniel that all of human history and man's attempt to govern himself will be reduced to just 4 dominate categories. The 1<sup>st</sup>. would be the Babylonian empire. The 2<sup>nd</sup>. would be the Medo-Persian empire. The 3<sup>rd</sup>. would be the Grecian empire and the 4<sup>th</sup>. would be the Roman empire.

### **Rome and It's Darker Side**

Rome was the seat of pagan worship for the Empire.  
Emperor worship was born in Rome and the thought of a god among us mere mortals was a comfort (supposed).

### **But The Empire's Religious Systems Were Imports**

Among the 360 gods imported from Babylon over a thousand years, The Cult of the Mother & Child was among Rome's favorites.  
Even now, this cult is one of the longest enduring in human history. It is the Babylonian worship system that was crafted by Semiramis, the wife of the man Nimrod (Genesis 10 in your Bible). She had a son by the name Tammuz.

Nimrod was the founder of Babel in the land of Shinar, Nineveh.  
Which today goes by the name Mosul, Iraq

<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/07/tomb-of-jonahmosul-isis/534414/>

In Roman Worship – Venus is a chief goddess. However, she is much older than Roman worship itself. She dates back to Babylonian times which is why she goes by different names in different cultures. She is known as Ishtar in Babylonian and Aphrodite in Greek with Cupid, her perpetual son. in Phoenician history she was known as the mother Ashtoreth and her son Baal.

## The Queen of Heaven Cult

### Jeremiah 7:18

The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, **to make cakes for the queen of heaven**; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger.

### Jeremiah 44:17-19

But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to burn incense to **the queen of heaven** and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble. 18 But since we stopped burning incense to **the queen of heaven** and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine.” :19 The women also said, “And when we burned incense to **the queen of heaven** and poured out drink offerings to her, **did we make cakes for her, to worship her, and pour out drink offerings to her without our husbands’ permission?**”

### Jeremiah 44:25

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying: “You and your wives have spoken with your mouths and fulfilled with your hands, saying, ‘We will surely keep our vows that we have made, **to burn incense to the queen of heaven** and pour out drink offerings to her.’ You will surely keep your vows and perform your vows!’

**And so, into this world – The Gospel Advanced.**

**Archeological Evidence of the Book of Romans,**

As well as Christianity’s influence throughout the Empire.

### Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

### Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

It's estimated that within the first two weeks following the resurrection of Jesus Christ, some 8,000 to 10,000 people became Christians in and around Jerusalem. After that, great multitudes began to follow the resurrected Jesus and that number exploded until within a few short years – there was over 30 million Christians in the empire and growing...

Here's the Point – The Gospel had invaded the most powerful government on earth and began to erode the most dominant cult on earth – the cult of the Queen Heaven and Child.

The Gospel is Loving, it is Light and it is Life,  
To do that – The Gospel by nature is Confrontational.

## **The Book of Romans is The Great Doctrinal Treaty**

of the New Testament – making clear the doctrines of soteriology, foreknowledge, predestination, election, sanctification, Israelology, atonement, and justification by faith

The Book is Summed Up in This One Statement that will eventually rock the theological world – and yet, it was hidden in plain sight...

### **Romans 1:17**

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "**The just shall live by faith.**"

### **Habakkuk 2:4**

"Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But **the just shall live by his faith.**

### **Galatians 3:11**

But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "**the just shall live by faith.**"

### **Hebrews 10:38**

Now **the just shall live by faith**; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

## **The Effect of the Book of Romans in History**

This book and the argumentation of its doctrines are unparalleled in literature.

The structure and word usage is of the highest discipline.

The defense of position, the knowledge of the Old Testament, the understanding of and the interpretation of the Hebrew Scriptures and application is stunning.

This may be the reason why the Book of Romans was and is the book used to bring more intellectuals to Christ than any other. Its true for the moralist. It's true for the religionist. It's true for the legalist. It's true for the most debased. It's true for the lost soul.

Clement of Rome, Saint Augustine, Charles Wesley, George Whitefield, Martin Lloyd-Jones, Donald Grey Barnhouse, Billy Graham, and Chuck Smith...

### **Paul's Audience**

Paul identifies his recipients by saying:

Romans 1:7

"To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints.

**Paul is going to speak truth in such a way that:**

As it always has, will become a cleansing agent to the church.

**When It Comes To This Book:**

Little of this, can the world endure.

It is too honest about pride, self-righteousness, hypocrisy, fake religion, false confessions, aberrant sexuality, sin and..... the Grace of God.

If you decide to study this book –  
It will transform your life forever!

### **"Called To Be"**

1.) A New Man

vs. 1

Verse 1

Romans 1:1

Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ,  
called to be an apostle, separated to the Gospel of God

**“Called To Be”  
A New Man**

1a.) Under a greater authority

vs. 1a

Verse 1a

Romans 1:1a

Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ,

**Before he had become “Paul”,  
He was The Man “Saul” of Tarsus.**

Saul - who become – Paul some 25 years earlier.

**Acts 8:1-3**

At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. **2** And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. **:3** As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.

**Acts 9:1-6**

Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest **2** and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. **:3** As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. **4** Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, **“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”** **:5** And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, **“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”** **:6** So Saul, trembling and astonished, said, **“Lord, what do You want me to do?”**

Like everyone without Jesus, his masters ruled his past.

What Master’s do you see in that?

The New Life Must Begin With An Encounter With God  
( a faith crisis or a crisis of faith cannot be avoided )

**Galatians 1:13**

For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. **14** And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

**The Transformation of Saul to Paul.**

How can a man who was guilty of killing Christians and sanctioning their arrest and beatings and enslavement ever be free from condemnation, guilt and shame?

**Philippians 3:13**

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

**And this is how he reminded himself  
of that transformation,**

**He leaned upon the sovereignty of God**

**Galatians 1:15**

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,

**He leaned upon his identity in God**

**2 Corinthians 5:16-17**

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. **17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

**He leaned upon the reality of God**

**Galatians 2:20**

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Paul grk: Paulos, It is derived from the Roman family name, Paulus or Paullus, from the Latin adjective meaning (small or humble or of no consequence). = Hebrew meaning of Saul is (prayed for, asked for)

## The Man, Paul The Apostle,

Much is known about Paul or Saul of Tarsus, Cilicia.

A Jew born from wealth and position, he would have been a man of influential parents. He was afforded the best schooling available in the Empire.

Bondservant: grk: doulos; a slave of the lowest order. A slave (not a servant) that is bound, tied, nailed to his burden, a slave that is consumed by his or her master. (Servants get paid and time off. Slaves get neither)

The word “slave” appears in the New Testament 130 times in the original text. Wherever in Scripture, the word servant appears {it is actually the word “slave”. So then, You and I do have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, we are His slaves and there is no other way to spin it.

Here's the amazing thing about it – He first calls us to be His friends, then we respond to His invitation in full submission to His love for us. – “I want to be nothing more than the slave of Jesus Christ.”

Friends, Let’s be Honest – No one is really free anymore.  
Everyone has a Master or Three. So Pick Your Master.

### Under A Greater Authority Now

#### Acts 22:3

“I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers’ law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today.

#### Philippians 3:4-7

Though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: **5** circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; **6** concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. **:7** But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. **8** Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish,

*End of Study*

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