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Romans 1

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Bible
at Home**

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Romans 1.

Topics.

- The genealogy of Christ.
- The Good News of the Gospel.
- The resurrection declared Jesus Christ was the Son of God.
- The Gospel is the power of God for salvation.
- The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness.
- Woman lusting for woman and men lusting for men.

INTRODUCTION: Paul's letter to the Romans is the longest and most systematically reasoned of all his letters. Paul announces its theme in 1:16-17: The Gospel is God's power for salvation, for both Jew and Gentile, because it shows us how our righteousness comes from God. Paul explains the need for justification through faith because of sin (1:16-4:25). He then spells out the results of justification by faith in terms of both present experience and future hope (5:1-8:39). In the next three chapters, he expresses his sorrow that many of his fellow Israelites have not embraced the Gospel, and he wrestles with the theological implications of this (chs. 9-11). He concludes by describing how the Gospel should affect one's everyday life (chs. 12-16). Paul wrote his letter to Rome in about A.D. 57. Throughout the entire book Paul is not with the Romans, but writing a letter to all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be brothers and sisters in Christ (Rom. 1:7-8, 10, 13) (Rom. 16:17).

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

ROMANS 1:1-3

The Genealogy of Christ.

- **Romans 1:1-3:** Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh

The genealogy of Jesus Christ gives understanding to the words God's "Concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh" (v3). Matthew and Luke are the only references to the actual genealogy and birth of Jesus in the New Testament. Matthew says Jacob is the father of Joseph (Matt. 1:16) while Luke says Heli is the father of Joseph (Luke 3:23) thus Jacob and Heli are both referred to as being the father of Joseph, obviously Jacob and Heli cannot both be the father of Joseph. This seemingly apparent contradiction can be easily explained in the following manner.

Matthew traces the line of Christ through David's son Solomon because Joseph came through the line of Solomon (the Bible is clear that Jacob was the father of Joseph). Luke traces the line of Christ through David's son Nathan because Mary came through the line of Nathan so Heli was Mary's father and therefore was the father in law of Joseph thus the beauty and splendour of the words, "Concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh" (meaning bloodline) (v3).

NOTE: the virgin birth is plain in both Matthews and Luke's genealogies

The Good News of the Gospel: the Gospel promised by God and spoken of by the prophets refers to the majestic Good News which states that whoever comes to God through repentance and faith in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ is not only approved of and accepted by God the Father but all their sins are forgiven, not because they are deserving of it, by any self-effort or religious good works, but because through faith in Christ righteousness is imputed from God to them as a pure and free gift, but this is not the end of the Gospel since God's promises also state that the faithful in Christ will be resurrected to eternal glory and everlasting life. Can there be any better news than this? This is the reason it is called the Good News of the Gospel of Christ."

ROMANS 1:4-15

The Resurrection Declared Jesus Christ was the Son of God.

- **Romans 1:4-15:** and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. ⁹For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you ¹⁰always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. ¹¹For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— ¹²that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. ¹³I want you to know, brothers that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. ¹⁴I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. ¹⁵So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

The majestic words, "Jesus was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead (v4) means that Christ's resurrection manifested that he was the Son of God and without sin because it was not possible for death to hold him (Acts 2:24) this is because death is a result of the, law of Sin and Death which states, "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23) but Christ was without sin (Heb. 4:15) therefore death had no legal right to hold him in the grave. The Good News of the Gospel for all who trust in Christ is that they have been granted the free gift of God which is, "Eternal life in the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 6:23), because, "The law of the Spirit of life has set them free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death" (Rom. 8:2) thus the law of Sin and Death has no power over those who believe in Christ and faithfully follow him they like Christ will be raised to eternal glory (this is the Good News of the Gospel in a nutshell).

Paul's states that the ministry of the apostles was to, "Bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations (v5), meaning they were to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel to Jews and Gentiles, all are to come to God through the same faith and the one Lord Jesus Christ himself, there is no longer a division between Jews and Gentiles since God is building a new nation in Christ made up of both Jews and Gentiles, the only entry to God's Kingdom and His family is through the eternal door the Lord Jesus Christ. Wherever Paul travelled he heard about the faith of the brothers and sisters at Rome (v8) and constantly prayed that it would be in God will for him to visit them (v9-10). At the end of the book of Acts Paul after much Jewish persecution did finally arrive in Rome it is most likely his dwelling place in Rome had a very large room, perhaps like that of the room in the house in which the one-hundred and twenty were gathered on the day of Pentecost, since the book of Acts ends with the following words:

- They came to Paul at his lodging in greater numbers from morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance (Acts 28:23-31).

NOTICE: that Paul who has had visions of Christ, revelations, performed stunning miracles and is considered one of the Bibles greatest apostles not only states that he is able to encourage his Roman brothers and sisters, but that they can encourage him showing that no-matter how outstanding the gifts of God are in a person or the lack of them everyone is able to encourage each other (v11-12).

No-one needs pray for this gift as it is available to everyone no-doubt this is because worries, stresses, anxieties, hurts, sorrows and troubles of life come to us all.

Paul's great desire: was to proclaim the Gospel to the Gentiles, the Greeks, the barbarians, the wise and to the foolish in Rome.

Gentiles: refers to anyone who was not a Hebrew or Jew.

Greeks: refer to a Greek-speaking person, especially a non-Jew.

Barbarians: refer to a foreigner (i.e. non-Greek).

Wise: in this context most likely refers to the Jews because of their knowledge of the Scriptures but by extension can refer to anyone who has practical skill, ability, talent; intelligence and mental intellect or in a bad sense to a person who is conceited and self-righteous.

Foolish: (unwise in KJV) refers to the unintelligent and by implication those who are sensual or carnally and worldly minded.

From these words of Paul, we see that the there is no particular group of people that he specifically proclaimed the Good News of the Gospel too. Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out" (John 6:37). For Paul it did not matter if they lived in kings' houses or were a beggar on the street, since regardless of a person's station in life we are all sinners before God and without eternal life.

ROMANS 1:16-17

The Gospel is the Power of God for Salvation.

- **Romans 1:16-17:** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

The words, "The righteous shall live by faith" means that though we know we have sinful aberrations and dysfunctions dwelling within us we believe we are saved in spite of them because of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are confident that our salvation is not dependent on our own self-effort or religious acts but on our faith. The majestic Good News of the gospel, states that whoever comes to God through repentance and faith in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ is not only approved of and accepted by God the Father but all their sins are forgiven, not because they are deserving of it, by any self-effort or religious good works, but because through faith in Christ righteousness is imputed from God to them as a pure and free gift. But this is not the end of the Good News since God's promises also state that the faithful in Christ will be resurrected to eternal glory and everlasting life. Can there be any better news than this? Thus, the reason it is called the Good News.

The Wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all Ungodliness.

- **Romans 1:18-32:** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. ²⁶For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. ²⁸And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³²Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Wrath: all the world is held accountable to God and everyone transgresses the law which states, "The wages of sin is death" thus wrath in this context refers to mortal death and ultimately judgment to eternal death (Rom. 3:19) (Rom. 3:23) (Rom. 6:23). Everyone is without excuse when they deny God's existence because His invisible attributes, his eternal power and divine nature, are clearly perceived in the creation of the world (v19-20).

The writer of Psalms states what Paul is saying with the following words:

- The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their measuring line goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world" (Psalm 19:1-4).

NOTE: it is interesting to notice that Paul's focus in in the first three chapters is primarily on those who deny God's existence or on living a godly or ungodly life, but from chapter 4:23 his focus changes to being saved by faith and grace.

In these verses Paul introduces a group of people who wilfully and knowingly reject God and from this point on their lives spiral downward.

This group of people:

- Worship idols, birds, animals and man.
- Women lust for woman and men lust after men.
- They have a reprobate mind (meaning corrupt).
- Are full of fornication, wickedness, covetousness and maliciousness.
- Envy (meaning they are jealous greedy spiteful bitter and resentful).
- Murder (they kill and take innocent lives).

- Debate (meaning they argue, dispute, contend, quarrel, fight and bicker).
- Are deceitful (i.e., full of dishonesty, treachery, trickery and pretence).
- Whisperers (meaning they are spreaders of gossip and of tales).
- Malignity (meaning they have an intense hatred and a strong desire to do harm even to cause death i.e., revenge or somewhat like a terrorist).
- Backbiters (meaning, they make spiteful or slanderous comments about somebody who is not present).
- Haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters and inventors of evil things.
- Are disobedient to parents, without understanding and covenant breakers.
- Without natural affection (meaning they are unmerciful and lacking in compassion and empathy for others).
- Implacable (meaning cold and hard-hearted, ruthless, cruel and uncaring).

Now when we lay all these together and see how much guilt and corruption the world is lying under it is easy to see why God had to have a plan whereby mankind could be justified apart from any works of their own.

Woman lusting for woman and men lusting for men: within this group of people who deny God there are "Women who exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature and men who likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another" (v26-27). Since the interpretation of these verses has caused enormous emotional hurt, torment and pain for many and in some cases even suicide they cannot be covered fairly in this commentary.

For further information on these two verses please see the title:

- God gave them up to Dishonourable Passions (Rom. 1:24-27).

In, Same Sex Relationships (ON WEBSITE MENU).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.