

God's Amazing Book

Journey Through the New Testament

GETTING RIGHT WITH GOD

A Quick Look at the Letter to the Romans

Reading Romans You'll Understand...

SIN - I'm Totally LOST (ch. 1-3) Sin means refusing to do God's will and failing to do all that God wants. Since Adam's rebellion against God, our nature is to disobey him. Our sin cuts us off from God. Sin causes us to want to live our own way rather than God's way. Because God is morally perfect, just, and fair, he is right to condemn sin.

SALVATION - I'm Totally LOVED (ch. 3-6) Our sin points out our need to be forgiven and cleansed. Although we don't deserve it, God, in his kindness, reached out to love and forgive us. He provides the way for us to be saved. Christ's death paid the penalty for our sin.

SANCTIFICATION - I've Got A New LIFE (ch. 6-9) By God's power, believers are sanctified – made holy. This means we are set apart from sin, enabled to obey and to become more like Christ. When we are growing in our relationship with Christ, the Holy Spirit frees us from the demands of the law and from fear of judgment.

SOVEREIGNTY - I've Got A New LORD (ch. 9-12) God oversees and cares about his people – past, present, and future. God's ways are always fair. Because God is in charge of all creation, he can save whomever he wills.

SERVICE - I've Got A New LOVE (ch. 12-16) When our purpose is to give credit to God for his love, power, and perfection in all we do, we can serve him properly. Serving him unifies all believers and enables them to show love and sensitivity to others.

General Characteristics of the Book

1. The most systematic of Paul's letters. It reads more like a developed theological essay than a letter.
2. Emphasis on Christian doctrine. The number and importance of the theological themes touched upon are impressive: sin, salvation, grace, faith, righteousness, justification, sanctification, redemption, death, resurrection, eschatology, and divine sovereignty.
3. Widespread use of OT quotations. Although Paul regularly quotes from the OT in his letters, in Romans the argument is sometimes carried along by such quotations (see especially 3:9-20; chs. 9–11).
4. Deep concern for Israel. Paul writes about her present status, her relationship to the Gentiles, and her final salvation.

Fast Facts on Romans:

1. Who? Apostle Paul

2. When? 57 AD

3. Why?

To give a systematic understanding of what Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection meant for all people, and how they can be made right with God.

4. Where Written?

Corinth (3rd
Missionary Journey)

5. Key Phrase:

Paid in Full

Observations of Interest

1. Rome was the capital of the Roman Empire and therefore the most strategic city for Christian missions. Population: estimated at over 4,000,000.
2. Nero (A.D. 54–68) was reigning as emperor in his early and more sane days.
3. Romans is the longest of Paul's letters, thus the reason it heads the Pauline corpus in our New Testament.
4. Paul quotes from the OT in this letter more than in all the other Pauline letters together. There are at least 61 direct quotations from 14 different books. Psalms and Isaiah are the most frequently quoted.
5. This book is often called Paul's *magnum opus* (major or ultimate work). Martin Luther (1483–1546) called it "the masterpiece of the New Testament."

LIFE APPLICATION FROM ROMANS:

ROMANS 1-3 - OWN UP TO THE FACTS - Each person has sinned, either by rebelling against God or by ignoring his will. No matter what our background or how hard we try to live good and moral lives, we cannot earn salvation or remove our sin. Only Christ can save us.

ROMANS 3-6 - BELIEVE IN GOD'S UNCHANGING STORY - It is good news that God saves us from our sin. But we must believe in Jesus Christ and believe that he forgave our sin in order to enter into a wonderful new relationship with God.

ROMANS 6-9 - DETERMINE TO GROW UP SPIRITUALLY - Because we are free from sin's control, the law's demands, and fear of God's punishment, we can grow in our relationship with Christ. By trusting in the Holy Spirit and allowing him to help us, we can overcome sin and temptation.

ROMANS 9-12 - ALLOW GOD TO BE IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT OF YOUR LIFE - Because of God's mercy, both Jews and Gentiles can be saved. We all must respond to his mercy and accept his gracious offer of forgiveness. Because he is sovereign, let him reign in your heart.

ROMANS 12-16 - LOVE GOD'S CHILDREN, NO MATTER WHAT! - None of us can be fully Christlike by ourselves -- it takes the entire body of Christ to fully express Christ. By actively and vigorously building up other believers, Christians can be a symphony of service to God.

Biblical References to Homosexuality (source: Danny Akin)

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| 1. Sodomy (Gen. 19:4-10; Deut. 23:17-18; I Kings 14:24, 15:11-12; II Kings 23:7) | 8. Shameful lust (Rom. 1:27) |
| 2. Abomination (Lev. 18:22; Deut. 22:5) | 9. Lusting for strange flesh (Jude 7) |
| 3. Vile affections (Rom. 1:26-27) | 10. Filthy dreamers (Jude 7-8) |
| 4. Burning with lust (Rom. 1:27) | 11. Abusers of themselves (I Cor. 6:9) |
| 5. Dishonoring the body (Rom. 1:24) | 12. Effeminate (I Cor. 6:9) |
| 6. Wickedness (Gen. 13:13, 14:7; Judges 19:23) | 13. Defilers of themselves (I Tim. 1:9-10) |
| 7. Violating nature (Rom. 1:26) | 14. Inordinate affections (Col. 3:5-6) |
| | 15. Reprobate (Rom. 1:28) |

Biblical Facts Concerning Sodomy, Lesbianism, and Homosexuality **As Taught in Romans 1 and the Whole of Scripture** (source: Danny Akin)

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| 1. It is sin, not sickness (Gen. 18:20ff; Lev. 18:22, 29; 20:13; Rom. 1:18-32; I Cor. 6:9; I Tim. 1:10; Jude 7) | 5. It is inconsistent with a Christian lifestyle. |
| 2. It is the ultimate manifestation of a society turned from God. | 6. It can be forgiven and conquered. |
| 3. It is wrong by nature's standards. | 7. Homosexuals who truly repent and turn to Christ should be accepted, as any other "sinner saved by grace". |
| 4. It leads to rampant sin in other areas. | 8. Homosexuals who refuse to repent and deny it as sin should be loved and witnessed to. |