

Soul-Full: Living Out a Robust Faith

A Study in Romans

Introduction

The theme of the letter to the Romans is “righteousness” (Rom.1:16-17). Paul explains how we receive it and achieve it – it is all by faith! (Rom. 1:17) In this epistle to a people, who for the most part, Paul had not yet met, he expresses the beautiful doctrine of salvation. We have “all sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). But God, in His great love and mercy satisfied His own demand for holiness through the life, death, burial and resurrection of His Son. Jesus paid our debt (Rom. 6:23) and has extended to us the gift of eternal life. Romans is truly “the gospel according to Paul”.

I. Man’s Need of Righteousness (Romans 1-3)

Verse 2 declares “God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures”. Some of the prophecies:

Gen. 12:3; 2 Sam. 7:12-16; Ps. 16:10; 40:6-10; 89; 118:22; 132; Is. 11:1-5; Jer. 23:5-6; Ez. 34:23-24; Zech. 9:9-11; 12:10; Mal. 4:1-6

“What Paul says about Jesus in this passage, especially verses 3 and 4 (1:3-4), seems almost designed to stake a claim which puts that of Caesar in the shade. Jesus is the true ‘son of God’. He comes from a royal house far older than anything Rome can claim: that of David, a thousand years before. His resurrection, which Paul sees not as a strange freak or bizarre miracle but as the beginning of the ‘resurrection of the dead’ for which most Jews had been longing, is the sign of a power which trumps that of tyrants and bullies the world over. Death is their final weapon, and he has broken it.” (N. T. Wright, *Paul, For Everyone*, p. 3)

II. God’s Provision of Righteousness (Romans 4-5)

Gen. 3:15 marks the pathway back to God – not a pathway that man will *ascend*, but a pathway that God will *descend* – leaving the glories of heaven to enter the broken world He created. Satisfying His own demands – He takes our place – pays the debt we owed and opens the door wide and invites us back into intimacy and communion. Ultimately this path will lead us to Him. Those who have received Christ will enter His eternal presence either through the doorway of death or in the rapture.

A. Old Testament Provision

The Patriarchs –

Abraham – Gen. 12-15

Isaac

Jacob

Joseph – Gen. 50:20 (Rom. 8:28 of the OT)

Moses – Exodus

Institution of the Passover

B. New Testament Provision – John 3:16

Romans 5:12-21

The Spotless Lamb of God – John 1:29

“Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world!”

1 Peter 1:18-19

“Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from our forefathers, but with precious blood as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.”

Redeemed – to buy back and to set free!!

III. Sanctification – Working Out Our Righteousness (Romans 6-8)

“After all, what is the value of being forgiven for our sins only to continue living in them? The death of Christ on Calvary is only half the truth; the other half is the saving life of Christ, by His Holy Spirit, reproducing His character and delivering us from the principle of sin. At the cross we have forgiveness for what we have done, in order that we may stop doing it!” Alan Redpath from Foreword to *Exploring Romans* by John Phillips.

IV. God’s Plan for Righteousness – (Romans 9-11)
God will fulfill His purpose for Israel.

V. Instructions for Living Out Righteousness – (Romans 12-15)

VI. Greetings and Conclusion – (Romans 15:14-16)

Theme – 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. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, but the righteous man shall live by faith.”

Theological Terms (The Study Bible for Women, p. 1454)		
Term	Definition	References
Salvation	Deliverance from the guilt and condemnation of sin	Rom. 1:16; Eph. 2:8
Grace	Acceptance and loving mercy, neither deserved nor earned but given freely by God	Eph. 2:8
Faith	Demonstration of total trust in and commitment to the Lord	Rom. 3:28; 5:1; Phil. 3:9
Righteousness	A legal term equal to acquittal. The word is used when the accused is declared “not guilty”. Theologically, it means the state of being right with God, of being acquitted when tried by Him.	Rom. 1:17; 2:13
Justification	The first aspect of salvation in which a person’s relationship with God is made right through the saving work of Jesus Christ.	Rom. 3:21-26
Sanctification	The Holy Spirit indwells, sets apart, and works in the believer to bring about increasing Christlikeness and holiness.	1 Cor. 6:11; Heb. 2:10-12
Glorification	The culmination of salvation in which the believer is transformed into Christ’s holiness.	