

***Cover to Cover: From Genesis to Maps***  
**Sermon # 45 – “Romans”**  
**January 18, 2009**

***The Epistles: An Overview***

The Book of Romans begins a new section of the New Testament known as the Letters or Epistles. This section is distinguished from the other sections as follows:

- **The Gospels**—Matthew, Mark, Luke & John—are biographical, recording for us the historic manifestation of Jesus Christ.
- **The Book of Acts** is historical, providing us an account of the worldwide propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- **The Epistles** are doctrinal, offering us interpretation and application of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- **The Book of Revelation** is prophetical, depicting the ultimate consummation of God’s Kingdom in Christ.

A New Testament epistle is a letter written by an apostle or an associate of an apostle. The recipient of the letter was an individual, a local church, or a group of churches. These letters are instructive, dealing with both belief and behavior. They are inspired by the Holy Spirit and have application for the church universal.

Of the 27 books of the New Testament, 21 are epistles. 13 of these (including the Book of Romans) were written by the Apostle Paul.

***The Book of Romans: Some Background Information***

**Author/ Date/ Place/ Audience:** It is believed that Romans was written by Paul from Corinth in the late ‘50s, during the time of Paul’s third missionary journey (Acts 20:1-3). The recipients of the letter were Roman Christians—both Jews and Gentiles—living in the capital city of the Roman Empire. The large urban center of Rome very likely had a multiplicity of churches, which is perhaps why Paul addressed the letter to “the saints” in Rome (Romans 1:7) instead of to “the church” in Rome.

**Purposes:** (1) To present a complete and detailed explanation of the Gospel; (2) To help resolve tensions between Jewish and Gentile believers, explaining God’s plan for each; (3) To announce Paul’s plans to visit Rome.

**Theme:** “Righteousness from God”, which “is revealed” in the Gospel and which is understood and received “by faith.” (Romans 1:16-17)

## *The Book of Romans: An Outline*

### **I. Introduction & Salutation. 1:1-17**

### **II. An Exposition of the Doctrine of Salvation.**

- Condemnation. 1:18-3:20
  - The unrighteousness of the Gentiles. 1:18-32
  - The unrighteousness of the Jews. 2:1-3:8
  - The unrighteousness of the entire human race. 3:9-20
- Justification. 3:21-5:21
  - Received through faith in Christ. 3:21-31
  - Exemplified by Abraham. Chapter 4
  - Explained in Adam. Chapter 5
- Sanctification. 6:1-8:17
  - Our new position in Christ. Chapter 6
  - Our problem with the flesh. Chapter 7
  - Our power through the Spirit. 8:1-17
- Glorification. 8:18-39

### **III. An Explanation of the Jewish People.**

- Israel's past privileges: Election. Chapter 9
- Israel's present plight: Rejection. Chapter 10
- Israel's future prospects: Restoration. Chapter 11

### **IV. An Exhortation to Live Out Our Salvation.**

- Our duty to God. Chapter 12
- Our duty to the state. Chapter 13
- Our duty to our fellowman. 14:1-15:13

### **V. Conclusion. 15:14-16:27**

- Paul's faithfulness in the ministry. 15:14-22
- Paul's future in the ministry. 15:23-33
- Paul's friends in the ministry. Chapter 16