

God's Good News About Righteousness

An Inductive Study of the Book of Romans

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Study 1, Introduction

A. INTRODUCTION: The Writer, the Readers, and the Good News (Romans 1:1-17).

1. Who wrote this letter (1:1)?

2. How does he identify himself (1:1)?

3. The writer says he has been “set apart for the gospel of God” (1:1). Gospel means “good news.” Who is the Good News (gospel) about (1:3-4)?
 - a. Whose son is he (1:3, see back to 1:1). What difference does this make?

 - b. Whose descendant is he (as far as his humanity is concerned) 1:3? What difference does this make?

 - c. What event powerfully confirmed him to be the Son of God (1:3)? What difference does this make?

4. To what group of people did the writer write this letter (1:7)?

5. The writer appears grateful about his readers' faith (1:8). In your opinion, what do you think was the content of their faith? (In other words, if you have faith, you have faith in *something*. What do you think they had faith in?)

6. The writer appears not to have visited Rome before, but seems eager to go there to inform them about the gospel (Good News) (1:15). This same writer gives a more specific definition of the gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:1-6. How would you define the gospel from this passage?

7. The writer is not ashamed of his own personal faith in the Good News (1:16). Why not?

8. The Good News does no one any good unless he or she personally responds to it. What is the only appropriate response to the gospel? (1:16-17. These two verses represent the Key Passage in Romans, the theme of the book.)

9. By way of an overview, Paul, the writer, really writes his whole letter about the gospel, and he does so very systematically and logically. Listed below are the major sections of the book. Briefly browse through the sections. Which section looks the most challenging to you? The most interesting? The easiest to apply to your own life?
 - a. **INTRODUCTION:** The Writer, the Readers, and the Good News (1:1-17).

 - b. **CONDEMNATION:** The Need for the Good News – God’s Anger Against Man’s Unrighteousness (1:18 - 3:20).

 - c. **JUSTIFICATION:** Taking Advantage of the Good News – Man is Declared Righteous because of His Faith in Jesus Christ (3:21 - 5:21).

 - d. **SANCTIFICATION:** A Changed Life Because of the Good News – The Outworking of Righteousness in the Believer’s Experience (6 - 8).

- e. VINDICATION: The Good News and the Nation of Israel – Defending God’s Righteousness in Temporarily Setting Aside National Israel to Save the Nations (meaning the Gentiles, the Non-Jewish Nations of the World) (9 - 11).

 - f. TRANSFORMATION: Practical Ways to Live Out the Good News – The Application of Righteousness in Specific Areas (12:1 - 15:13).

 - g. INFORMATION: An Example of Living Out the Good News – Paul, the Model of Righteousness (15:14 - 16:27).
10. Do you think you understand the Good News at this point?
- a. If you do, have you responded to it? How?

 - b. What assistance do you need so you can understand the Good News and make a positive response to it?

 - c. What do you personally hope to learn from your study of Paul’s Letter to the Roman Christians?

Introduction to Romans (Romans 1:1-17)

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