

Introduction:

Today we will conclude our *Introduction to Romans*.

Things we will look at in this lesson: Paul's Theme

Paul's Theme:

01. *What is the theme of Romans?*

02. *What is the gospel to the desperate and dying, condemned, and hurting?*

03. *What kind of power does Paul describe?*

04. *What caused many Jews to miss their Messiah?*

05. What is every true believer today a testimony of?

06. What is salvation the opposite of?

07. According to the negative sense of the word “salvation” what are we saved from?

Figure 1)

Salvation (Adapted from Hendriksen, 1981, 100)	
In Its Negative Sense	In Its Positive Sense
To save is to rescue people from sin's Guilt (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14) Pollution (Rom. 6:6, 17; 7:21–25) Slavery (Rom. 7:24–25; Gal. 5:1) Punishment: 1. Alienation from God (Eph. 2:12) 2. The wrath of God (Eph. 2:3) 3. Everlasting death (Eph. 2:1–3)	To save is to bring people to a state of Righteousness (Rom. 3:21–26; 5:1) Holiness (Rom. 6:1–4; 12:1–2) Freedom (Gal. 5:1; 2 Cor. 3:17) Blessedness: 1. Fellowship with God (Eph. 2:13) 2. God's love poured out in the heart (Rom. 5:5) 3. Everlasting life (Eph. 2:1, 4–5; Col. 3:1–4)

08. Who is salvation available to?

09. What does it mean to be “credited as righteous”?

10. Where would we be if God had not revealed His ways to us?

11. How do we receive righteousness?

12. What happens after we enter a right relationship with God by faith?

Figure 2)

The Power of the Gospel
Augustine, a professor of oratory in Milan, struggled for years with carnal desire and lust. Then, one day he picked up a copy of Paul's letter to the Romans and read:
Don't participate in wild parties and getting drunk, or in adultery and immoral living, or in fighting and jealousy. But let the Lord Jesus Christ take control of you, and don't think of ways to indulge your evil desires.
— <i>Romans 13:13–14, NLT</i>
"In an instant," he later wrote, "the light of confidence flooded into my heart and all the darkness of doubt was dispelled" (Edwards 1992, 1). As a result, this fourth-century North African (from present-day Algeria) committed his life to Christ and became a prominent church leader. His writings still influence theological thought today.