

Introduction:

Today we will begin our *Introduction to Romans*.

Figure 1)

| GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED Romans Chapters 1–8 | GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS VINDICATED Romans Chapters 9–11 | GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS APPLIED Romans Chapters 12–16 |
|--|--|---|
| In the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith (1:17). | | |
| <p>Man's Problem—Sin There is no one righteous, not even one. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (3:10, 23)</p> <p>God's Provision—A Savior This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe...and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement. (3:21–25)</p> <p>God's Process—Shaping Believers Into Christ's Image Those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son. (8:29)</p> | <p>God's Plan—Restore Israel God's Sovereign Choice Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised. (9:4–5)</p> <p>Israel's Unbelief Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. (9:31–32)</p> <p>Israel's Future Restoration Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved. (11:25–26)</p> | <p>God's Purpose—Live Like Christ A Living Sacrifice Offer your bodies as living sacrifices...be transformed by the renewing of your mind... We have different gifts... prophesying...serving... teaching... encouraging... contributing... govern[ing]...[so use them]. (12:1–8)</p> <p>Love Love must be sincere... Be devoted to one another... Honor one another... Keep your spiritual fervor... Be joyful...Share with God's people... Practice hospitality. (12:9–21)</p> <p>Submit to Those in Authority Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities. (13:1)</p> |
| Paul probably wrote his letter to the Romans at Corinth. Date: circa AD 57 | | |

Things we will look at in this lesson: The Apostle Paul

The Apostle Paul:

01. Where do we find pieces of the portrait that Paul paints of himself?

02. What is the most important key to understanding Paul apart from his conversion?

03. How did Paul insist on identifying himself?

Figure 2)

| Pauline Chronology | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Events | Date AD | Paul's Journeys and Time of Writing Epistles |
| CONVERSION | 31/32 | |
| FIRST VISIT TO JERUSALEM | 37 | |
| SECOND VISIT TO JERUSALEM Famine visit—Acts 11 | 45 | |
| | 45–49 49 | FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY Galatians |
| THIRD VISIT TO JERUSALEM Council visit—Acts 15 | 49/50 | |
| | 50–53 52/53 52/53 | SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians |
| FOURTH VISIT TO JERUSALEM | 53 | |
| | 54–58 57 57 57 | THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Romans |
| ARREST IN JERUSALEM | 58 | |
| IMPRISONMENT AT CAESAREA | 58–60 | |
| FIRST IMPRISONMENT IN ROME | 60–63 62 62 62 63 | Colossians Ephesians Philemon Philippians |
| RELEASED FROM PRISON | 63–67 67 67 | FURTHER TRAVELS 1 Timothy Titus |
| SECOND IMPRISONMENT IN ROME | 68 | 2 Timothy |
| MARTYRDOM | 68 | |

04. What was the eventual result of Paul's education and diligent study?

05. What did the Pharisees teach the oral law was equal to?

06. What did Paul defend before becoming a defender of the Christian faith?

07. In his mind, what was Paul defending?

Figure 3)

| Paul's Missionary Journeys | | |
|---|----------------|------------------|
| FIRST JOURNEY | circa AD 45–49 | Acts 13:4–14:28 |
| <p>The Syrian Antioch church commissioned and sent out Paul and Barnabas, accompanied by John Mark.</p> <p>They began their ministry on Cyprus, then traveled to the southern region of the province of Galatia, where they focused their efforts. Great numbers of people responded to the gospel. In spite of opposition by the Jews, the apostles planted churches in Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe. After revisiting these churches, they returned to Antioch.</p> <p>At this time—and probably before the Jerusalem Council—Paul wrote Galatians.</p> | | |
| SECOND JOURNEY | circa AD 50–53 | Acts 15:39–18:22 |
| <p>Paul and Silas strengthened the churches in Syria, Cilicia, and Galatia and delivered the decisions made by the Jerusalem Council. Timothy joined the team at Lystra.</p> <p>The Holy Spirit would not allow them to preach in the provinces of Asia and Bithynia. Then, after a vision at Troas that included the call, “Come over to Macedonia and help us” (Acts 16:9), they (now joined by Luke) crossed the Aegean Sea into Europe. They planted churches in the Macedonian cities of Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea.</p> <p>Next, they traveled south to the province of Achaia, where they established churches in Athens and Corinth. Paul remained in Corinth about a year and a half.</p> <p>Priscilla and Aquila then traveled with Paul from Corinth to Ephesus, where the apostle reasoned with a few Jews in the synagogue. At their invitation to stay, he replied, “I will come back if it is God’s will” (Acts 18:21). Then he returned to Jerusalem and Antioch.</p> | | |
| THIRD JOURNEY | circa AD 54–58 | Acts 18:23–21:17 |
| <p>Paul apparently began his third missionary journey alone.</p> <p>As on his second journey, Paul visited the churches in the regions of Galatia and Phrygia and encouraged them to grow in the grace of God.</p> <p>Paul then traveled to Ephesus, where he ministered for almost three years. God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, and a strong church was established. The gospel impacted the entire region, “so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord” (Acts 19:10).</p> <p>As a result of this powerful response, the silversmiths who made shrines to the Greek goddess Artemis began losing clients. Since their business profits were threatened, they stirred up the citizens against Paul. Soon the whole city was in an uproar, and Paul was forced to leave.</p> <p>From Ephesus he traveled through Macedonia, then to Corinth. During his stay in Corinth, Paul wrote his Epistle to the Romans. Finally, on his return to Jerusalem, he was arrested and imprisoned for two years in Caesarea.</p> | | |

08. Before his conversion, how did Paul try to establish his righteousness?

09. After his conversion, what did Paul look to Jesus as?

Figure 4)



Figure 5)



Figure 6)



10. What did missionary ministry come out of?

Figure 7)

| Paul's Journey to Rome | |
|---|-----------------|
| circa AD 59–60 | Acts 27:1–28:16 |
| <p>In graphic detail, Luke describes the dramatic events that unfolded on Paul's journey to Rome. In the uncertainty of the violent storm that eventually destroyed Paul's ship, an angel reassured Paul that he must stand before Caesar and that all on board the ship would survive.</p> <p>Paul lived in Rome under guard for two years. The Romans permitted him to live in his own rented house, have visitors, and share the gospel. On one occasion, many Jews came to Paul's house, and from morning to evening, he explained and declared to them the kingdom of God. Some were convinced and believed.</p> <p>During this time, Paul wrote his Epistle to the Philippians, reassuring these friends that his chains had not hindered the gospel but rather moved it forward; it had "really served to advance the gospel" (Philippians 1:12).</p> <p>The whole palace guard—possibly nine thousand men—and many others knew Paul was in chains for Christ. His chains encouraged the believers in Rome to share their faith fearlessly. From the time of his arrest, many opportunities arose for him to witness: to the Jerusalem crowd, the Sanhedrin, Felix, Festus, and Agrippa. Add to this the 274 mariners and soldiers on board the ship with him and Luke en route to Rome. Following the shipwreck, Paul prayed for many sick people on the island of Malta, and they were healed by the power of Christ. Yes, Paul's chains served to advance the gospel.</p> | |