



# GRACE-POWERED LIVING

## A Study of the Book of ROMANS

ROMANS: GRACE-POWERED LIVING

Overview

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**Introduction:** Today we are beginning our study of Romans which, more than any other book of the New Testament, explains the foundation of our faith.

### I. The Significance of Romans

"I greatly longed to understand Paul's Epistle to the Romans, and nothing stood in the way but that one expression, "the righteousness of God" because I took it to mean that righteousness whereby God is righteous and deals righteously in punishing the unrighteous. Night and day I pondered until I grasped the truth that the righteousness of God is that righteousness whereby, through grace and sheer mercy, He justifies us by faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning, and whereas before "the righteousness of God" had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet in greater love. This passage of Paul became to me a gateway to heaven." Martin Luther Cf. Barend Klaas Kuiper, *Martin Luther: The Formative Years* [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1933], pp. 198-208, as quoted in John MacArthur, *Romans 1-8*, Moody Press, 1991)

"I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where a scholar was reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for my salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death." John Wesley (Ibid, p. x)

### II. The Background of Romans

### A. Author: Paul

#### 1. His conversion

Acts 8:3 says, "Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house; and dragging off men and women, and would put them into prison."

Acts 26:16-18   <sup>16</sup>But arise, and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the thing in which I will appear to you; <sup>17</sup>delivering you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, <sup>18</sup>to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me."

#### 2. His credentials

### B. Date and Setting of Romans

## C. Purpose and Theme of Romans

Romans 1:16-17 “<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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.’”

## III. An Overview of Romans

Prologue		Problem of Righteousness		Provision of Righteousness		Power of Righteousness		Program of Righteousness		Practice of Righteousness	
1:1	1:17	1:15	3:20	3:21	5	6	8	9	11	12	16

Adapted from the PAULINE EPISTLES, Kenneth Boa, Walk Through The Bible, 1980, p.6

## A. Prologue

## B. The **PROBLEM** of Righteousness (Romans 1:18-3:20)

Romans 3:9-12 “<sup>9</sup>What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; <sup>10</sup>As it is written, ‘There is none righteous, not even one; <sup>11</sup>There is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; <sup>12</sup>All have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one.’”

### C. The **PROVISION** for Righteousness (Romans 3:21-5)

Romans 3:26 "For the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

### D. The **POWER** of Righteousness (Romans 6-8)

Romans 6:6-7 "<sup>6</sup>Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; <sup>7</sup>for he who has died is freed from sin."

### E. The **PROGRAM** of Righteousness (Romans 9-11)

Romans 11:25 "For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;"

Romans 9:13-18 "<sup>13</sup>Just as it is written, 'Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.' <sup>14</sup>What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! <sup>15</sup>For He says to Moses, 'I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.' <sup>16</sup>So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. <sup>17</sup>For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, 'For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth.' <sup>18</sup>So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires."

### F. The **PRACTICE** of Righteousness (Romans 12-16)

Romans 12:1-2 “<sup>1</sup> I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Romans 14:14-17 “<sup>14</sup> I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. <sup>15</sup> For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died. <sup>16</sup> Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; <sup>17</sup> for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

## IV. Our Reason for Studying Romans

### A. Our Make-Up

### B. Our Message

### C. Our Method

Romans 1:16-17 “<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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.’”

Conclusion