



# ROMANS

**FEBRUARY 2017**

Read on your own or with others,  
which ever you prefer.

This leaflet is just a brief overview of the 'big picture' of this book. If you have been reading the Bible for some time you will be aware there is much more to it than you'll find here.

If you are new to reading the Bible don't worry too much if there are details you do not quite get at the moment - focus on the 'big picture'.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The book of Romans is the most systematic explanation of the good news of Jesus we have in the Bible.

It was written by Paul the apostle of Jesus to the church of Rome around 57 AD – almost 30 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus – to encourage them (Romans 1:12, 16:25) and strengthen them in their faith

It is difficult to summarise the book briefly because it is so full of wonderful truths. Here is an attempt at an outline.

## **OUTLINE**

### **INTRODUCTION: ROMANS 1:1–17**

In these verses Paul emphasizes that the Gospel he is about to explain is God's plan (verse 1) and that "it is the power of God" (verse 16).

### **THE PROBLEM OF SIN: ROMANS 1:18–3:20**

Here Paul explains the problem the gospel has to deal with - sin.

- Gentiles cannot use ignorance of the law as an excuse for sin since God is clearly revealed in creation (Romans 1:18-20).
- Jews have the privilege of knowing the law but that does not excuse them when they break the law (Romans 2:17-24).

Paul concludes that the whole human race, Jews and Gentiles, are all under the power of sin (Romans 3:1).

### **THE SOLUTION, FORGIVENESS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST: ROMANS 3:21–5:20**

In this section Paul explains the solution to the problem of sin. Jesus is the one who deals with sin by dying on the cross and being punished in our place (Romans 3:25).

Jews and Gentiles are made righteous by faith in the Lord Jesus

Christ and His death on the cross. No one can be saved by the law (Romans 3:21).

### **THE RESULT, NEW LIFE THROUGH THE SPIRIT: ROMANS 6-8**

If keeping the law does not make us righteous does it matter how we live? Paul is very clear that it does matter (Romans 6:1-2). If Jesus Christ has made us righteous we are dead to sin but have life in Him (Romans 6:11).

In the light of this we are urged to live for the honour of God and not in sin anymore (Romans 6:12-14). We can only live this new life in the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9).

Paul finishes this section by telling us of the great privileges of being made alive in Christ and the certainty of those privileges (Romans 8:18-39).

### **WHAT ABOUT THE JEWS?: ROMANS 9-11**

Paul has explained that salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ and not through keeping the law given to the Jews. Does this mean that now Gentiles can be saved but Jews cannot? No, Paul explains that, as has always been the case, Jews can be saved through faith in Jesus in the same way as Gentiles (Romans 10:12-13).

### **PRACTICALITIES: ROMANS 12-16**

In the final chapters Paul deals with the practicalities - if we have been saved through faith in Christ what should we do? "...*present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*" (Romans 12:1).

These chapters cover areas such as using our gifts to serve, loving one another, submission to authorities and dealing with grey areas. The book ends with a list of greetings from Paul to specific people in Rome and a call to be discerning in who they allow to influence them.

## **ASKING THE QUESTIONS THE BIBLE WANTS YOU TO ASK**

What does this book teach you about Jesus? (Luke 24:45-47)

What does this book teach you about yourself? (James 1:23 & 2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you encouraged? (2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you corrected? (Romans 15:4)

What difference do the truths of this book make in your life (Matthew 7:24-27)