

# THE BOOK OF ROMANS



## 1. God's Righteousness

### Introduction

Have you ever read the Book of Romans? Some think it is difficult to understand, but as we study this letter that was written by the Apostle Paul, we will discover many wonderful truths. Paul wrote this to the Christians who lived in Rome while he was on his third missionary journey. At that time he had never visited Rome, although he expresses his desire to go there. He begins this letter by explaining the meaning of the gospel.

### Scripture Reading: Romans 1:1-17

In the time when the Apostle Paul lived writers usually put their name at the beginning of the letter, and so this letter begins with Paul's name. Very quickly though, Paul goes on and speaks about the One who has called him, Jesus Christ.

- ☉ What truths does the Apostle Paul tell us about Jesus in these opening verses? Romans 1:1-6

*(He tells us that the gospel is about Jesus, who was a descendant of David, and declared to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead.)*

- ☉ What was the Apostle Paul called to do according to Romans 1:1, 5, 9, 14-15

*(He was called to be an apostle and to preach the gospel to the Gentiles.)*

- ☉ Just as Paul was called by God, so were those who received his letter, and so are each one of us. What does this calling mean and what are we called for? Romans 1:6-7, Romans 8:28, 1 Peter 2:9

*(We are all called to belong to Jesus Christ and to be saints, who are being conformed to the likeness of Jesus. Also we are called to declare God's praises in this world.)*

- ☉ What difference should it make in our lives if we understand what God has called us for?

*(If we truly understand our calling then we will not live for ourselves but for our Lord. Everything we do will be to please him and fulfil his purposes.)*

- ☉ In what ways does the Apostle Paul seek to encourage these believers in Rome? See v8-15.

*(He commends them for their faith and prays constantly for them. He shares how he wants to visit them and impart some spiritual gifts to them.)*

- ☉ What can we learn from Paul's attitude towards the believers in Rome? Remember he had never met them before!

*(Just as Paul saw the good in these believers lives, it is important we see the good in others, not just their faults. Also we should pray for one another, encourage each other and be willing to receive encouragement from them too.)*

Now that the Apostle Paul has greeted his readers and encouraged them, he goes on to tell them what the main focus of his letter will be – and that is, the righteousness of God, which is revealed in the gospel.

- ☉ What can you learn about the gospel from Romans 1:16-17?

*(The gospel is the power of God to save everyone who believes, both Jew and Gentile. Also the gospel reveals the righteousness of God.)*

- ☉ What is the 'righteousness from God' that the Apostle is speaking about? What does this really mean?

*(The gospel reveals to us how we can be made right with God. The only way is that we accept what Jesus has done for us. Jesus was righteous, and when we accept what he has done on the cross, we receive his righteousness and are made right with God.)*

- ☉ How do these verses in Romans 1:1-17 encourage us to share the gospel with others?

## **Conclusion**

Each one of us who has responded to the gospel are loved by God and called to be saints. Although Paul had a specific calling to preach the gospel to the Gentiles, all of us have the privilege of sharing this gospel with others. We do not need to be ashamed of the gospel, because it has the power to change lives and save them. Let's be quick to encourage our fellow believers in Christ, and also available to share this wonderful gospel with those who do not know Jesus yet.

