

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
- ☉ What was the Apostle Paul called to do according to Romans 1:1, 5, 9, 14-15
- ☉ 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
- ☉ What difference should it make in our lives if we understand what God has called us for?
- ☉ In what ways does the Apostle Paul seek to encourage these believers in Rome? See v8-15.
- ☉ What can we learn from Paul's attitude towards the believers in Rome? Remember he had never met them before!

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