

Overview of Romans

- 1 – Introduction
- 1-3 – Everyone is Guilty
- 3-5 – How Justification Works
- 6-8 – How Sanctification Works
- 9-11 – Israel and Salvation
- 12-15 – How to Live Faithfully
- 15-16 – Final Remarks of Encouragement

Romans 1

Paul introduces his letter with a snapshot of what is to come. Throughout the book his focus is on God and the gospel. Far from being ashamed of the gospel, Paul is proud of it. He boasts (in the Lord) that it supercedes the previous boundaries of ethnic Judaism, as was formerly believed. There is only one boundary that surrounds salvation; belief. God has given us the good news about His provision for righteousness. This righteousness is gained by faith in Christ and bookends our life from beginning to end. We begin, continue, and finish our life through faith. *Romans 1:16-17*

Romans 1-3

The Jews are guilty, the Gentiles are guilty, and there's nobody else left to blame. All mankind is found guilty of imperfection in the eyes of God. Whether Jew or Gentile, God has given us signposts pointing to Him and His authority. However, we all pushed back these truths (creation, the Mosaic law) and set up our own means of attainable righteousness. And so, God deservedly finds us lacking, unworthy, and damned. *Romans 3:9-18*

Romans 3-5

The promise of having our relationship with God put in good standing (justification) is possible by faith in Christ. Just as the playing field was level for guilt, so now it is level again for all who would believe. God has made attaining righteousness possible through Jesus' choosing to die. *Romans 3:21-25*

Romans 6-8

For Christians, Sin has been dealt the death blow but lives for the moment. However, we must continue to strive to live harmoniously with our righteous position before God. God has given us His Holy Spirit to fight the battles in our war against sin. *Romans 8:5-10*

Romans 9-11

Paul addresses the looming question about the Jews and their chosen status. God, through Paul, defends His faithfulness. In this section, we get a behind-the-scenes look at salvation. God chooses those He wants to be saved, period. Israel hears the gospel just as the Gentiles do. However, few Jews believe. *Romans 9:30-33, 11:1-5*

Romans 12-15

This portion of the book is used to give a substantial portion of the law of Christ, under which we now live in the New Covenant. We have instruction from God on how to live with each other; our enemies and persecutors, our government, our weaker brothers and sisters, and each other. *Romans 12:1-2*

Romans 15-16

Paul ends his letter with some words of personal encouragement. He encourages the believers that he has met individually. His plans are to visit the church in Rome so that they can be mutually encouraged. Paul is an example to us in this way. The others he mentions are great examples, also. *Romans 15:30-33*