

There are 27 books in the New Testament and most of these books are actually **letters** (sometimes called "**epistles**").

The epistle of Romans, for example, was a letter which Paul wrote to the believers who were living in the city of Rome.

## Why Did Paul Write to the Romans?

- Paul wrote this letter about 56 A.D. when he was in the city of Corinth.
- Paul had never been to the city of Rome, but he was praying that God would make it possible for him to go to this great city and be with the believers who lived there (see Romans 1:10-12).
- Rome was the capital city of the Roman Empire.

- Romans is the study of the justified man on the earth, and what the practice or conduct of that man which is suitable to a justified man.
- What is a justified man or a righteous man?

Romans 1:20 (NASB) righteousness 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Vines: is "the character or quality of being right or just;" it was formerly spelled "rightwiseness," which clearly expresses the meaning. It is used to denote an attribute of God.

Vines

 Romans gives us a system of practice or conduct characteristic of a righteous man.

- · Romans is the seedbed of all Christian doctrine.
- · To know Romans is to know Christianity.
- · Romans is not about the gospel, it is the gospel.

McCalley

"The epistle to the Romans is the most scientific statement of the divine plan for redemption of mankind that God has been pleased to give us."

Ironside

(The late Francis L. Patton, godly and able president of Princeton University). "The only hope of Christianity is in the rehabilitating of the Pauline theology. It is back, back, back, to an incarnate Christ and the atoning blood, or it is on, on, on, to atheism and despair."

(Martin Luther)"The epistle to the Romans is the true masterpiece of the New Testament and the very purest gospel, which is well worth and deserving that a Christian man should not only learn it by heart, word for word, but also that he should daily deal with it as the daily bread of men's souls. It can never be too much or too well read or studied, and the more it is handled the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes"

**John Wesley's** *Journal*, Wesley was an unsaved preacher until he read the book of Romans and understood God's way of salvation.

Luther's 95 Theses, a Catholic monk, was greatly influenced by Romans 1:17, "The just shall live by faith," which opened his eyes to the truth of justification by faith.

**Augustine's** *City of God* was founded on his study of the Book of Romans. **John Bunyan's** *Pilgrim's Progress* was written after reading the Book of Romans in prison. It became the best-selling book of all time, next to the Bible.

#### SPIRITUAL ORDER OF PAUL'S EPISTLES

Newell

In Romans man is shown with righteousness: "There is none righteous, no not one."

This involves man's fundamental relation to God.

- Christ is set forth a propitiation (satisfaction), meeting all Divine claims, and by His death releasing man from the necessity of a righteousness and holiness **of his own**:
- · Christ becomes his righteousness, and a believer has the witness of the Spirit that he is God's child.
- (2) I Corinthians.
- (3) II Corinthians.
- (4) Galatians.
- (5) Ephesians. Men on earth seated in the heavenlies
- (6) Philippians.
- (7) Colossians.
- (8) I Thessalonians.
- (9) II Thessalonians

Introduction, apostleship, greetings, theme
Chapter 1: 1-17 17 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."

*Merryman:* says the theme is the righteousness of God. The quality of righteousness which He is the source.

## II. God's righteousness revealed in condemnation

- A. **Condemnation** against pagan humanity
- B. **Condemnation** according to divine standards (God to man) 2:1-16
- C. Condemnation against unfaithful but responsible Jews 2:17- 3:8
  - 1. Condemnation because of hypocrisy 2:17-24
  - 2. Condemnation because of trust in rites 2:25-29
  - 3. Condemnation because of unbelief 3:1-8

- D. Condemnation against all human beings by God 3:9-20
  - All are under sin 3:9-18
  - 2. All are conscious of sin 3:19-20

# III. The righteousness of God provided (revealed in justification) 3:21-5:21

- A. Provided righteousness explained 3:21-31
- B. Provided righteousness by faith illustrated Chapter 4
- c. Provided Righteousness calculated and enjoyed 5:1-11
- Provided Righteousness contrasted (Doctrine of Two Federal Heads) 5:12-21

## IV. God's Righteousness Produced (revealed in <u>Sanctification</u>) Chapters 6-8

- A. The Possession and Position in The New Nature 6:1-23
  - 1. The Principle of Our Positional Union with Christ 6:1-10
  - 2. Attitudes of Sanctification 6:11-14
  - 3. Deliverance through Yieldness Illustrated (Service) 6:15-23
- B. Conflict with The Old Nature in Sanctification

### Chapter 7

- 1. The Law and The Believer 7:1-6
- 2. The Law (principle) and Sin 7:7-13
- 3. The Law and the Two Natures 7:14-25

C. The Position and Possessions of the Believer by the Holy Spirit.

### Chapter 8

- 1. The Work of the Spirit 8:1-11
  - a. The Contrast of the Holy Spirit and Law 8:1-4
  - b. The Contrast of the Spirit and the Flesh 8:5-11
    - (1) Conflict of the Flesh 8:5
    - (2) Condition of the Flesh 8:6-7
- 2. The Witness of The Spirit 8: 12-17

## V. God's Righteousness Revealed in <u>Sovereign Choice</u> Chapters 9-11

- The Sovereign Choice of God Enunciated 9:1-29
- The Administration Over Israel 9:6-13
- The Admonition to Israel 9:14-24
- 4. The Adulteration of Israel 9:25-29

- B. God's Sovereign Choice Applied 9:30-10-21
  - 1. The Admission about Israel's Stumbling. 9:30-10:6
  - 2. Confessions of a Working Faith 10:8-13
- C. Israel's Future Reception of Jehovah 11:1-36
  - The scope of Israel's rejection (is God through with Israel?)
    11:1
  - 2. The stubbornness and arrogance of Israel 11:7-10
  - 3. The reconciliation of the world 1:11-24
  - 4. The return of Israel after temporary rejection 11:25-32
  - 5. The rewards of the Lord 11:33-36

## VI The Righteousness of God Propagated Chapters 12-16:27

The relationship of salvation to living the Christian Life 12:1 - 15:13

- The imperative of the sacrifice of the Believer 12:1-2
- 2. The service of the Believer 12:3-21
- 3. The relationship of the Believer to Government and others 13:1-14
- 4. The expression of a Faithful Minister, relationships 14:1 15:135.
  - 5. The exhortation of a Faithful Minister 15:14-33
    - 6. The example of a Faithful Ministry 16:1 27