

May 27, 2018 18041-A #1
Introduction to Romans

I. Lord, where else will we go? Jn.6:65-69

A. The Words of Eternal life are the gospel.

1. Almost unbelievably good news with the power to save us and the world.

B. But they include things we do not understand and must just trust God for.

1. Jesus had just said hard things (65). People left him...

C. If you double-click on “the words of eternal life” the dropdown menu us Romans...the deepest and most pastorally theological exposition of the gospel.

II. Background to Romans.

A. **Who, When, Where? Acts 20:3**

1. Paul, on his third missionary journey, from Corinth/Cenchrea

2. Probably in Winter somewhere between 55-57 AD. Paul waiting for opportunity to sail for Jerusalem.

3. On their way to Jerusalem with the large gift. Couldn't be in two places at once, so Paul writes to Rome and goes to Jerusalem.

4. Tertius took the dictation. 16:22

5. Phoebe of Cenchrea carried it to Rome. 16:1

B. **To Whom and Why?**

1. The Roman Church. Mostly Gentile believers in Jesus.

a) Nobody knows who started the church.

b) It was probably mostly Jewish at first, but in 49 AD Claudius kicked the Jews out of Rome, leaving the church largely Gentile.

2. Because Paul is the apostle to Gentiles.

a) The Pastor to Gentiles on the Lord's Apostolic staff.

III. Rom.1:16-17. The gospel is the power of God for salvation. Romans in Five Words:

A. **Ruin: Chapters 1-3.** *He tells us the hard truth about ourselves.*

1. The natural human soul is:

a) We are doomed to a judgment we cannot face. 1:18; 2:5-6

(1) God's wrath: His opposition to evil.

(2) If there is justice in the universe, it must be after this life and brought by God.

b) Because we are ruined from the inside out – sin. 3:9-18; 23

(1) Sin: anything God wouldn't think, say, do.

(2) Or: the real presence of substantial evil in the human soul, heart.

(3) And evil is in there. Just go online.

2. *Humans are not as bad as they can be, but also not as good as they must be to live forever. To share God's life we must be as good as God...Goodness (righteousness) is eternal and at the center of the creation. Evil will be destroyed.*

3. *The Bible does not teach that humans are insignificant and bad.*

a) Evolution teaches that humans are insignificant and somehow good.

4. *The Bible teaches that humans are incredibly valuable—and evil.*

a) This is the trauma of human reality.

B. **Rescue: Chapters 3-5.** *He explains the miraculous rescue He has accomplished.*

1. **3:21-26.** He paid the eternal price. (the heart of Romans)

a) So that we can simply trust Him and live.

2. **5:1-2.** He gave us eternal peace.

3. *In His Grace, by simple faith resting Him Alone.*

C. **Regeneration: Chapters 5-8** *He put His Resurrection life within our dying bodies.*

1. **5:20-21;** sin reigned in death, grace/goodness reigns in life.

2. **6:4.** His death and life become ours.

3. **8:1-2.** His Spirit makes us alive and free to serve Him.

D. Revelation: Chapters 9-11. *He Reveals a plan for Israel and the world.*

1. What about Israel? If Jesus is really Israel's Messiah, then why the unbelief? Has God's Word to Israel failed?
2. No. Because God has a plan that includes His decisions and human decisions. Faith and unbelief. **Rom. 9:6, 30-32; 11:25-26**
3. *Do we really trust the wisdom, love and justice of God ...?*

E. Renovation: Chapters 12-16. *He is re-teaching us how to think and live.*

1. Live for Him completely. **12:1-2**
2. Live in society cooperatively. **13:1**
3. Live as Christians lovingly. **14:1; 15:1**
4. Live as a church missionally. **16:25-27**

IV. What to do?

A. Christian? Two types

1. **Those who have forgotten what it means to be saved by Grace.**
 - a) **Rest in His worthiness rather than yours.**
 - b) Remember that your Lord has saved you singlehandedly.
 - c) Pharisaism/self-condemnation is the sin of the sincere.
2. **Those who have forgotten what it means to be transformed by Grace.**
 - a) Romans calls us to say no to the old self and walk in newness of life.

B. Pre-Christian?

1. **Admit that you need God's grace more than religious advice.**
 - a) The gospel is not about what you do to be a better person, it is about what God has done to rescue you in Christ.
 - b) Repenting is first admitting you are helpless and enslaved.
2. **Let go of all your other faiths.**
 - a) *We must lose "saving" faith in everything and everyone else. Matt.16:25*
3. **Release yourself radically to Jesus Christ. 10:9-10**
 - a) God has actually accomplished salvation. You need to enter by faith.
4. **Be baptized in the Trinitarian Name of Christ. Matt.28:18-20**
 - a) Present your body...