

RAMBLING THROUGH ROMANS

Introduction

- A. The major theme of the book of Romans is "Justification."
- B. There is a simple 3-point outline of the book:
 - 1. Justification - chapters 1-5
 - 2. Sanctification - chapters 6-11
 - 3. Application - chapters 12-16
- C. Romans answers a number of questions about "righteousness," "law-keeping," "justification," Jew and Gentile, faith and obedience, and "What difference does all this make to me?"

I What is God's "righteousness" (Rom. 1:17)?

- A. "Righteousness," in reference to God, has two possible *Justification* meanings:
 - 1. It can mean an attribute of God, the essential character of God Himself - Ps. 9:8; 22:31; 119:142, 172; 145:17; Jer. 23:6; Mic. 6:5.
 - 2. It can mean an action God bestows upon man - cited 38 times in Romans this way.
 - 3. In Romans the word "righteousness" is used as a synonym to "justification," in a large majority of the times it is used.
 - 4. It is an act which God does for and upon man.
- B. Romans 1:17 announces the theme.

1. Within the gospel the justification of man is fully revealed.
 2. This act can be done upon the ground of man's faith.
 3. The only meritorious cause is the blood of Jesus.
 4. When this is made known to sinners, it will encourage them to depend upon God for justification.
- C. In doing so God must be consistent: "just and the justifier of him that hath faith" - Rom. 3:26.
- D. This justification is "apart from the law," any and all "law-keeping," as the meriting cause - Rom 3:21.
- E. This justification, however, does include the "law of faith" (Rom. 3:27), obedience of those who "walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham" (Rom. 4:12), and the "obedience of faith" (Rom. 1:5; 16:26 -- had one noticed the book of Romans begins and ends with "obedience of faith"?).
- F. Romans 1-5 is a "courtroom" scene.
1. We are asked "How do you plead, guilty or innocent?"
 2. In that Great Day, everyone will know without a doubt that our only plea is "GUILTY"!
 3. Astonishingly God then can say "Yet, because of the blood of my Son and your faith in Him, I declare you INNOCENT!"
- G. Wonder of wonders, marvel of marvels, unspeakable and indescribable joy can then be ours by the grace of God!

II How is God's Righteousness Obtained ?

- A. It is announced to be by faith - Rom. 1:16-17.
- B. It was even so in Old Testament days - Rom. 1:17.
- C. Paul cites the case of Abraham - Romans 4:1-25.
1. He was justified by faith, not meritorious works -
4:2-3.
 2. It was done while he was still in uncircumcision -
4:10
 3. It was not done through the Law of Moses - 4:13.
 4. It was bolstered by hope - 4:18.
 5. His faith enabled him to perform - 4:19-21.
- D. This did not happen nor was it written for Abraham's sake alone; but it happened and was recorded for the sake of others who are called upon to believe in Jesus.

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III What About Lawkeeping?

- A. "Law" is used differing ways in Romans and other books:
1. Law of Moses - 2:12
 2. Law of faith - 3:27
 3. Any and all law ("law in the abstract") - 6:14; 13:10
 4. Law of God in the inward man - 7:22
 5. Law of sin - 7:23
 6. Law of the Spirit of Life - 8:2
 7. Law of God 8:7
 8. Law to Christ - 1 Cor. 9:21
 9. Law of Christ - Gal. 6:2

10. Law of liberty - James 1:25

11. Royal law - James 2:8

B. Must I depend upon "perfect lawkeeping"?

1. Abraham did not - Gen. 12; 20.

2. Paul did not - Rom. 7.

3. Peter did not - Gal. 2.

4. Why make the same mistake the Jews did - 10:3?

C. The Jews did not become a Jew by lawkeeping, but after being born into Judaism they were required to keep the law - Gal. 3:10-12.

D. God judges the quality of a man's faith, then justifies.

E. This is no comfort to disobedient, careless, or rebellious.

F. James taught even those with some faith, but not an active faith, were "dead" - James 2:26.

G. Thus John can speak of the believer's victory - 1 John 4:4; 5:3-5.

IV What About the Gentiles?

A. They knew God and were amenable to Him - Rom. 1:18-32.

1. God manifested this knowledge to them - 1:19.

2. Even the creation taught them - 1:20

3. They knew God but glorified Him not - 1:21.

4. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie; they had something and gave it away! - 1:25.

B. The Gentiles could observe the Jews and imitate them and God would count it as righteousness - 2:14-15.

1. This was not writing a law on their hearts.
2. Only the "work of the law" was on their heart - 2:15.
3. Christ's law is the only law ever written on the heart
- Heb. 8:10.
4. Who knows how many were treated this way?
5. Several exciting glimpses in the Old Testament:
 - a. Melchizedek - Gen. 14:18; Heb. 7
 - b. Balaam - Numbers 22-24
 - c. Ninevah - Jonah
 - d. Pharoah - Gen. 12
 - e. Abimelech - Gen. 20
 - f. Cyrus - Ezra 1

C. One thing we do know: they were all saved by faith!

V What About Me and My Life?

- A. I must have the "right relationship" - 5:8-9; 6:3-7; 8:1.
- B. I must have the "right character" - Rom. 12-16.
 1. Devotion and dedication - 12:1-8
 2. Social sensitivity - 12:9-21
 3. Civil sensibility - 13
 4. Love for my brother more than love for personal
liberty - 14
 5. Interest in soul-seeking - 15:14-33
 6. Love for the brethren - 16
- C. This is the continual process of life, often called in the
New Testament "sanctification."

VI Nine Monumental Blessings of the Christian (5:1-11)

- A. Peace with God - 1
- B. Access by faith into grace - 2
- C. Joy in hope - 2
- D. Reflection in a proper way about tribulations - 3
- E. Reception of the love of God - 4
- F. Justification by the blood of Jesus - 9
- G. Salvation from God's righteous wrath - 9
- H. Surety of salvation in Jesus' life - 10
- I. Joy in standing reconciled - 11

VII Three Deaths Paul Declared

- A. Dead to sin - 6:2, 7, 8, 11
- B. Dead to the Law of Moses - 7:4-6
- C. Dead to the deeds of the body - 8:13

VIII Rejoice in a Triune Gospel - (1:1-7)

- A. The GOSPEL was PROMISED by the prophets - 1:2.
 - 1. To Abraham - 4:13; 9:7
 - 2. In Jacob - 9:13
 - 3. Through Israel - 9:4
 - 4. Even to the Gentiles - 9:24-26
- B. The GOSPEL is PERSONIFIED and PERFECTED in Jesus - 1:3-4.
 - 1. He is God's Son.
 - 2. He is our Lord.
 - 3. He was of the seed of David born.

4. He is with power declared to be the Son of God by the resurrection from the dead (the tomb still stands empty!).
- C. The GOSPEL is PERFECTED among all - 1:5-7.
1. It brought grace and apostleship to Paul.
 2. It offers all nations the obedience of faith.
 3. It is a calling by Jesus Christ.
 4. It is a calling that produces saints.

IX Why Was Paul Not Ashamed of the Gospel? - (1:16-17)

- A. It is God's power to save.
- B. It is the preaching of righteousness (justification).
- C. It features the preeminence of faith.