

INCLUDED

A JOURNEY THROUGH ROMANS



1. Why do you think many people believe that the book of Romans is one of the most New Testament books?
2. Read Romans 1:16,17, which is considered to be the key verse for the entire book. What does verse 16 say about the gospel? What do you think that means? What does verse 17 say is revealed in the gospel? What do you think that means? Read Philippians 3:9. How does that this verse clarify what verse 17 said?
3. To get a good understanding of what Paul was like before he became a Christian, read the following passages: Acts 7:54-60, 8:1-3, 9:1-17, Philippians 3:4-6, and 1 Timothy 1:12,13. How would you describe Paul before he became a Christian? Which of these characteristics were good and continued after he became a believer? How should Paul's story be an encouragement to us as Christians?
4. When was Romans written and to whom was it written? How was this letter to this church different from the other letters Paul wrote to other churches?
5. What were the three reasons that Paul wrote the book of Romans?
6. Since explaining the theological basis of the gospel message was one of the primary reasons Paul wrote Romans, what does the word gospel mean? What is the gospel message, what must a person hear and believe in order to be saved by the message of the gospel?
7. What are the four major doctrines that Paul writes about in Romans?

ANSWERS

- 1. Most people believe that Romans is the most important book of the New Testament because it, for the first time in scripture, lays out in a systematic way exactly our condition as a lost person, what God did about it, and what we must do in response. This is hinted at in the OT and it is Romans that lays it out in detail how a person is saved from hell. Any other passage in the Bible that deals with salvation should be interpreted based on what is said in the book of Romans.*
- 2. Verse 16 says that the gospel is the power of God that saves people; no one can be saved if they do not believe and accept what the gospel message says. Everything a person needs to know and do in order to be saved is contained in the gospel. If it is not part of the gospel message, it is not needed for salvation. Verse 17 says that a righteousness (perfection) that comes from God is revealed. Philippians 3:9 tells us that when we become believers, we are in Christ and that we now have the righteousness of Christ because of our faith. So in our salvation not only are our sins forgiven and removed, we are put into Jesus and we are as righteous as He is. We go to heaven because we are as perfect as Jesus in God's sight.*
- 3. Paul's own description of himself before he came to Christ is that he was zealous in his religious beliefs. He passionately wanted to please God even though what he believed was false. When he became a Christian, he was just as zealous to please God but now he knew the truth. This passion led him to be the primary person God used to reach the world with the gospel message. This should show us that our past does not determine our ability to be used by God and that the positive qualities we had as an unbeliever will be used by God now if we allow him to use us.*
- 4. Romans was written to the believers of the church that was in the city of Rome (hence its name) around 56-58 A.D. during Paul's 3rd missionary journey and was the 5th book of the New Testament he had written at that time. It is different in that Paul did not start the church in Rome, he had not even been there yet whereas the other letters were to churches he had founded.*
- 5. The three reasons Paul wrote Romans was: a. To encourage the believers at Rome because Rome was beginning to persecute the believers in the city and to let them know that he was coming to see them (1:11,12); b. To teach them and eventually all of us the theological basis of the gospel message and how to live free from the power of our sinful natures as well as how to live as members of God's family (15:15,16); and c. as a means of asking them to support his missionary endeavors. (15:22-24)*
- 6. The word gospel comes from the Greek word "euangelion" which literally means good news. The entirety of the gospel message is that we are all sinners destined for hell, that God himself (Jesus) paid the penalty of our sin when he died on the cross and rose from the dead to prove that the penalty for sin was complete. That payment for sin is put to our account when we put our trust in what Jesus did for us on the cross as our only hope of going to heaven. God then gives us His own righteousness and therefore we have eternal life. Typically an understanding that none of this happens as a result of anything we do to please God is included.*
- 7. The four main doctrines taught in Romans are: a. Our sinfulness and its consequences; b. What Christ accomplished by his death on the cross and what we must do to enjoy the results; c. How to live a holy life now that we are believers and children of God, which is part of our salvation; and d. How to serve God in an acceptable manner.*