

Romans

Oakwood ABF Study

Table of Contents

I. INTRO – THE NEW MAN LIVES BY FAITH! (1:1 – 1:17)	2
II. THE NEW MAN – NEED (1:18 – 2:11).....	10
III. THE NEW MAN – NEED – CONT. (2:12 – 3:20).....	13
IV. THE NEW MAN – APPROPRIATION (3:21 – 31)	16
V. THE NEW MAN – APPROPRIATION CONT. (CH. 4)	19
VI. THE NEW MAN – SOURCE	20
VII. THE NEW MAN – IDENTITY	21
VIII. THE NEW MAN – INFLUENCES	22
IX. THE NEW MAN – THINKING.....	23
X. THE NEW MAN – SOVEREIGNTY	24
XI. THE NEW MAN – SERVICE – BODY LIFE.....	25
XII. THE NEW MAN – SERVICE – KINGDOM LIFE	26
XIII. THE NEW MAN – SERVICE – UNITY.....	27
XIV. THE NEW MAN – SERVICE – EVANGELISM	28
XV. CONCLUSION.....	29
XVI. APPENDIXES.....	30

I. Intro – The New Man Lives by Faith! (1:1 – 1:17)

A. Overview

Our focus through Romans will be that of looking at “The New Man”. We will work our way through 11 different topics relating to life for the New Man.

The New Man is the life of a believer. He places his faith in Christ for his sins and is immediately changed.

^{2 Cor 5:17}Therefore, if anyone is⁽¹⁾ in Christ, he is⁽²⁾ a new creation.^{(b)(AA)} The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

The Old Man is gone.

The old man was his life as a totally depraved sinner.

He had a conscience and a desire to change but no ability to produce righteousness. All he could rely on is dead rituals that he hoped might mystically change him. Or he might look to only natural means of self-improvement. He might look to behavioral means of changing habits. He had little reasonable hope in life but sometimes just absurdly hopes that he might find some meaning by achieving something great.

The new man still has all the old influence but also becomes united to Christ. He receives the Holy Spirit to indwell, teach and empower him. He can still choose to live from his old influence or he can choose to live according to the new influence. He will never go back to having only one source for help.

So how does this new man now live? Paul is going to show us in the book of Romans.

B. Author – Paul

1. Jew, born and educated in Tarsus as a Roman citizen
 - a) Probably Wealthy
2. Studied under the great teacher, Gamaliel (Acts 22:3)
3. Member of the Sanhedrin
 - a) Had to be at least 30 years old
 - b) Highest ruling body in Israel
 - c) Strictest sect of the Pharisees (Acts 26:5)
4. Devoted to Judaism
 - a) Persecuted the church severally
 - b) Obtained permission by letter to destroy the church
 - c) Witnessed the death of Stephen
5. Converted on road to Damascus (Acts 9)
 - a) He was told by Christ that when he persecutes the church he is persecuting Christ. This was possibly the beginning of Paul's understanding of our Unity with Christ!
 - b) Visited Jerusalem briefly
 - c) Returned to Tarsus
 - d) Went to Arabia and stayed for 3 years (2 Cor. 12 probably refers to this)
 - e) When he escaped from Damascus he probably went into Arabia.
6. Sent out as a missionary from Antioch (Acts 13:2)

As Paul writes his letters, they were born out of his active life in ministry. He did not just write theory from his office. He wrote about the reality of living the Christian life while actively living it out in opposition, persecution and many successes!

- a) Paired with Barnabas
- b) Chosen by the Holy Spirit
- c) Began first missionary journey
- d) During 1st Journey, he began his ministry to the Gentiles (Acts 13:46-48)
- e) Wrote Galatians
- f) Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)
- g) Wrote 1 Thessalonians from Corinth
- h) Wrote 2 Thessalonians from Corinth
- i) Paul takes Silas with him on his Second Missionary Journey (Acts 15:36)
- j) Wrote 1 Corinthians from Ephesus
- k) Wrote 2 Corinthians from Macedonia
- l) Wrote Romans from Corinth

7. Apostle to the Gentiles

Paul had the unique privilege of knowing from the very beginning of his ministry what Christ planned for his life.

The ministry God had carried out to the world had always been ministered through Israel. Now God was prepared to do something different. He was founding a church, a bride for Christ and it was not going to be distinctly Jewish. Instead it would be primarily made up of Gentiles but the focus would not be on the race at all.

Christ explained that it was even a greater mystery than just this. The greatest mystery given to Paul to explain was to share that believers today were united with Christ.

Col 1:27 – “Christ in you, the hope of glory!”

At the time of Paul's conversion, the Lord had said to Ananias in Damascus concerning him, 'he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles', Acts 9:15. The Lord had just said a similar thing to Saul on the Damascus road, 'the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee', 26:17. Later in Jerusalem, the Lord said to Saul, 'I will send thee far hence to the Gentiles', 22:21. Paul (still as Saul) waited nine years before knowing how this would be brought about. In Syrian Antioch, the Spirit's command, 'Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work where unto I have called them', 13:2, may have seemed to them to be the key to unlock God's purpose that they should serve amongst the Gentiles. For to Paul was committed 'the gospel of the uncircumcision', Gal 2:7, that he and Barnabas 'should go unto the heathen', v.9. This work really started when they came to Antioch in Pisidia, Acts 13:14.¹

But unto none of these twelve Apostles did God reveal the great body of doctrine for this age. Just as God chose Moses to be the revelator to Israel of the Ten Commandments, and all connected with the Law dispensation; so God chose Saul of Tarsus to be the revelator and unfold of those mighty truths connected with our Lord's death, burial, and resurrection and His ascended Person. And all the "mysteries," or "secrets," revealed to God's people in this dispensation by the Holy Ghost are revealed by Paul. Finally, Paul is the unfold of that great company of God's elect, called the Church, the Body of Christ, which is also the Bride, the individuals of which body are called members of the Body of Christ – members of Christ Himself.²

¹ John Heading, *Directory of New Testament Churches*, Precious Seed Publications, ©1992, 58-59

² William R. Newell, *Galatians 1 and 2 or Paul's Defense of His Gospel*, ©1930, 4

8. Date: 52 - 57 AD

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF NT BOOKS³			
Book	Church Period	Date	
James	FOUNDING (15 years aprx)	A.D. 45	
Galatians			
1 Thessalonians			
2 Thessalonians			
1 Corinthians			
2 Corinthians			
Romans			
Matthew			
Luke			
Acts			A.D. 61
Colossians	ESTABLISHING (10 years aprx)	A.D. 61	
Ephesians			
Philemon			
Phillipians			
1 Timothy			
Titus			
2 Timothy			
Hebrews			
Jude			
1 Peter			
2 Peter			
Mark			A.D. 68
FALL OF JERUSALEM (15 "silent years")			A.D. 70
John	CONTINUING (10 years aprx)	A.D. 85	
1 John			
2 John			
3 John			
Revelation			A.D. 96

³ Adapted from Irving Jensen, *Jensen Bible Study Charts*, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, ©1981, Chart 111

C. Purpose

1. There were several possible purposes:

- a) To layout the doctrine needed to establish a young church.**
- b) To correct problems**
- c) To prepare them for his coming visit.**
- d) To encourage unity between Jew & Gentile**

None of these cover the whole book.

It is possible that Paul did have several purposes.

2. Some Clues to finding Paul's purpose:

- a) He usually wrote w/key purposes to specific churches or people.**
- b) He did not like to build on other leader's foundations**
- c) He knew God's specific will for himself.**
- d) He did not specify a purpose, person or church.**

These lead me to think that he is writing a more general purpose.

I believe that he is writing general foundational thoughts. These were thoughts that were heavy on his heart. He had seen the unity issues between Jew and Gentile. He would not know what foundation had been laid for the many believers in Rome. He knew that God had called him to explain these mysteries. He was thinking of key info that would generally help all.

3. Purpose Statement

Paul was writing general foundational information that Christ had given him the responsibility to share with the church. He was writing information that would be foundational to all believers of all maturity levels.

D. Text

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus,
*called to be an apostle,
 set apart for the gospel of God,*

2 which he promised beforehand
through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,

3 concerning his Son,
who was descended from David according to the flesh

4 and was declared to be the Son of God
*in power
 according to the Spirit of holiness
 by his resurrection from the dead,*

Jesus Christ our Lord,

5 through whom we have received grace
*and apostleship
 to bring about the obedience of faith
 for the sake of his name among all the nations,*

6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

7 To all those in Rome
*who are loved by God
 and called to be saints:*

Grace to you and peace
*from God our Father
 and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you,
because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

9 For God is my witness,
*whom I serve with my spirit
 in the gospel of his Son,
 that without ceasing I mention you*

10 always in my prayers,
asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.

11 For I long to see you,
that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you--

12 that is, that we may be mutually encouraged
by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

13 I want you to know, brothers,
*that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented),
 in order that I may reap some harvest
 among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.*

14 I am under obligation
*both to Greeks and to barbarians,
 both to the wise and to the foolish.*

15 So I am eager to preach the gospel
to you also who are in Rome.

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel,
*for it is the power of God
 for salvation to everyone who believes,
 to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed
*from faith for faith, as it is written,
 "The righteous shall live by faith."*

E. The “Righteous” / “New Man” shall live by faith.

This is the heartbeat of the book of Romans.

He is writing to the believers in Rome. He tells us several times that he longs to come visit them. He is praying for this to happen.

His desire is to be encouraged by them and to share truths with them that will encourage them.

He recognizes that he is under obligation to get the gospel clearly proclaimed to all.

1. He is not ashamed of the Gospel**a) Gospel = Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Christ**

1 Cor 15

b) It might seem embarrassing to claim that your savior is someone who was able to be killed by humans.

Paul makes a radical statement to make sure everyone knows that no matter how crazy it is to look to a man who was defeated (by all human viewpoints) as your savior – he is Proud of it!

He has great reasons.

2. For it is the Power of God for Salvation to all who believe.

The power of God. No other power compares. The power is in a message.

a) Power for salvation to Everyone

The world doesn't need more self-help, more trinkets, more journeys, and more things to do. The world needs a message.

b) Power for salvation to Believers!

The Gospel. So often we think it is for unbelievers. Paul is writing this book to believers. He says that the same gospel that is so powerful for the unsaved is just as powerful for the saved.

Once I become a believer I am justified. God has declared me as righteous since Christ has paid my sin debt.

But – I still have the old influence and still have no ability to produce righteous LIVING today.

I need something. I can try to do it myself but that is not good news, because I always fail. The good news is Christ's work is the answer both before and after belief.

“From Faith – to – Faith!”

3. The Righteousness of God can only be revealed through the Gospel.

I can't produce righteousness but if I could it would be the righteousness of Thomas.

The righteousness of God is only revealed when He does righteousness. He is willing and ready to do that through each one of us but it will be His righteousness.

4. The Just (or righteous) shall live by faith.

How do I find the power of the Gospel to see the righteousness of God revealed through my life? How can I truly live?

By Faith.

F. Heartbeat of the book.

That's the heartbeat of the book.

Paul will show us that even after salvation we have a tremendous need. None are righteous and the wages of sin is death.

Paul will show us that before and after justification faith is the key to appropriating God's work for us.

Paul will show us that our old influence is the result of Adam and that we have a new influence through the work of Christ.

Paul will show us that now we are personally connected with Christ in all of His finished work.

Paul will then show that the Old influence will still be there and continue to cause us stress.

Paul also will show us that there is a right way to think when living by faith.

Paul will show that God in His sovereignty has the right to make promises, hold nations and individuals accountable to live by faith and to pour our wrath when they don't.

Paul will then show us practically how it looks to live the righteousness of God by faith.

The Just shall live by faith!