

Romans

The Book of God's
Righteousness Described

Romans: The Book of God's Righteousness Described

- I. Man's Sin: The Need for God's Righteousness
(Romans 1-3:20)

- A. The gospel reveals the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God.
- B. The gospel also reveals the WRATH of God against sin.
- C. God revealed himself to man through CREATION. (Gentiles are without excuse.)

1. Man exchanged the GLORY of God for the glory of man.
 2. Man exchanged TRUTH for a lie.
 3. Man exchanged NATURAL sex for unnatural.
- D. God revealed Himself in the LAW, but man broke it. (Jews are without excuse.)
- E. God's conclusion is that NO ONE is righteous.

Romans: The Book of God's Righteousness Described

II. God's Salvation: The Explanation of Righteousness (Romans 3:21-8)

- A. Justification is a legal term meaning “to DECLARE righteous.”
- B. We are justified by FAITH in Jesus apart from works.
- C. Abraham was justified when he BELIEVED God, and God added righteousness to his account.
- D. Justification means to make PEACE with God (past).

- E. Glorification means to be PRESENT with God (future).
- F. Sanctification means to develop the CHARACTER of God (present).
- G. Justification requires the DEATH of Jesus.
Sanctification requires the LIFE of Jesus.
- H. Paul said there are three laws:

1. The law of GOD.
2. The law of SIN.
3. The law of the SPIRIT.

Romans: The Book of God's Righteousness Described

III. Man's Responsibility: The Jews' Relationship to Righteousness (Romans 9-11)

- A. God chose Israel, but only a remnant of Israel CHOSE God.
- B. Israel pursued righteousness by WORKS and stumbled.
- C. There is no distinction between Jew and Gentile. Whoever will CALL on the name of the Lord will be saved.
- D. God is not finished with Israel, for His CALLING is irrevocable.

Romans: The Book of God's Righteousness Described

IV. God's Will: The Application of Righteousness (Romans 12-16)

- A. Present your BODY to God as a living sacrifice.
- B. Be at PEACE with all men.
- C. Be in SUBJECTION to authorities.
- D. Make no provision for the FLESH in regard to its lusts.
- E. Don't JUDGE your brother.
- F. SERVE and love your brother.

1 Corinthians

The Book of Church's
Problems Corrected

1 Corinthians: The Book of Church's Problems Corrected

I. Paul and the Corinthian Church

A. The History of Corinth

1. The Corinthians worshiped Aphrodite, the goddess of LOVE.

a. The temple boasted ONE THOUSAND consecrated prostitutes.

b. “To act like a Corinthian” symbolized gross IMMORALITY.

B. Paul and the Church in Corinth

1. Paul established the church on his SECOND missionary journey (See Acts 18:1-18).
2. He wrote this letter to the church on this THIRD missionary journey when he was in Ephesus.

1 Corinthians: The Book of Church's Problems Corrected

II. Paul's Answer to Chloe's People's Report (1 Corinthians 1:10-4:21)

A. There were divisions caused by SELF-EXALTATION.

1. They did not understand the work of the CROSS.

2. They did not understand the work of the HOLY SPIRIT.

B. There were consequences for their lack of understanding.

1. They would not grow SPIRITUALLY.
2. They would lose eternal REWARDS.

1 Corinthians: The Book of Church's Problems Corrected

III. Paul's Answer to an Anonymous Report (1 Corinthians 5-6)

A. Gross sexual IMMORALITY should not be tolerated.

1. Remove the offender from the CHURCH.

2. Do not associate with immoral BELIEVERS.

B. Christians should not SUE Christians.

- C. Sexually immoral people will not inherit the KINGDOM of God.
1. Our bodies are temples of the HOLY SPIRIT.
 2. Our bodies are to bring GLORY to God.

1 Corinthians: The Book of Church's Problems Corrected

IV. Paul's Answers to Questions Raised in a Letter (1 Corinthians 7-16)

A. Paul addressed confusion concerning MARRIAGE.

1. Married couples should not DENY one another sexually.
2. A believing spouse should not DIVORCE because of his or her mate's unbelief.
3. Singleness allows greater freedom for Christian SERVICE.

B. Paul addressed confusion concerning FOODS consecrated to pagan gods.

1. Do nothing that causes your weaker brother to STUMBLE.
2. Exercise SELF-CONTROL in all things.

C. Paul addressed confusion concerning SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

1. Spiritual gifts are for the common GOOD of the church.
2. LOVE is superior to all gifts.
3. God's definition of LOVE is found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

D. Paul addressed confusion concerning the RESURRETION.

1. If Christ has not been raised, then our faith is WORTHLESS.
2. We will have bodies that are IMPERISHABLE.
3. Christ's resurrection was witnessed by FIVE HUNDRED people.

4. At the last trumpet, the dead will be raised, and the living in Christ will be CHANGED.

2 Corinthians

The Book of
Paul's Ministry Defended

2 Corinthians: The Book of Paul's Ministry Defended

- I. Paul Defended his Ministry by Explaining His Actions (2 Corinthians 1-7).

A. Believers were greeted with teaching on God's COMFORT (2 Corinthians 1:3-6).

1. STRENGTHEN, encourage, and teach them during trials.
2. Help others who were suffering when SHARED.

- B. Paul explained his itinerary CHANGES and sought their understanding (2 Corinthians 1:12-2:13).
- C. Various important spiritual TRUTHS were shared (2 Corinthians 2:14-7:16).
1. Believers are both a sweet FRAGRANCE of victory and a foul smell of death.
 2. Their changed HEARTS were proof of Paul's ministry.

3. Paul preached God's GRACE and the Christlike transformation that results.
4. Believers are God's VESSELS used to preach Christ.
5. Believers are told to "not lose HEART."

6. NOW is the time for salvation, so conduct yourselves accordingly.
 - a. Be equally YOKED.
 - b. Be PURE (holy).
 - c. Be REPENTANT rather than merely sorrowful.

2 Corinthians: The Book of Paul's Ministry Defended

II. Paul Challenged the Corinthians to Generous Giving (2 Corinthians 8-9).

- A. The Philippians' COLLECTION for the Jerusalem saints was praised (2 Corinthians 8:1-6).
- B. The Corinthian church should SUPPORT kingdom work by giving (2 Corinthians 8:7-9:15).
- C. Paul shared principles and promises regarding GIVING (2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5).

2 Corinthians: The Book of Paul's Ministry Defended

III. Accusations Against Paul's Authority Were Answered (2 Corinthians 10-13).

- A. Paul denied false CHARGES (2 Corinthians 10).
- B. Paul defended his APOSTLESHIP with proof of his authority (2 Corinthians 11:1-12:13).
- C. Paul announced his future plans to VISIT Corinth (2 Corinthians 13:1-14).

Galatians

The Book of Believers'
Freedom in Christ

Galatians: The Book of Believers' Freedom in Christ

- I. Paul's Gospel of Grace is Defended (Galatians 1-2).

- A. Paul greeted the Galatians with the gospel of GRACE and peace and then cursed those who preached a DISTORTED gospel.
- B. Paul gave his biographical history to defend his APOSTLESHIP to the Galatians.
- C. Paul reminded the Galatians of the AUTHORITY of the gospel of grace and that it was APPROVED by the council in Jerusalem.

D. Paul referred to correcting Cephas (Peter) on the matter of FREEDOM in Christ.

Galatians: The Book of Believers' Freedom in Christ

II. Paul's Gospel of Grace is Defined (Galatians 3-4).

- A. The Galatians were given the Holy Spirit by FAITH, not by WORKS.
- B. The Galatians were justified by FAITH, not by WORKS, just as Abraham was.
- C. The LAW was given to draw men to faith, not to SAVE them.
- D. The Galatians were adopted SONS of God and no longer SLAVES to the law.

- E. The Galatians needed to regain their freedom and blessings by FAITH, not by the LAW.
- F. The sons of Abraham represented the SLAVE SHIP of the law versus the FREEDOM of the promise – examples: Sarah and Isaac, Hagar and Ishmael.

Galatians: The Book of Believers' Freedom in Christ

III. Paul's Gospel of Grace is Applied (Galatians 5-6).

- A. Paul sought to help the Galatians RECLAIM their position and practice of LIBERTY.
- B. Paul explained that the principles of LAW and LIBERTY are opposite.
- C. Paul told the Galatians that the power of LIBERTY is found in the HOLY SPIRIT.
- D. Paul reminded the Galatians that they are LIBERATED to do good.

Ephesians

The Book of
Believers' Holy Walk

Ephesians: The Book of Believers' Holy Walk

- I. Our Calling: What God Has Done – Past (Ephesians 1-3)

A. We are rich with all heavenly blessings when we are IN Christ.

1. The Father CALLED us in Him to be holy and blameless.
2. The Son REDEEMED us through His blood. He forgave our sins.
3. The Holy Spirit SEALED us in Him, guaranteeing an inheritance.

- B. Before we were in Christ, we WALKED according to the world, the flesh and the Devil.
- C. Now Christ has SEATED us with Him in heavenly places.
1. We are not saved by our works but FOR good works.
 2. Seated in Christ we are to WALK in His good works.

D. Christ called Jews and Gentiles into one BODY.

1. The church demonstrates to angels the WISDOM of God.
2. The church demonstrates to people the POWER of God.

Ephesians: The Book of Believers' Holy Walk

II. Our Walk: What We Are To Do – Present (Ephesians 4-6)

- A. Walk in UNITY.
- B. Walk in HOLINESS.
- C. Walk in LOVE.
- D. Walk in LIGHT.
- E. Walk in WISDOM.
- F. Walk in STRENGTH.

Philippians

The Book of
Believers' Joy in Christ

Philippians: The Book of Believers' Joy in Christ

I. The History of the Church in Philippi

A. The History of Philippi

1. Philippi was a ROMAN colony.
2. This small city was an important military outpost in MACEDONIA.
3. The citizens had the same special privileges as the ROMAN citizens.

B. Paul and the Church in Philippi

1. Paul founded the church on his SECOND missionary journey in AD 51 (see Acts 16:11-40).
2. Some of Paul's early converts included a wealthy woman merchant, a jailor, and a SLAVE girl.
3. Paul wrote this letter to the Philippian church during his first IMPRISONMENT in Rome in AD 62 (see Acts 21-28).

4. Philippians is Paul's most PERSONAL letter.

Philippians: The Book of Believers' Joy in Christ

II. The Letter to the Philippians

A. Christ is our LIFE: “To live is Christ”
(Philippians 1).

1. The believer should have the same AFFECTIONS as Christ.
2. The believer should have the same RESPONSE to circumstances as Christ.
3. The believer should have the SPIRIT of Christ.
4. The believer should have the CONDUCT of Christ.

B. Christ is our ATTITUDE: “Have this attitude in ourselves which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2).

1. The believer should have the HUMILITY of Christ.
2. We should regard others as more important than OURSELVES.
3. Christ’s obedience is our MODEL.

4. Do all things without GRUMBLING.

5. Hold fast to the WORD of life.

C. Christ is our GOAL: “I have suffered the loss of all things and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ” (Philippians 3).

1. The believer’s goal is to KNOW Christ intimately.

D. Christ is our STRENGTH: “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” (Philippians 4).

1. Christ is the believer’s JOY.
2. Christ is the believer’s PEACE.
3. Christ is the believer’s SATISFACTION.
4. Chris is the believer’s STRENGTH.

Colossians

The Book of Believers'
Completion in Christ

Colossians: The Book of Believers' Completion in Christ

- I. Christ's Supremacy Was Proven Through His Person and Work (Colossians 1:1-23).

- A. Paul greeted the Colossian believers first with words of PRAISE.
- B. Paul revealed the PRAYER he and coworkers in Rome had prayed for them.
- C. Paul revealed Christ's CHARACTER.
 1. He is the visible IMAGE of the invisible God.
 2. He is the FIRSTBORN of all creation.

3. All things were CREATED by Christ and for Christ.
4. He is BEFORE all things, and because of Him all things HOLD together.
5. He is the HEAD of the church (body).
6. He is the beginning, the firstborn of the DEAD.
7. He is to have first place in EVERYTHING.

8. The full ESSENCE of God dwells in Him.
9. He RECONCILES all things to Himself through His death.
10. His DEATH made them holy, blameless, and presentable to God.

Colossians: The Book of Believers' Completion in Christ

II. Christ's Supremacy Was Witnessed Through His Church (Colossians 1:24-2:7).

- A. Paul's purpose was to reveal the MYSTERY hidden for ages.
- B. Paul wanted the Colossians to understand that faith in Christ makes all believers FAMILY.
- C. True wisdom and knowledge would prevent their being led astray by false teaching and persuasive ARGUMENTS.
- D. Paul wanted the Colossians, having begun in Christ and now growing in Him, to WALK accordingly.

Colossians: The Book of Believers' Completion in Christ

III. Christ's Supremacy Was Revealed Through Religious Teachings (Colossians 2:8-23).

- A. Paul warned of being enslaved to worldly PHILOSOPHIES and empty deceptions.
- B. Christ's teaching is superior to:
 1. LEGALISM, which is being enslaved to the law.
 2. Mystic insights and the worship of ANGELS.
 3. ASCETICISM, which is self-neglect, self-denial, and self-abuse for religious purposes.

Colossians: The Book of Believers' Completion in Christ

IV. Christ's Supremacy Was Revealed Through Practical Experience (Colossians 3-4).

- A. Believers were to set their minds on things ABOVE, not things on earth.
- B. Believers were DEAD to certain accepted worldly actions.
- C. Behavior within the FAMILY and between masters and slaves is God's plan.
- D. Believers were encouraged to devote themselves to PRAYER.

E. Instructions for being a Christian WITNESS were given.

F. Paul ended with a request to be REMEMBERED.

1 Thessalonians

The Book of
Return of the Lord

1 Thessalonians: The Book of Return of the Lord

- I. Paul's Personal Reflections to the
Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 1-3)

- A. Paul offered congratulations for their FAITHFULNESS.
- B. Paul reminisced about FOUNDING the church.
- C. Paul commended Timothy for STRENGTHENING the church.

1 Thessalonians: The Book of Return of the Lord

II. Paul's Practical Exhortations To The Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 4)

- A. Paul encouraged them to WALK in a manner worthy of God.
- B. Paul gave them directions for their spiritual GROWTH.
- C. Paul gave a revelation concerning the DEAD in Christ.

1 Thessalonians: The Book of Return of the Lord

III. Paul's Description of the Return of the Lord to the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 5)

- A. Paul admonished them to wait and WATCH for the glorious presence of the Lord.
- B. Paul prayed that they would be blameless and HOLY when the Lord returns with His holy ones.
- C. Paul warned them that the Lord's return will be SUDDEN, audible, and visible.

2 Thessalonians

The Book of
Day of the Lord

2 Thessalonians: The Book of Day of the Lord

- I. Persecution Before the Day of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 2)

- A. Paul commended the Thessalonians for enduring persecution and AFFLICTION.
- B. Paul comforted the Thessalonians by saying Jesus is coming again.
 1. For the believer, He is coming to RELIEVE affliction.
 2. For the unbeliever, he is coming to deal out eternal DESTRUCTION and separation from His presence.

2 Thessalonians: The Book of Day of the Lord

II. Misunderstanding About the Day of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 2)

- A. Three events or signs must take place before the Day of the Lord comes.
1. APOSTASY must come first.
 2. The MAN of lawlessness will be revealed.
 3. He who RESTRAINS will be taken out of the way.
- B. Apostasy means a FALLING AWAY or departing from the faith.

- C. The man of lawlessness will SIT in the temple as if he were God.
1. He will have the power to perform MIRACLES.
 2. He is probably the one called the ANTICHRIST.
 3. He will wage war with the SAINTS for three and a half years (see Daniel 7:21-25; Revelation 13).

D. He who restrains is probably the HOLY SPIRIT.

1. God promised that the Holy Spirit will never be taken away (see John 14:16-17)
2. The restrainer of sin will be taken OUT of the way.

2 Thessalonians: The Book of Day of the Lord

III. Behavior in Light of the Day of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 3)

- A. Paul asked the Thessalonians to STAND firm on the Word of God.
- B. He asked them to PRAY for him and that the Word would spread.
- C. Paul commanded them to WORK until Jesus comes.

Two Aspects of the Second Coming of Christ

Deliverance for Believers

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Christ comes in the air

Christ comes for the church

No signs are necessary
before it comes

Deals with believers

Message of comfort

Destruction for Unbelievers

1 Thessalonians 5:1-9;
2 Thessalonians 2:2

Christ comes to the earth

Christ comes with the church
and angels (1:7)

Three signs are necessary
before it comes

Deals with all

Message of judgment