

# **The Book of Romans**

## **LESSON ONE**

### **“The Human Race Guilty Before God”**

Speaking of Paul’s letter to the Romans, Pastor David Guzik has this to say:  
“When Paul wrote the Book of Romans, he had been a Christian preacher for some 20 years. On his way to Jerusalem, he had three months in Corinth without any pressing duties. He perhaps thought this was a good time to write ahead to the Christians in Rome, a church he planned to visit after the trip to Jerusalem.

As Paul endeavored to go to Rome, the Holy Spirit warned him about the peril awaiting him in Jerusalem (Acts 21:10-14). What if he were unable to make it to Rome? Then he must write them a letter so comprehensive that the Christians in Rome had the gospel Paul preached, even if Paul himself were not able to visit them.

Because of all this, Romans is different than many of the other letters Paul wrote churches. Other New Testament letters focus more on the church and its challenges and problems. The Letter to the Romans focuses more on God and His great plan of redemption.”

Prayerfully read through Romans, chapter one.

1. How does Paul introduce himself to this group of believers in verse 1? What are the three identifying characteristics Paul gives them concerning himself in this verse?
2. Paul first identifies himself as a bondservant. The Greek word he uses is “doulos.” The word’s meaning is more than just a servant to someone in an occupational sense. According to Bible commentator Leon Morris, the word implies “**complete and utter devotion, not the abjectness which was the normal condition of the slave.**”

Paul’s second identification of himself is an **apostle**. He refers to this as a “calling.” The word apostle means a “messenger” or a representative of the one who is sending them. What is the “message” Paul was sent to deliver, according to the last part of **verse 1**?

3. Record below what Paul says about this “message” in **verses 2 through 4**.

4. The Gospel message, in essence, is not a belief system, but a Person, Jesus Christ. Paul declares both His humanity and His deity in verses 3 and 4. What does Paul say is the proof of His humanity according to **verse 3**?

5. What does Paul say is the proof of His deity, according to **verse 4**?

6. These two facts testify of Christ as both man and God. Record the following Scriptures below that confirm this truth.

**John 1:1-3:**

**John 1:14:**

7. According to **Romans 1:5**, what does Paul state that Christ has given to us who have put our faith in Him?

8. Looking at the end of this verse, who does Paul say this message of the Gospel was to be given to?

9. How does Paul describe those of us who have received this Gospel message, according to **verse 6**? (NKJV)

10. In **verse 7**, Paul names those who he is addressing this letter to. Who are his recipients?
  
11. At the end of **verse 7**, Paul states what is the common result experienced by those who have embraced Christ as their Savior. What does he say they receive?
  
12. Are you a recipient of this gift from God as a believer in Christ? What kind of impact has that made on your life? In what ways have these two gifts from God changed how you live, how you think and how you respond to life's circumstances?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. Looking at **verse 8**, record what Paul tells them he is thankful about concerning them.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. Reading **verses 9 through 12**, describe what Paul's prayer request is concerning them and his desired outcome.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. **Verse 12** reveals to us that Paul not only desired to see them so that he could encourage their hearts, but he knew the time spent with them would encourage his own heart as well. This mutual bond of God's Spirit with one another is one of the benefits we receive as members of the family of God. Describe how this bond has benefitted your own life.

16. Paul greatly desired to visit these believers, and had made plans to do so, but he tells them in **verse 13** that he had been “hindered” from coming to them. What does he tell them in the second half of this verse that he hoped his visit to them would accomplish?

17. Looking at **verse 14** we see that Paul was no respecter of persons when it came to the sharing of the Gospel or ministering to those in Christ. He had been given a message, entrusted with the Gospel he had been called to proclaim, and saw himself as indebted to the distribution of that gift to others, regardless of their ethnicity or station. How we all need to have a greater hunger in our hearts to share with others the message of the truth we have received. Stop and take a moment to lift up a prayer asking the Lord to put a greater hunger in our hearts and to open more doors of opportunity for us to share the Gospel and the love of Christ with others. If you desire, record your prayer below.

18. Write down the statement Paul makes in **verse 15**.

19. Charles Spurgeon wondered if the words, “**I am ready**” were Paul’s personal motto. When Christ appeared to him on the road to Damascus, Paul asks him in Acts 9:6, “**Lord, what do You want me to do?**” He began his faith in Christ “**ready**.” Look up the following verses and record what Paul says in each one he was ready to do and what we should be ready to do.

**Acts 21:13:**

**1 Timothy 6:18:**

**2 Timothy 4:2:**

**Titus 3:1:**

20. **Verse 16** is our theme verse for this study of Romans. Write it down below.

21. Look back over this verse and underline the **reasons** Paul gives for not being ashamed of the Gospel. After you have done that, record his additional reason stated in **verse 17**.

22. Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel, even in the midst of a culturally rejecting and opposing world. He wasn't ashamed because he knew of its TRUTH and of its POWER TO SAVE. He had experienced that power in his own life, which gave him boldness to share the truth of it at every opportunity. We are in the midst of a contrary and opposing culture that belittles, mocks, laughs at and persecutes the truth of the Gospel. How has the power of the Gospel affected your own life, and has it given you boldness to share its message in the midst of opposition? Share your thoughts.

23. God has given **His own righteousness** to those who have put their faith in Him. But those who have rejected Him are left standing in their unrighteousness, guilty before God and are under His wrath. From **verse 18**, record the description given of those who are under God's wrath.

24. Paul goes on to lay out the reasons for their guilt before God in **verses 19 through 23**. Record each reason given in the verses below.

**Verse 19:**

**Verse 20:**

**Verse 21:**

**Verse 22:**

**Verse 23:**

**25.** Paul states in **verse 24**, “**Therefore...**” Because of all this, God lays out the resulting consequences, which we see the clear evidence of all around us in this world we live in. The consequences are specified, beginning in **verse 24** through the end of the chapter in **verse 32**. Record each one of the consequences stated in these verses below.

**Verse 24:**

**Verse 25:**

**Verse 26:**

**Verse 27:**

**Verse 28:**

**Verse 29:**

**Verse 30:**

**Verse 31:**

**Verse 32:**

There is certainly a lot here to digest! Verse 24 starts out with “**Therefore, God gave them up to uncleanness...**” Verse 26 states that “**For this reason, God gave them up to vile passions.**” The list here is long and comprehensive.

26. What does the last part of **verse 27** say is the **result** of these “**vile passions?**” What does Paul say they “receive?”

David Guzik states, “**We make a mistake when we think that it is God’s *mercy* or *kindness* that allows man to continue in sin. It is actually His *wrath* that allows us to go on destroying ourselves with sin..... **homosexuality has within itself a penalty. This speaks of the generally self-destructive nature of sin; it often carries within itself its own penalty. Again, this ‘freedom’ to disobey should be seen as God’s *judgment*, not His kindness; those who engage in such acts are receiving in themselves the penalty of their error.**”**

27. Just as it is in our culture of today, Rome was filled with these same “vile passions” in Paul’s day. If anyone tries to tell you that homosexuality is not a sin, you can point them to Romans chapter one as clear evidence that God considers it otherwise and it is at the top of the things listed here as vile passions, resulting in tragic consequences. In **verse 28**, Paul states that because “**they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting...”**

Look up the word “**debase**” in the dictionary and write down the definitions you find below. Then look up all the synonyms you can find and list them below.

28. Note that this last thing God gives sinful man over to not only includes the result of his actions, but of his mind. We see much evidence of this in today’s society. Many who would not engage in these sins themselves will still approve of them and defend them as the right of others. We may not often think of what people’s minds “approve of” as sin, but God clearly states otherwise here. What examples do you see of this in the world today? Share your thoughts on this.

**29.** These verses in this first chapter of Romans 1:18-32 prove the justice of God’s wrath on those who have rejected Him. Looking back at **verses 18 through 20**, write down again the reasons that they are **“without excuse.”**

**30.** What has impacted you most in the study of this first chapter in Romans? What is your greatest take-away?

This study was written and prepared by Shawn Van Hook, 2026