

## The Gospel of God

### Romans 1:1-7

You can see the importance of the Book of Romans by looking at your table of contents in the NT. Romans follows Acts which follows the gospels. Romans is the first in the section of letters to the Church because it is the most comprehensive and the most important of all the letters. 1 Thessalonians was the first letter to the Church. Romans was written about 6 years later.

Simple overview of the early books of the New Testament to help you see how Romans fits:

In the gospels, salvation is obtained.  
In the Book of Acts, salvation is proclaimed.  
In the Book of Romans, salvation is explained.

**Suggested Resources** to help you with Romans and its themes:

Bible Project videos on Romans: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/>  
The Pursuit of Holiness, Bridges (very practical and user friendly)  
Holiness, J.C. Ryle (excellent but a bit technical)  
Overcoming Sin and Temptation, John Owen (Puritan Pastor, old style but very good)  
Romans for You, Tim Keller – (he might also have some podcasts on Romans)  
ESV Study Bible – combination Bible and commentary

Romans is commonly viewed as a heavy theological book. It has great theology, but I suggest that the goal of Romans is not merely information but transformation. Romans was written to change how people live – it addresses the mind, heart and will.

The Book of Romans in single phrase: Life Transformation through Jesus.

Romans makes it exceedingly clear that Jesus has paid the penalty of sin AND Jesus has defeated the power of sin. Salvation means – you are right with God. Salvation also means it is possible to be obedient to God rather than enslaved by sin.

The gospel is not advice to be followed. It is news about what has been done for you.  
Big difference. Sometimes Christians drift into – here's what you need to do.  
The gospel is here's what Jesus has done for you.

### Home Group Discussion Questions:

1. What are some impressions you have or have had with the Book of Romans?
2. Do you have any questions about the primacy of the gospel?  
In other words, why make such a big deal of the gospel?
3. Why do you suppose Paul writes about the gospel *to the Church*?
4. What are some of your hopes as we journey through Romans as a Church?
5. What are some ways in which you need God to work in your life today?

## **Romans Schedule**

Jan 5 – Rom 1:1-7, The Gospel of God

Jan 12 – Rom 1:8-13, Famous Faith

Jan 19 – Rom 1:14-17, Christians Need the Gospel

Jan 26 – Rom 1:18-23, The Wrath of God

Feb 2 – Rom 1:24-32, The Trajectory of Sin

Feb 9 – Rom 2:1-16, God's Righteous Judgment

Feb 16 – Rom 2:17-29, The Jews and the Law

Feb 23 – Rom 3:1-8, Our Faithlessness Nullify the Faithfulness of God

March 1 – Rom 3:9-20, No One Is Righteous

March 8 – Rom 3:19-26, Jesus Removes Our Guilt

March 15 – Rom 4:1-5, God Credits Faith as Righteousness

March 22 – Rom 4:9-25, Abraham Was Saved by Faith

March 29 – Rom 5:1-2, Justification by Faith and Peace with God