

# OUTLINE OF ROMANS:

## THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD, THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH

### I. 1:1-17 INTRODUCTION

#### 1:1-7 Paul Greet Them and Describes His Mission

- 1:1 The Prescript: Paul, a Slave of Christ, an Apostle of the Gospel
- 1:2-4 Defining the Gospel: About the Promised Son of God, Jesus Christ Our Lord
- 1:5-6 Defining Paul's Mission: To Bring Gentiles to the Obedience of Faith
- 1:7 The Greeting: Grace and Peace to the Beloved Saints of God in Rome

#### 1:8-15 Thanksgiving for Their Faith and a Prayer to Visit Them

- 1:8 Thanksgiving: Your Faith Is Being Proclaimed Throughout the Whole World
- 1:9-15 Prayer: My Request Is that I May Finally Also Preach the Gospel in Rome

#### 1:16-17 Theme of the Letter: The Gospel—Righteousness from God Revealed in Christ

### II. 1:18—3:20 GOD'S WRATH REVEALED AGAINST SINFUL HUMANS:

#### THE NEED FOR JUSTIFICATION (Problems of *Sin* and *Wrath*)

#### 1:18-32 God's Wrath Against Unrighteous Men (Gentiles) Who Approve of Depravity

- 1:18-20 They Are Without Excuse—They Rejected the Revelation of God in Creation
- 1:21-23 They Did Not Honor Their Creator, But Worshiped Images of Created Things
- 1:24-31 God's Judgment—He Let Their Increasing Wickedness Harm Them
  - 1:24-25 *Lustful impurity caused their bodies to be dishonored*
  - 1:26-27 *Homosexual passions degraded and harmed them*
  - 1:28-31 *Depraved thinking led to all kinds of improper deeds*
- 1:32 They Know God Says They Deserve Death, Yet Approve Others Like Themselves

#### 2:1-16 God's Wrath Against Unrighteous Men (Gentiles/Jews) Who Judge Others

- 2:1-4 They Are Without Excuse—They Do the Same as Those They Judge
- 2:5-16 God's Coming Day of Wrath—All Will Be Judged According to Their Deeds
  - 2:5-11 *God is impartial—Jews and Gentiles will both be judged by their deeds*
  - 2:12-16 *God is impartial—Jews and Gentiles will each be judged by the Law they know*

#### 2:17—3:20 God's Wrath Against the Jews

- 2:17-29 Jews Are Without Excuse—They Don't Keep the Law
  - 2:17-24 *Having the Law doesn't save Law-breakers*
  - 2:25-29 *Being circumcised doesn't save Law-breakers (25-27), but "heart circumcision" by the Spirit makes one a true Jew (28-29).*
- 3:1-8 Questions about God's Justice
- 3:9-20 Summary: The Whole World—Jews Included—Is Sinful and Accountable to God
  - 3:9 *Jews are no better than Gentiles; both are sinful*
  - 3:10-18 *Evidence from the Law of human (especially Jewish) sinfulness*
  - 3:19-20 *Conclusion: The Law proves all are guilty and will save no one*

### III. 3:21—4:25 GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED IN CHRIST:

#### THE MEANS OF JUSTIFICATION (*Sinful Status* Problem Solved)

#### 3:21-26 Thesis: God's Righteousness Is Revealed in Christ

- 3:21-24 It Is Given, through Christ's Faithfulness, to All Who Believe—Justification
- 3:25-26 It Is Shown, in Christ's Death, by God No Longer Overlooking Sin—Justice

#### 3:27-4:25 Justification Is by Faith, Not by Works

- 3:27-31 Both Jew and Gentile Are Justified by Faith—None Can Boast
- 4:1-25 Evidence from the Law: Abraham Was Justified by Faith—So Are We
  - 4:1-8 *Introduction: "Faith was credited to Abraham as righteousness"*
  - 4:9-12 *Abraham was given righteousness through faith, not circumcision*
  - 4:13-17 *Abraham was given the promise through faith, not the Law*
  - 4:18-22 *Abraham's example: the kind of faith that counts as righteousness*
  - 4:23-25 *Conclusion: Righteousness is also credited to us through faith in Christ*

**IV. 5:1—8:39 LIFE IN CHRIST: THE RESULTS OF JUSTIFICATION  
(Sinful Deeds and Wrath Problems Solved)**

**5:1—5:11 A – Thesis: Justification Gives Us Hope of Eternal Glory**

5:1-4 Justification Gives Us Blessings Now and Hope for the Future...

5:1-2 *Peace with God, grace, joyful hope of glory to come*

5:3-4 *Joy in suffering, which only increases our hope*

5:5-8 ...Because of the Love That God Has Already:

5:5 *1) Poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit;*

5:6-8 *2) Shown when Christ died for us while we were still sinners.*

5:9-11 If God Loved His Enemies, He Will Certainly Spare His Friends

**5:12—5:21 B – Justification = No Condemnation:**

**In Christ All Will Live, Just as in Adam All Die**

5:12 Just as Adam's Evil Deed Brought Sin and Death to All Men...

5:13-17 (Clarifications and Contrasts)

5:13-14 *Sin and death existed even before the Law made men guilty*

5:15-17 *Contrasts between Adam's trespass and Christ's gift*

5:18-19 ...So Christ's Righteous Deed Brought Righteousness and Eternal Life to All Men

5:20-21 The Law Made Sin Increase, But Grace Increased Even More Through Christ

**6:1-23—7:6 C – Grace Does Not Lead to Sin; It Frees from Sin and Death**

6:1-14 A New You – Sin Has No Dominion over Us Who Died and Rose with Christ

6:1-4 *Grace is not a reason to sin, for we been baptized into Jesus' death and life*

6:5-7 *We know that: In Christ, our old sinful self has died, freeing us from sin*

6:8-11 *We know that: Like Christ, having died once to sin, we can forever live to God*

6:12-14 *Since you have been freed from sin's reign, don't volunteer to serve it*

6:15-23 A New Master – Sin's Wages Cannot Match Righteousness's Gift

6:15-19 *Grace is not a reason to sin, for you have become slaves who obey God*

6:20-23 *Sin pays with death; God gives sanctification which leads to eternal life*

7:1-6 A New Husband – Sin Bears Fruit Only in the Law's Bride, Not in Christ's Bride

7:1-3 *Marriage analogy: Death removes one from the bondage of the law*

7:4-6 *Our death to the Law means our new "husband," Christ, can bear fruit in us*

**7:7-25 C' – The Law Is Not Sinful; But It Cannot Free from Sin and Death**

7:7-12 Q.1 – Is the Law Sinful, Since It Awakens Sin? No, It Convicts of Sin and Is Holy

7:13-25 Q.2 – Does the Law Cause Our Death? No, Sin Does. The Law Drives Us to Christ

7:13 *Sin is shown to be utterly sinful because it uses the good Law to kill us*

7:14-23 *Our inability to keep the Law reveals sin is inside our flesh, binding us*

7:24-25a *The resulting wretchedness drives us to Christ, who frees us from death*

7:25b *Conclusion: With your mind serve the Law of God, or with your flesh the law of sin*

**8:1—17 B' – Justification → Sanctification = No Condemnation:**

**By the Spirit You Will Live, Just as by the Flesh You Die**

8:1-8 The Spirit Frees Those in Christ from Sin and Condemnation

8:1-2 *Thesis: We face no condemnation, for the Spirit frees from the law of sin and death*

8:3-4 *How? In Christ's sacrifice, God condemned sin, so the Law can be fulfilled in us...*

8:5-8 *...for those in the Spirit (not the flesh) set their minds on what pleases God.*

8:9-17 The Spirit Gives Life and Testifies We Are Children of God—Follow His Leading!

8:9-11 *Fact: All who belong to God have the Spirit, giving us life*

8:12-14 *Response: We owe it to the Spirit to let him (not death-producing flesh) lead us*

8:15-17 *Fact: The Spirit assures our spirits we are children of God destined for glory*

**8:18—39 A' – Conclusion: God's Love in Christ Assures Us of Eternal Glory**

8:18-30 God's Purpose for His Children: Groaning Will Give Birth to Glory

8:18 *Thesis: Present suffering fades before the coming glory of God's children*

8:19-22 *1) Creation groans—longing to escape futility and share our coming glory*

8:23-25 *2) We groan—waiting eagerly for the redemption of our bodies*

8:26-27 *3) The Spirit groans—interceding for us according to the purposes of God*

8:28-30 *Conclusion: God's purpose is to use all things to glorify us as children of God*

8:31-39 Conclusion: God Is for Us, His Elect—Nothing Can Change That!

8:31-34 *No one can condemn us whom God has justified in Christ*

8:35-39 *No one and nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ*

V. 9:1—11:36 **DEFENDING GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL:  
THE JUSTICE OF JUSTIFICATION**

- 9:1-5 **Great Sorrow: Israel, Chosen by God, Is Separated from Christ**  
9:6-13 **God's Promise Has Not Failed—For True Israel – Evidence from Patriarchs**  
9:6 Not All of Israel's Descendants Are Truly Israel or Qualify for the Promise, Just as...  
9:7-9 1) Not All of Abraham's Children Are God's Promised Children.  
9:10-13 2) Not Even Isaac and Rebecca's Twins Were Equally Blessed by God.  
9:14-29 **God Has Dealt Justly with Ethnic Israel...**  
9:14-18 Q.1 – Is God Unjust in Choosing Some over Others? No – Evidence from Exodus  
9:14-16 God shows unearned mercy to anyone he wishes; this is just  
9:17-18 God hardens some sinners to reveal himself to other sinners; this is just  
9:19-29 Q.2 – If God's Will Is Irresistible, Why Does He Blame Us? – Evidence from Prophets  
9:19-20a “Who are you, O man, who answers back to God?” Consider that...  
9:20b-21 God has the right of a potter to use his clay vessels in any way he wishes, and  
9:22-23 God patiently uses even “vessels of wrath” to reveal his glory to “vessels of mercy,”  
9:24-29 ...us, who include, as promised, both Gentiles and an undeserving Jewish remnant.  
9:30—10:21 **...But Ethnic Israel Is Unrighteous Because They Refused to Place Faith in Christ**  
9:30—10:13 Why Ethnic Israel Is Unrighteous: They Did Not Place Faith in Christ  
9:30—10:4 Israel rejected God's righteousness, trying to establish their own by the Law  
10:5-13 How Christ is the telos (end, fulfillment) of the Law for all who believe in him  
10:5-7 – What righteousness based on the Law says/believes  
10:8-10 – What righteousness based on faith says/believes, resulting in salvation  
10:11-13 – Righteousness based on faith means God saves Jew and Gentile alike  
10:14-21 Why Ethnic Israel Did Not Place Faith in Christ: They Were Contrary  
10:14-15 What is required to have opportunity to respond to the gospel  
10:16-21 Israel obstinately disbelieved the gospel, despite hearing and understanding it  
11:1-10 **Has God Rejected Israel? No, He Has Chosen a Remnant**  
11:1-6 God Has Graciously Kept a Remnant—True Israel  
11:1-2a Paul is evidence God has not rejected true Israel  
11:2b-4 Just as God kept 7000 righteous men for himself during Elijah's time...  
11:5-6 ...so God has now kept a remnant, based on his gracious choice—not on works.  
11:7-10 Those God Chose Obtained Righteousness; The Rest, as Prophesied, Were Hardened  
11:11-32 **Ethnic Israel's Fall Is Designed to Save “All Israel”—Gentiles Be Humble!**  
11:11-15 A - Israel Falls → Gentiles Saved → Israel Jealous → Israel Saved → World Given Life  
11:16-24 B - Olive Tree Illustration: Salvation Is in True Israel—Gentiles Must Be Humble  
11:16-18 The root (true Israel, with its patriarchal covenants) gives life—Gentiles be humble!  
11:19-22 Jews were cut off for unbelief; Gentiles remain only by faith—Gentiles must fear!  
11:23-24 Jews, by faith, can easily be grafted back into their own tree  
11:25-32 A - God's Mysterious Purpose: To Save “All Israel” by Showing Mercy to All  
11:25-27 Israel's partial hardening is designed to save “all Israel”—Gentiles be humble!  
11:28-29 God still loves Israel, because of the gifts and the calling promised to the patriarchs  
11:30-32 God's plan: make all disobedient, so he can show mercy to all (including Israel, now)  
11:33-36 **Great Rejoicing: God, Who Shows Mercy to All, Is Unfathomably Wise**

VI. 12:1—15:13 **GLORIFYING GOD TOGETHER AS LIVING SACRIFICES:  
OUR RESPONSE TO JUSTIFICATION**

- 12:1-2 **Thesis: Because of God's Mercies, Sacrifice Yourself to God, Have Renewed Minds**  
12:3—13:14 **Specific Commands About Sacrificial Living and New, Life-Transforming Thinking**  
12:3-8 Don't Think Too Highly of Yourself—God Has Made Us One Body in Christ  
12:3 Sanelly assess your value based on the measure of faith God has given you:  
12:4-5 We, like many different body parts, all belong to Christ's body and to each other...  
12:6-8 ...and each functions using different grace-gifts.  
12:9-21 **Love Without Hypocrisy and Overcome Evil with Good**  
12:9-13 Unhypocritical love is like this...  
12:14 Bless your persecutors  
12:15-16a Rejoice and weep together—have harmonious minds, not proud minds  
12:16b-21 Don't be conceited—return good for evil, letting God take revenge

- 13:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_ Stay Under God's Governing Authorities and Give Them What Is Due Them  
 13:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_ *Don't set yourself against the governing authorities God has established*  
 13:3-4 \_\_\_\_\_ *Do good, not evil, and you won't have to fear rulers, who are ministers of God*  
 13:5-7 \_\_\_\_\_ *Because rulers are God's ministers, stay under them and pay taxes*  
 13:8-10 \_\_\_\_\_ Give Everyone the Love You Owe Them, for Love Fulfills the Law  
 13:11-14 \_\_\_\_\_ Live as in the Day of Christ's Return, Not Thinking about Fleshly Desires  
 13:11-12a \_\_\_\_\_ *Do this because it is time to wake up—the day of Christ's return is near*  
 13:12b-14 \_\_\_\_\_ *Take off the night-clothes of sin and wear Christ as if he has already come*  
**14:1—15:13 \_\_\_\_\_ The Strong and Weak in Faith Must Have Harmonious Minds and Glorify God**  
 14:1-12 \_\_\_\_\_ To All: Accept One Other, Do All for the Lord, and Let God Do the Judging  
 14:1 \_\_\_\_\_ *Introduction: To the strong: Accept the weak without judging their opinions*  
 14:2-4 \_\_\_\_\_ *Opinions about eating: Don't judge God's servant!*  
 14:5-9 \_\_\_\_\_ *Opinions about days and eating: Have a convinced mind and do all for the Lord!*  
 14:10-12 \_\_\_\_\_ *Don't judge or despise your brother; God will judge us all*  
 14:13—15:6 \_\_\_\_\_ To the Strong: “Judge” (Decide) to Avoid Making Your Brother Stumble; Please Him  
 14:13a \_\_\_\_\_ A *Don't judge each other*  
 14:13b \_\_\_\_\_ B *Don't make your brother stumble*  
 14:14 \_\_\_\_\_ C *Every food is clean—except for anyone who doesn't think (have faith) it is*  
 14:15 \_\_\_\_\_ D *Don't, by eating, destroy one for whom Christ died*  
 14:16-19 \_\_\_\_\_ E *Serve Christ by pursuing what really matters in God's kingdom: peace*  
 14:20a \_\_\_\_\_ D' *Don't, for food, destroy the work of God*  
 14:20b \_\_\_\_\_ C' *Every food is clean*  
 14:20c-21 \_\_\_\_\_ B' *Don't make your brother stumble*  
 14:22-23 \_\_\_\_\_ A' *Don't bring judgment on yourself or a weak brother who eats without faith,*  
 15:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_ *...but bear the failings of those weak in faith; please them for their good,*  
 15:3-4 \_\_\_\_\_ *...being given hope by Christ's example of pleasing God.*  
 15:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_ *Benediction: To all: May God give you harmonious minds so you can glorify God*  
 15:7-13 \_\_\_\_\_ To All: Accept One Other, as Christ Accepted both Jews and Gentiles for God's Glory  
 15:7 \_\_\_\_\_ *Accept one another, as Christ accepted us...*  
 15:8-12 \_\_\_\_\_ *...serving the Jews to bless both them and the Gentiles who hope in Him.*  
 15:13 \_\_\_\_\_ *Benediction: May God fill you with joy and peace through faith, resulting in hope*

## VII. 15:14—16:27 \_\_\_\_\_ CONCLUSION

### 15:14-33 \_\_\_\_\_ Paul's Ministry and Travel Plans

- 15:14-21 \_\_\_\_\_ Paul's Reason for Writing and His Past Ministry to the Gentiles  
 15:14-17 \_\_\_\_\_ *You have goodness and knowledge; but I wrote because I am minister to the Gentiles*  
 15:18-21 \_\_\_\_\_ *Christ, through me, evangelized the unreached from Jerusalem to Illyricum*  
 15:22-29 \_\_\_\_\_ Paul's Future Plans: To Jerusalem with a Gentile Offering, then to Rome and Spain  
 15:30-33 \_\_\_\_\_ Request for Prayer: Safety in Judea, Acceptance of the Offering, Arrival in Rome

### 16:1-23 \_\_\_\_\_ Concluding Greetings

- 16:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_ Commending Phoebe  
 16:3-16 \_\_\_\_\_ Greeting People in Rome  
 16:17-19 \_\_\_\_\_ Warning Against False Teachers: Turn Away from Them  
 16:20 \_\_\_\_\_ Promise of Victory and Concluding Prayer  
 16:21-23 \_\_\_\_\_ Greetings from Paul's Coworkers

### 16:25-27 \_\_\_\_\_ Concluding Doxology: *Now to the only wise God, who is able to establish you according to the gospel of Jesus Christ, which has led the nations to the obedience of faith, be glory forever.*

**Outline by Dwight Gingrich. “Long” version.** Adapted in part from Grant R. Osborne, *Romans*, from *The IVP New Testament Commentary Series*, ed. Grant R. Osborne, D. Stuart Briscoe, and Haddon Robinson. Intervarsity Press: Downers Grove, Illinois, 2004 (especially pages 24-26, 125, 366). Also consulted: *The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World*, by John R.W. Stott, from *The Bible Speaks Today* commentary series, ed. J.A. Moyer (OT), John R.W. Stott (NT), and Derek Tidball (Bible Themes). InterVarsity Press: Downers Grove, Illinois, 1994; and various other books and online articles. **Please reproduce freely, but take credit if you make changes.**