

# 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
- 1:32 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

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

- 2:17-29 Jews Are Without Excuse—They Don't Keep the Law
- 3:1-8 Questions about God's Justice
- 3:9-20 Summary: The Whole World—Jews Included—Is Sinful and Accountable to God

### 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

### 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...
- 5:5-8 ...Because of the Love That God Has Already Shown.
- 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)
- 5:18-19 ...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
- 6:15-23 A New Master – Sin's Wages Cannot Match Righteousness's Gift
- 7:1-6 A New Husband – Sin Bears Fruit Only in the Law's Bride, Not in Christ's Bride

#### 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

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

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

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

## 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*

9:19-29 \_\_\_\_\_ Q.2 – If God's Will Is Irresistible, Why Does He Blame Us? – *Evidence from Prophets*

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

10:14-21 \_\_\_\_\_ Why Ethnic Israel Did Not Place Faith in Christ: They Were Contrary

11:1-10 \_\_\_\_\_ **Has God Rejected Israel? No, He Has Chosen a Remnant**

11:1-6 \_\_\_\_\_ God Has Graciously Kept a Remnant—True Israel

11:7-10 \_\_\_\_\_ 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

11:25-32 \_\_\_\_\_ A - God's Mysterious Purpose: To Save “All Israel” by Showing Mercy to All

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

12:9-21 \_\_\_\_\_ Love Without Hypocrisy and Overcome Evil with Good

13:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_ Stay Under God's Governing Authorities and Give Them What Is Due Them

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

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

14:13—15:6 \_\_\_\_\_ To the Strong: “Judge” (Decide) to Avoid Making Your Brother Stumble; Please Him

15:7-13 \_\_\_\_\_ To All: Accept One Other, as Christ Accepted both Jews and Gentiles for God's Glory

## 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

15:22-29 \_\_\_\_\_ 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. “Medium” 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. Moyter (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.**