

SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL LITERACY  
ROMANS 1:1-17

**Summary of Romans 1:1-17**

Paul had never been to Rome at the time he writes this letter. He begins the letter with a greeting and a personal introduction of himself to the Roman Christians. After identifying himself as a servant of Jesus Christ and an apostle, Paul immediately begins highlighting his mission in the Gospel: “for obedience to the faith among all nations” (1:1-7). Paul is thankful for the well-known faith of the Roman Christians and he shares his great desire to visit them. He is eager to proclaim the Gospel of Christ in Rome in person. In the meantime, Paul writes this letter to thoroughly proclaim the righteousness of God to the saints in Rome. Paul firmly believes that it is through the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ that God manifests His power to save those who believe (1:8-17).

**Outline of Romans 1:1-17**

I. Introduction (Romans 1:1-17)

A. Paul’s Greeting to the Romans Christians (Romans 1:1-7)

B. Paul’s Passion for the Roman Christians (Romans 1:8-15)

C. Theme of the Epistle (Romans 1:16-17)

*\* Prayerfully read the Chapter first, and then complete this study. Please read the Chapter again once you are complete. This study has been prepared using the **King James Version** of the Holy Bible.*

**I. INTRODUCTION (ROMANS 1:1-17)**

**A. Paul’s Greeting to the Romans Christians (Romans 1:1-7)**

1. In Verse 1, what are three ways in which Paul described himself?

(a) “Paul, a \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ,”

*Note: This means a “bondslave”.*

(b) “called to be an \_\_\_\_\_,”

*Note: This means “one who is sent with a commission”.*

(c) “\_\_\_\_\_ unto the Gospel of God”

*Note: This means he was singularly-focused on his task.*

2. According to Verse 2, is this a “new” Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who is the Gospel about? (Verse 3) “Concerning His \_\_\_\_\_ our Lord”

*Note: “Son” expresses His deity (He is God; John 10:30-33); “Jesus” expresses His humanity (God in flesh; Matthew 1:21-23); “Christ” expresses His earthly manifestation (He is the promised Messiah, the Savior, “the Anointed One”; John 4:25-26); “Lord” expresses His position (He is Master of all; Philippians 2:8-11).*

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4. What is the earthly lineage of Jesus? (Verse 3) “which was made of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ according to the flesh”.

*Note: The genealogies of Jesus show that both His real ancestry through the virgin Mary (Matthew 1) and His legal ancestry as the “supposed” son of Joseph (Luke 3) placed Him in the lineage of King David. This was prophesied of Messiah (Psalm 132:11; Isaiah 9:7).*

5. What event in the earthly ministry of Jesus declared that He was the Son of God? (Verse 4) “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_.”

6. Having personally been a recipient of God’s “grace”, and having received “apostleship”, what did Paul view as his mission in the world? (Verse 5) “By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ among \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_ name”

*Note: “Among all nations” expresses the assignment (world evangelism); “for His name” expresses the authority (the Lord’s command; Matthew 28:19-20); “obedience to the faith” is the objective of Biblical evangelism and ministry. This mission is also noted at the end of this letter (See Romans 16:25).*

7. Paul noted his calling in Verse 1 and Verse 5. Did the believers in Rome have a calling of Jesus Christ?

(a) Verse 6: “Among whom are \_\_\_\_\_ also the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ”

(b) Verse 7: “To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, \_\_\_\_\_ to be saints”

*Note: “Saints” is not referring to super-Christians. A saint is used in the Scripture as a synonym for those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The word “saint” literally means “one set apart for God”. Paul is noting that the believers in Rome were also set apart for God’s purpose and glory.*

**B. Paul’s Passion for the Roman Christians (Romans 1:8-15)**

8. How did Paul express his passion and appreciation for the Romans Christians? The answer is revealed by noting his prayer concerning them in Verses 8-10.

(a) He was thankful for them (Verse 8): “First, I \_\_\_\_\_ my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your \_\_\_\_\_ is spoken of throughout the \_\_\_\_\_”

(b) He continually prayed for them (Verse 9): “For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the Gospel of His Son, that without \_\_\_\_\_ I make mention of you \_\_\_\_\_ in my \_\_\_\_\_.”

(c) He greatly desired to visit them (Verse 10-11a): “Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous \_\_\_\_\_ by the will of God to \_\_\_\_\_ unto you. For I \_\_\_\_\_ to see you...”

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*Note: Take special notice of Paul's passion in these Verses. As a servant of Jesus Christ (Verse 1), Paul now notes that he serves God with his "spirit" in the "Gospel of His Son" (Verse 9). Paul is saying that he is serving God in the mission of the Gospel from the deepest part of his being ("with my spirit"). And his heart is so enlarged for these Roman believers that he can truly say "I long to see you" (Verse 11) – and he has never even met them. We should seek to have this same passion for God, for His calling, and for others.*

9. What was Paul's goal for the Roman Christians when he comes to them? (Verse 11) "For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end [*i.e.* "result"] ye may be \_\_\_\_\_"

10. What was Paul's anticipated benefit from the Roman Christians as a result of his visit? (Verse 12) "That is, that I may be \_\_\_\_\_ together with you by the mutual \_\_\_\_\_ both of you and me"

11. Unto whom is Paul a "debtor"? (Verse 14) \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: This means that Paul understands his responsibility to minister to all people – whether they are Greeks, or non-Greeks ("barbarians"); whether they are wise, or unwise. He is a "debtor". As Christians, we have been recipients of God's marvelous gift of salvation. We have a responsibility (are "debtors") to point the entire world (regardless of their status) to this same gift – the Lord Jesus Christ.*

12. What does Paul desire to do when he arrives in Rome? (Verse 15) "So, as much as in me is, I am ready to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ to you that are in Rome also"

**C. Theme of the Epistle (Romans 1:16-17)**

13. What is "the power of God unto salvation"? (Verse 16) "For I am not ashamed of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_: for \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God unto salvation..."

*Note: This expresses the role of the Gospel message in bringing an individual to salvation. It is through the message of the Gospel of Christ that God works salvation in the heart of man. It is for this reason that Paul can say emphatically that he is "not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ" (Verse 16).*

14. To whom is the Gospel of Christ "the power of God unto salvation"? (Verse 16) "to every one that \_\_\_\_\_"

*Note: The phrase "to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Verse 16) declares the truth that salvation is available to all people – whether they are Jew or Greek. This also shows the chronological order in which the Gospel was delivered. Jesus was sent to the "house of Israel" (Matthew 15:24). He, then, commanded that the Gospel be taken and declared to all nations (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15). This was also the typical practice of Paul when he would enter a new city. He would first declare the Gospel to the Jewish residents and then to the Gentile, or "Greek", residents (See Acts 13:45-46).*

15. According to Verse 17, what does the Gospel of Christ reveal? "For therein is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, "The just shall live by faith"

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*Note: "Righteousness" means "conformity to the right". God is righteous and man is unrighteous. The Gospel reveals how the righteousness of God can be imputed to sinful man through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 3:22; 4:11). The "righteousness of God" is the theme of the book of Romans. The word "righteousness" is found in one form or another (i.e. "righteous", "just", "justified") over 60 times in this letter.*

16. How is the "righteousness of God" revealed? (Verse 17) "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_: as it is written, 'The \_\_\_\_\_ shall \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_'"

*Note: The phrase "from faith to faith" declares the truth that a person who is credited with Christ's righteousness through faith in Him, will continue to show forth this righteousness through a life of faith in Him. Paul shows the consistency of his teaching with Old Testament teaching by using a quote from Habakkuk 2:4 – "The just (literally "the righteous") shall live by faith".*