



Study 1

ROMANS 1:1–17

The book of Romans opens with two introductions: the apostle Paul introducing himself and his gospel, both to the Roman Christians. Paul lets the church know that God Himself had called him and set him aside to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Messiah promised to humankind centuries before His arrival.

Paul declared that, although he was a Jew, he was “not ashamed” of the gospel of Christ and introduced the Romans to the radical, life-changing, eternity-altering theme of this letter: being made right with God (justification) on the basis of faith in Jesus (verses 16–17).

ROMANS 1:1–17 STUDY OUTLINE

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| (VERSE 1) | Paul introduces himself to the Roman Christians |
| (VERSES 2–6) | Paul introduces his gospel to the Romans |
| (VERSES 7–15) | Paul’s desire to visit the Christians in Rome |
| (VERSES 16–17) | The theme of Paul’s letter to the Romans |

PAUL'S LIFE CALLING

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God, ²which He had promised before by His prophets in the holy scriptures, ³concerning His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, ⁴and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. ⁵By Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, ⁶among whom you are also the called of Jesus Christ. ⁷To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁸First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. ⁹For God, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, is my witness that without ceasing I always make mention of you in my prayers, ¹⁰making request, if by any means, now, finally, I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come to you.

¹¹For I long to see you, that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, to the end you may be established— ¹²that is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith of both you and me. ¹³Now I do not want to have you ignorant, brothers, that oftentimes I purposed to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

¹⁴I am a debtor both to the Greeks and to the barbarians, both to the wise and to the unwise. ¹⁵So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you also who are at Rome.

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

Observe

How does Paul describe himself in the opening verse of Romans 1?

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What was Paul's heart attitude toward the gospel of Christ?

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Who was the gospel message for, according to verse 16?

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Interpret

What did Paul mean when he referred to himself as “separated to the gospel of God”?

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Which important doctrines does Paul communicate in verses 2–4? What do they mean?

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What does it mean that Jesus was “declared to be the Son of God” by the resurrection?

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Apply

How does your attitude toward fellow believers today compare or contrast with Paul's attitude toward the Roman Christians?

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Have you ever felt afraid or ashamed to share the gospel with others? Why?

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How important do you think it is to share the gospel with others? What might give you the confidence to do so with boldness?

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ROMANS 1:1–17 SCRIPTURES FOR MEMORIZATION/MEDITATION

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,
for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone
who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

VERSE 16

“The just shall live by faith.”

VERSE 17

VERSES FOR FURTHER MEMORIZATION/MEDITATION

- “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).
- “And now, Lord, behold their threats and grant to Your servants that they may speak Your word with all boldness” (Acts 4:29).
- Therefore be followers of God as dear children, and walk in love, as Christ has also loved us and has given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor (Ephesians 5:1–2).