

Outline of Romans

I. Introduction: The Apostle of the Gospel. Romans 1:1-15.

II. A Summary of the Gospel. Romans 1:16-17.

III. An Explanation of the Gospel. Romans 1:18-5:21.

- A. The problem addressed by the Gospel is this: God has consigned the entire human race, including even upright people, to domination under sin (1:18-3:20).
- B. God's answer to our problem is the cross of Christ, the benefits of which we receive by faith (3:21-5:21).

IV. Clarifications of the Gospel. Romans 6:1-11:36.

- A. Question: By promising a surplus of grace for sinners, does the Gospel throw open the door to more sinning, so that grace may shine all the more brightly? No, because grace unites us with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection (6:1-14).
- B. Question: If the Gospel of abundant grace does not encourage sinning, does it still allow a casual attitude toward sin? No, because the Gospel affirms that slavery to sin breeds death, while slavery to righteousness nurtures life (6:15-23).
- C. Question: Did the threat of the law's condemnation deter sin? No, it only bonds us more firmly to our sin (7:1-6).
- D. Question: If the law stirs up my sinfulness, then is the law to blame for my condition? No, the problem is our own sinful nature. The law simply exposes it in plain view (7:7-25).
- E. Question: How can faith succeed in Christian living where the law has failed? The life of faith is the life of the Spirit! By His Spirit, God will make us like Christ so that truly obey His law, and nothing can defeat His loving purpose (8:1-39).
- F. Question: If nothing can defeat God's loving purpose, isn't it still possible for God to abandon us since it appears that he has abandoned His ancient people Israel? No, we can count on God's salvation promises to be utterly sure once we consider His will and His ways (9:1-11:36).

V. The Application of The Gospel. Romans 12:1-15:13.

- A. The only response to the Gospel consistent with the Gospel itself is to yield oneself fully to God and grow into a new life of holiness (12:1-2).
- B. The Gospel calls us to fit humbly and actively into the Church, wherever each of us belongs (12:3-8).
- C. The Gospel calls us to pursue love with fellow Christians and even with those who oppose God, the Gospel, and ourselves (12:9-21).
- D. The Gospel calls us to a cooperative spirit toward civil government (13:1-7).
- E. The Gospel calls us to a pervasive life of love (13:8-10).
- F. The Gospel warns us that we have little time left to clean up our lives and become ready for Christ's return (13:11-14).
- G. The Gospel calls us to accept other believers when they differ with us in matters of personal opinion (14:1-12).
- H. The Gospel calls us to enjoy our freedom -- yet to sacrifice those freedoms when they cause weaker brothers to stumble (14:13-15:6).
- I. The Gospel calls us to genuine unity with all true Christians (15:7-13).

VI. The Fellowship of the Gospel. Romans 15:14-16:27.

- A. Paul explains the pioneering ministry to which God has called him (15:14-21).
- B. Paul enlists the Roman Church's support & prayers for his ministry (15:22-33).
- C. Paul introduces Phoebe, who'll carry his letter. He greets his friends (16:1-16).
- D. Paul adds a brief warning against false teachers (16:17-20).
- E. Paul concludes with a final greeting and a benediction (16:21-27).