

Romans

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The theme of the book of Romans as defined by one commentator is “the righteousness of God”. The righteousness of God is necessary, because in ourselves there is no righteousness. This begs for the question to be asked, “How does one obtain God’s righteousness”. This, in its simplest sense, is what the book of Romans addresses through one doctrinal principle, grace.

As we look at the life of Paul, he was clear as to his realization for his need for the gospel of grace. We then see Paul demonstrate in his salvation, through the grace of God, the need to share that gospel of grace. This is the gospel of grace that is defined by Paul as “the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16) Paul then continues on to encourage the believer to live the righteousness of God.

Another commentator has stated that the theme of Romans is “the gospel of God”. As Paul has stated, it is the gospel of God’s grace that offers salvation, so we can understand this commentator could rightfully infer that this grace that also offers us God’s righteousness is indeed the gospel of God though his righteousness.

The book of Romans is written not only to the Jew, but also to the Greek, or the non-Jew. It is this truth that is the foundation for the need of salvation that is developed in chapters 1 through 3, and the provision of a way of salvation in chapters 3 through 8.

Paul begins by making it very clear, throughout the book, that there is a definite need for salvation. But first he begins by establishing the foundation by declaring his servitude toward Jesus Christ, as well as his being separated unto the gospel of God, before he continues through chapter one explaining why such a need for salvation exists.

As Paul moves into chapter two, he quickly sums up the problems that exist between the believers in Rome as well as those “law keepers” in verse 11, where Paul states that “God is no respecter of persons”. There is no one better than the next, as a matter of fact; he makes it clear that those who know the law and reject Christ are thereby convicted by the law. He then brings the subject of the need for salvation

to a final climax in the last third of chapter 3. In verse

22 we see clearly that the righteousness of God is

obtained by faith in Jesus Christ. This is followed

directly by what I believe to be the most inclusive verse in scripture that displays our need for salvation. It not only includes everyone, but verse 23 excludes no one, as it states that “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”. With that there is no one excluded from the need of salvation, and following this statement no excuse for rejecting this universal remedy can be made. This section of chapter 3 also begins to reveal that there is a way of salvation provided for the need that has been exposed. This free gift of redemption through the grace of Christ Jesus is no more clearly seen than in verse 2. The prevailing theme from the end of chapter 3 through chapter 8 continues to be that way of salvation.

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Rom 3:24

Throughout the verses following, the justification that is available by faith in Christ Jesus is evident and clearly revealed. This is no more perfectly illustrated than in chapter 5 verse 15. It is here that we see not only the offence, but the free gift of grace, by one Jesus Christ, which is available to many. It is this justification that is accompanied by the deliverance that is spoken of in chapter 6 and verse 6.

*But not as the offense,
so also is the free gift.
For if through the
offense of one many be
dead, much more the
grace of God, and the
gift by grace, which is
by one man, Jesus
Christ, hath abounded
unto many.
Romans 5:15*

As we get toward the end of chapter 7 and into chapter 8, Paul take a moment to encourage the saints in respect to the spiritual battle which takes place in the life of a Christian, as well as the Spirits working and intersection in the life of the believer. This is just like Paul to be an encourager in every situation and circumstance. We see the same encouragement at the end of chapter 8, as Paul reminds and encourages us that God has a plan in the life of each believer, and that we can know that he is in control and we are secure in Him.

As an intermission, Paul takes time to hearten the Jewish people in Chapters 9 though 11 as he deals specifically with Israel and God's plan for them, in that, as always God will preserve a remnant of His chosen people.

We then see that in chapter 12 he incorporates the need of salvation and the provision of salvation, so that we might be encouraged to live that salvation. Paul deals with many

different issues of a Christian's responsibility and duty for service. Mingled within the last 5 chapters, Paul deals with issues concerning those inside the church, whether Jew or Gentile, as well as those outside the church. He also addresses the need for the love of Christ to be evident and flowing from the Christian.

Romans is a clear picture of the guilt of the world, the penalty for it, and the provision established by the grace of God, that they might be delivered from it.

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