

PAUL'S



SELF
AWARENESS

ROMANS

- I. Jews & Circumcision
- II. Law and Free-Individual
- III. Israel & Corporate Sense of Redemption
- VI. Lawless & Individual Conscience

Romans
ΠΡΟΣ ΡΩΜΑΙΟΥΣ
(To the Romans)

Importance of Romans

Martin Luter

“It is ‘really the chief part of the New Testament, and...truly the purest gospel’.”

(Luter, Martin, *Preface to the Epistle of St Paul to the Romans (1546)*, in *Luther's Works*, ed. J. Pelikan and H. Lehmann, vol.35 (Muhlenberg Press, 1960)

John Calvin

“If we have gained a true understanding of this Epistle, we have an open door to all the most profound treasures of Scripture.”

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans (1540; Oliver and Boyd, 1961)

Outline

I. 1-5: Jews & Righteousness (circumcision)

II. 6-8: Law and Free-Individual

III. 8-11: Israel & Corporate Sense Redemption

VI. 12-16: Lawless & Individual Conscience

Background:

(1) Who built the church in Rome? Not sure: but it was established at least a decade before Paul's visit.

(2) Paul probably heard about the church from Prisca and Aquila, who were victims of Claudius' edict (Acts 18:2).

(3) Acts 18:2:

Aquila and Priscilla left Rome because Emperor Claudius ordered all Jews to leave the city. There was strife between Jews and Gentiles over Christ and salvation.

(3) Only letter that Paul tried to establish contact with congregations, including house churches: ch.16 (both Jews and Gentiles, Rom 1:11-13).

Purpose:

Paul needs some help from the congregation.

(1) His letter was meant to help them with matters of faith (Rom 15:14-15),

(2) Ask for their support of his mission to Spain (Rom 15:22-29),

(3) Ask for their prayers in light of the dangers awaiting him in Jerusalem (Rom 15:30-32).

(4) emphasizing that Jews and Greeks needed the gospel. “All God's beloved (Rom 1:7)

(David B. Capes; Rodney Reeves; E. Randolph Richards. Rediscovering Paul: An Introduction to His World, Letters and Theology)

Paul's Self Awareness

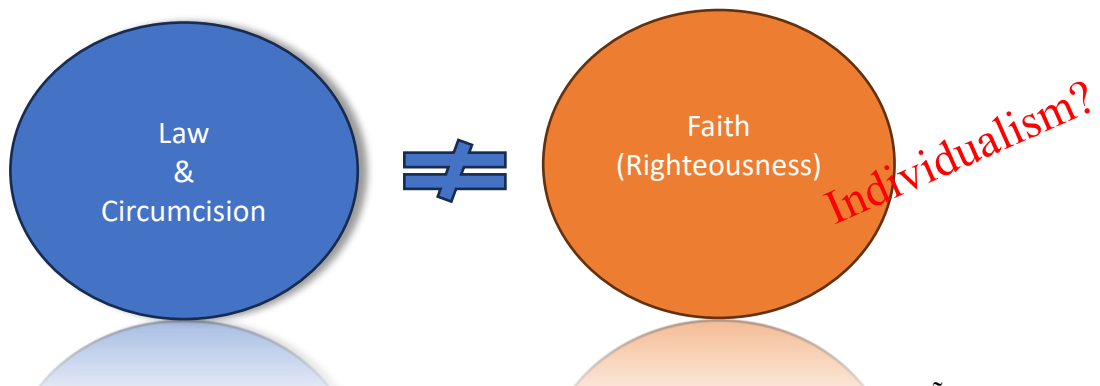
Question:

1) **What is Your point/theme for writing a letter to other Christians?**

What influences your theme/point?

2) **Paul's point/theme?**

Paul's Two Major Themes



“So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and **individually** member of one another” καθ’ εἰς ἀλλήλων μέλη
Romans 12:5

Rom 2:29

No, a **person** is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God.

Individualism?

Rom 2:15

they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.

For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith

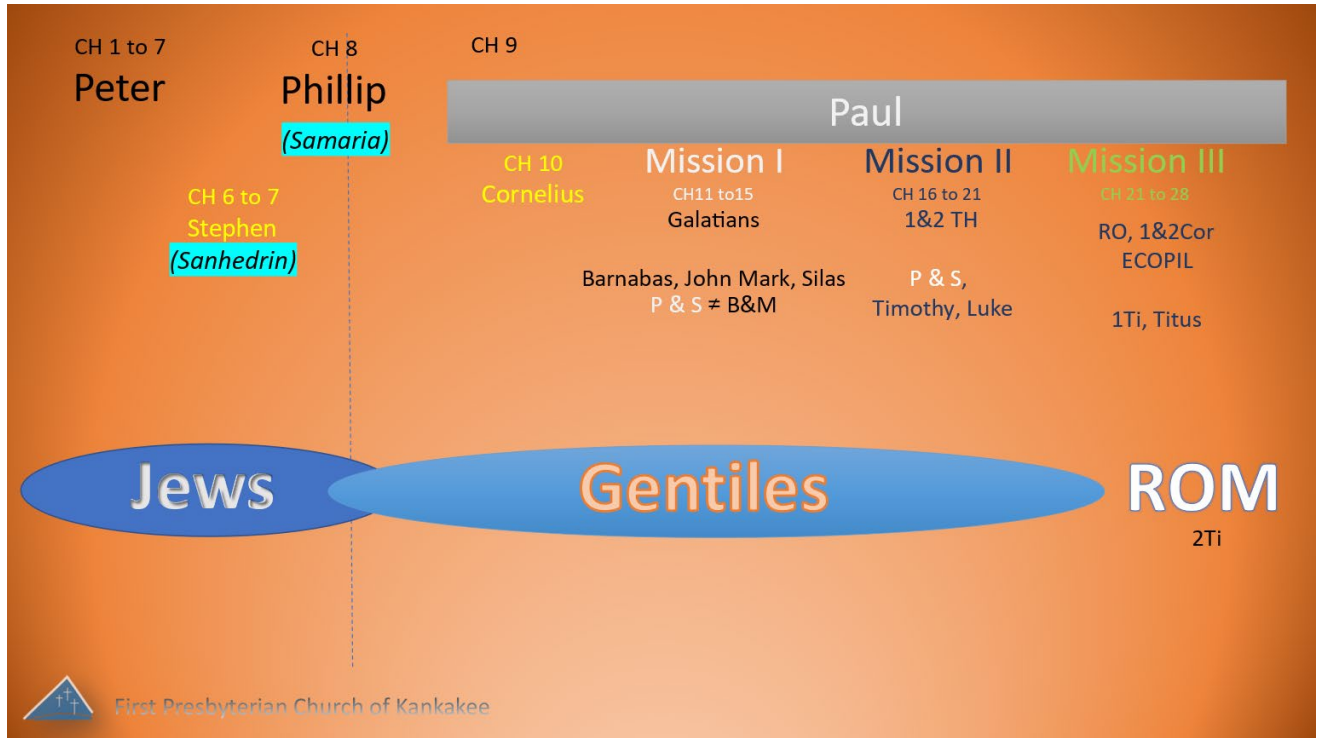
Rom 1:17

From Abraham's Time

Genesis 17:10

This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised.

Paul's Self Awareness



Place: Corinth A.D 57

Rom 15:25-29

Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the Lord's people there... 28 after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this contribution, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way. 29 I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ.

Acts 20:3

3 Where he stayed three months. Because some Jews had plotted against him just as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia.

Paul's Self Awareness



THIRD MISSION ACTS 18:23 - 21:17 AD 53-57

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- 18:23
- 18:23
- 19:1
- 20:1
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- 20:2
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- 20:3
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- 21:3
- 21:7
- 21:8
- 21:17



I. Jews & Righteousness (circumcision) (CH 1 to 5)

Ch 1: Paul's statement on righteousness

For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith (v17)

The Law = Moses' Law/God's commandment

Genesis 17:10

This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised.

Ch 2: The Law does not bring God's redemption and reveal His grace.

“They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them” (v15)

“No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God” (v29).

“For the hearers of the law are not just in the sight of God but the doers of the law will be justified” (v13)

Jeremiah 31:31-33

“But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts”

/ Ezekiel 36:22-32; Daniel 9:9-16

Romans 2:17-3:9 = 9:30 – 10:21

Ch 3: So.....

Both Jews and Greeks are all under sin (v9) because they cannot follow all the requirements of the law.

Ch 4: Illustration

Abraham's righteousness

“Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised” (v10)

Paul's Self Awareness

“And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which *he had while still* uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also” (v11)

Ch 5: Therefore

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (v1)

II. Law and Free-Individual (CH 6 to 8)

Why did Paul expose the depth of the effectiveness and ineffectiveness of the law in the book of Romans?

1. Biblical/Theological Assumptions

a. Our salvation comes from the grace of Christ.

“through Christ we also have access by faith into this grace in which we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God (5:2).

b. We are saved by Christ's death and resurrection.

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him” (5:8-9)

2. Historical Assumption

a. Emperor Justinian I (527-565 CE): Corpus Juris Civilis (Body of Civil Law; Code of Justinian): 529-534 BCE:

To control Pax Romana, Justinian established two reference works containing a collection of past laws and extracts of the opinion of the great Roman jurists.

b. Emperor Claudius: expelled Jews from Rome because of problems related to conflicts over Christ. Prisca and Aquila, two tent makers who were victims of Claudius' edit (Acts 18:2)

Ch 6: Chris's death and resurrection

“The wage of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus.” (v23)

“Die with Christ and live with him” (v8)

Paul's Self Awareness

Ch 7: The law is holy and just, which has dominion over each person

“Is the law sin? Certainly not” (v7)

“the law is holy, the commandment holy and just and good” (v12)

“the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin” (v14)

Jews: To do the Torah

Christians : To fulfill the Torah

[T]he Jew is obliged to do the Torah (cf. [Gal.] 3:10, 12; 5:3; also 6:13), while the Christian fulfills the Torah. . . . [Paul] carefully distinguishes between the ‘doing’ and the ‘fulfilling’ of the Torah – the ‘doing’ of the Jewish Torah is not required of Christians, but the ‘fulfilling’ is (Rosner, Brian S.. *Paul and the Law: Keeping the Commandments of God (New Studies in Biblical Theology Book 31)* (p. 83). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

Ch 8: “The Law of Sin: and the Law of the Spirit (8:1-2)

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made **me** free from the law of sin and death” (v2)

- Law of sin and death is the Old Testament Law of God. We cannot keep it or misuse it.

“If **anyone** does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His” (v9)

“If Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness” (10)

Paul's Sin

Failure of knowing God: Everyone should know God believe in Him (Rom.2:14-15)

48 times in Romans

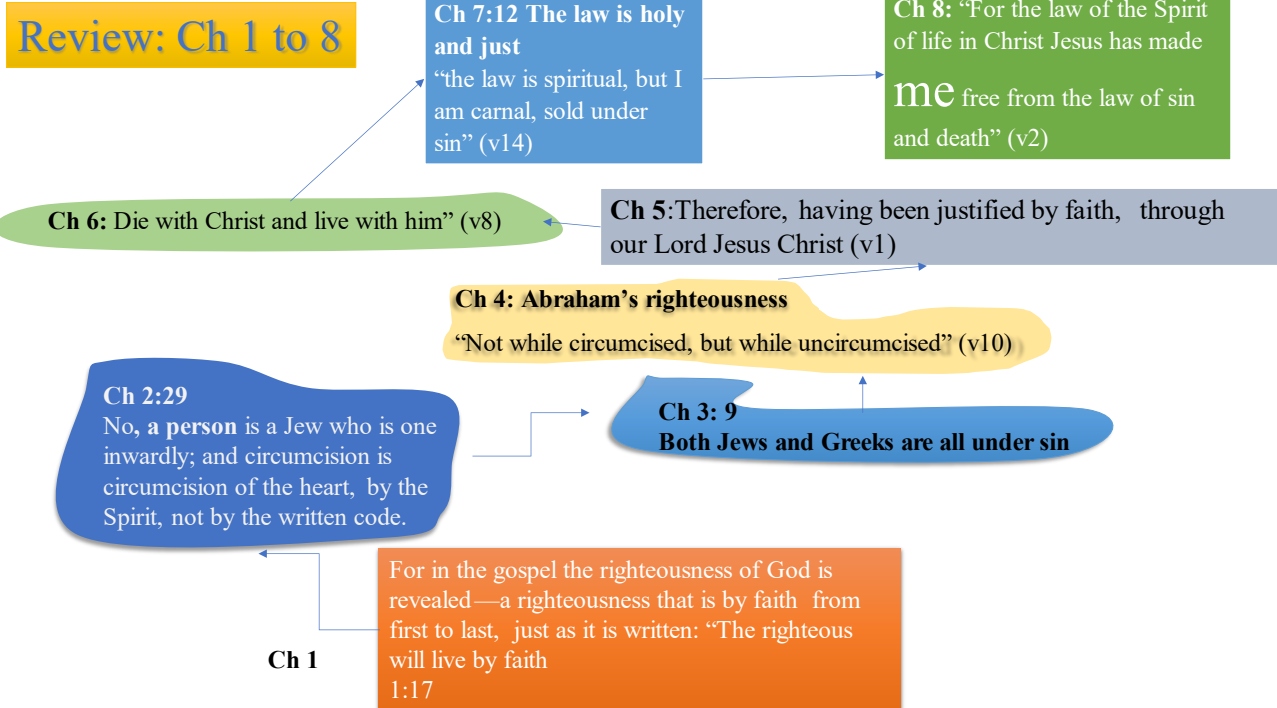
30 times in 6-7

11 times in 5 and 8

10 times in other epistles

III. Israel & Corporate Sense of Redemption (Ch 9 to 11)

Review: Ch 1 to 8



Ch 9: God's Election by His Will

- But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they *are* not all Israel who *are* of Israel, ⁷ nor *are they* all children because they are the seed of Abraham (v 6)
- “for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls” (v11)
- For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion” (v15)
- That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; ³¹ but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. ³² Why? Because *they did not seek it* by faith, but as it were, ¹by the works of the law (v30-31)

Ch 10: Israel Seeks for Their Righteousness

- ²“For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. ⁴For **Christ is the end of the law** for righteousness to everyone who believes. (v2-4).
- “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (v9).

Ch 11: God's Calling for the Gentile

- ¹³“For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to **the Gentiles**, I magnify my ministry” (v13).
- “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in” (v25-26).

Paul's Self Awareness

Franz Mussner: Rom. 10:4 means that Christ is the end of the law for the righteousness of those who have faith in Christ, but not for Jews, who can

still come to righteousness through the law.

Krister Stendahl

11:25f is that Israel will be saved apart from faith in Christ
(E.P. Sanders, Paul, the Law, and the Jewish People)

Judaizing Christianity required their followers to observe the Jewish Law (Romans, John Stott)

- In 1 Thess. 2:16 Paul says that the Jews hinder "us" from "speaking to the Gentiles so that they would be saved."
- In 2 Cor. 11:24, 26 Paul mentions being in danger from his own people, among others,
- Five times he had received the Jewish punishment of thirty-nine stripes. 2 Cor. 11:21-29

But Paul continues to commit himself to Judaism (2 Cor. 11:24)

E. P. Sanders. Paul, the Law, and the Jewish People (Kindle Locations 3008-3009). Kindle Edition.

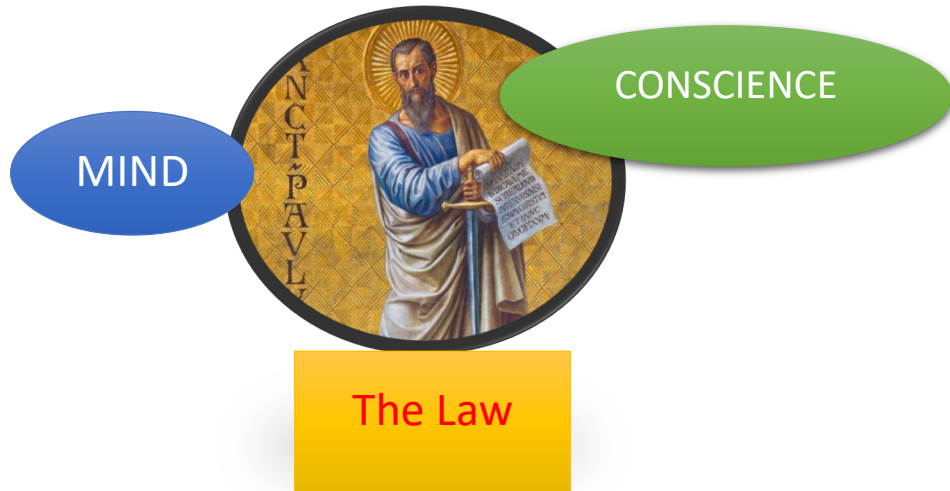
In this epistle, it seems that Paul regards the law as a negative role; however, he also indicates that the law is beneficial for Christians to follow (7:7 "Is the law sin? Certainly not.")

Paul's letter to Romans, however, was written in the form of a pastoral exhortation and advice to the newly coveted Jewish believers as well as Gentile Christians in Rome. The Book of Romans is a letter to Roman Christians

God gave the Mosaic Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Exodus 20). The Mosaic Law was God's moral, ceremonial, and civil law to govern a Jew's daily life. The Decalogue expressed God's moral law. But the moral law existed long before Moses' encounter with God on Mt. Sinai. The moral law reflects the nature and character of God and is eternal. **God codified the moral law in the Mosaic Law and** made Israel accountable to it. Before the Mosaic Law, morality was "written on the heart" (Romans 2.14-15)

VI. Lawless & Individual Conscience (CH 12:16)

Ch 12 – 15: Adaptability to a New Life



Ch 12: Christian Living as an Individual's Calling

Each person has a different calling.

2 "...Be transformed by the renewing of **your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God..."

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, **each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned**. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and **individually members** one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.

Ch 14: Lawless: the Law of Liberty

Ch 14:5 "One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.

The person who eats everything must not look down on the one who does not. And the one who doesn't eat everything must not judge the person who does. That's because God has accepted them v3.

- Do everything for the Lord v8 -9

Christian Ethical Question

How does Paul define good? It could be related to "renewing of your mind"

"Cling to what is good" (v 9) –