

# ROMANS OUTLINE<sup>1</sup>

## I. Opening (1:1-17)

- A. Salutation (1:1-7)
- B. Thanksgiving and occasion (1:8-15)
- C. Theme of the letter (1:16-17)

## II. Justification by Faith (1:18 - 4:25)

- A. The universal reign of sin (1:18 - 3:20)
  - 1. All persons are accountable to God for sin (1:18-32)
  - 2. Jews are accountable to God for sin (2:1 - 3:8)
    - a. The Jews and the judgment of God (2:1-16)
      - (1) Critique of Jewish presumption (2:1-5)
      - (2) The impartiality of judgment (2:6-11)
      - (3) Judgment and the law (2:12-16)
    - b. The limitations of the covenant (2:17-29)
      - (1) The law (2:17-24)
      - (2) Circumcision (2:25-29)
    - c. God's faithfulness and Jewish judgment (3:1-8)
      - (1) The advantage of the word (3:1-4)
      - (2) No problem with God's faithfulness (righteousness) being shown in judgment (3:5-8)
  - 3. The guilt of all humanity (3:9-20)
- B. Justification by faith (3:21 - 4:25)
  - 1. Justification and the righteousness of God (3:21-26)
  - 2. By faith apart from works of law (3:27 - 4:25)
    - a. Initial statement (3:27-31)
    - b. Elaboration with respect to Abraham (4:1-25)
      - (1) Faith and works (4:1-8)
      - (2) Faith and circumcision (4:9-12)
      - (3) Faith, promise, and the law (4:13-22)
      - (4) Faith of Abraham and the Christian (4:23-25)

## III. Assurance Provided by the Gospel: Hope of Salvation (5:1 - 8:39)

- A. The hope of glory (5:1-21)
  - 1. From justification to salvation (5:1-11)
  - 2. The reign of grace and life (5:12-21)
- B. Freedom from bondage to sin (6:1-23)
  - 1. "Dead to sin" through union with Christ (6:1-14)
  - 2. Freed from sin to serve righteousness (6:15-23)
- C. Freedom from bondage to the law (7:1-25)
  - 1. Released from the law, joined to Christ (7:1-6)
  - 2. Defense of his view of the law (7:7-25)

---

<sup>1</sup> Based largely on the analysis presented in Douglas Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996).

- a. Does not mean the law is sinful or evil (7:7-12)
      - b. Clarifying the law's role in death (7:13-25)
    - D. Life in the Spirit (8:1-30)
      - 1. The Spirit of power (8:1-13)
        - a. Recapping the situation in Christ (8:1-4)
        - b. Elaboration on contrasting lifestyles (8:5-13)
      - 2. The Spirit of adoption (8:14-17)
      - 3. The Spirit of glory (8:18-30)
    - E. The Christian's assurance celebrated (8:31-39)
- IV. The Problem of Israel (9:1 - 11:36)
  - A. Tension between God's promises and Israel's plight (9:1-5)
  - B. Tension is only apparent (9:6-13)
  - C. Justice and God's gracious distinguishing (9:14-18)
  - D. God's use of enemies doesn't make them blameless (9:19-23)
  - E. The composition of the predestined (9:24-33)
  - F. Israel's ignorance of the righteousness of God (10:1-4)
  - G. Contrasting ways of righteousness: law and gospel (10:5-13)
  - H. "Israel's" rejection of the gospel (10:14-21)
  - I. God's gracious selection of a remnant of Israel (11:1-10)
  - J. Unbelieving Jews are not beyond converting (11:11-16)
  - K. Alienation of Jews does not mean Gentiles are a superior race in God's eyes (11:17-24)
  - L. Understanding God's plan precludes Gentile arrogance (11:25-32)
  - M. Doxology (11:33-36)
- V. Transforming Power of the Gospel: Christian Conduct (12:1-13:14)
  - A. The general call to a transformed life (12:1-2)
  - B. Humility and mutual service (12:3-8)
  - C. General ethical counsel (12:9-21)
    - 1. Emphasis on Christian relationships (12:9-16)
    - 2. Emphasis on relationship with the world (12:17-21)
  - D. Submission to secular rulers (13:1-7)
  - E. Love and the law (13:8-10)
  - F. Living in light of the day (13:11-14)
- VI. A Plea for Peace Among Jew and Gentile Christians (14:1 - 15:13)
  - A. The strong and weak must receive one another (14:1-12)
  - B. Do not cause your brother to stumble (14:3-23)
  - C. The example of Christ (15:1-6)
  - D. Final appeal (15:7-13)
- VII. The Letter Closing (15:14 -16:27)
  - A. Paul's ministry and travel plans (15:14-33)
    - 1. God's chosen minister to the Gentiles (15:14-21)

2. Plans to visit Rome (15:22-29)
  3. Request for prayer (15:30-33)
- B. Greetings (16:1-23)
1. Commendation of Phoebe (16:1-2)
  2. Greetings to Roman Christians (16:3-16)
  3. A warning, a promise, and a prayer (16:17-20)
  4. Greetings from Paul's companions (16:21-24)
  5. Concluding doxology (16:25-27)