

Message One
A Foreword

Scriptures reading: Rom. 1:1-4; 3:23; 8:14; 12:5; 16:1.

I. The position of Romans in the New Testament:

- A. In the four Gospels, the individual Christ is revealed—Matt. 16:13-17.
- B. In Acts, the corporate Christ is revealed—Acts 9:1-4.
- C. Romans explains:
 - 1. How the individual Christ revealed in the four Gospels could become the corporate Christ revealed in Acts, collectively composed of Himself with all the believers; and
 - 2. How all of us who were once sinners and enemies of God could become sons of God and members of Christ to constitute His one Body to express Him—Rom. 3:23; 5:10; 8:14; 12:5, Eph.1:23.
- D. Romans offers a full definition of this, God's goal, unfolding a general sketch and details of both the Christian life and the church life—1:17.

II. The eight sections of Romans:

- A. Introduction: the Gospel of God—1:1-17.
- B. Condemnation: the need of salvation—1:18-3:20.
- C. Justification: the accomplishment of salvation—3:21-5:11.
- D. Sanctification: the life-process in salvation—5:12-8:13.
- E. Glorification: the purpose of salvation—8:14-39.
- F. Selection: the economy of salvation—9:1-11:36.
- G. Transformation: the life-practice in salvation—12:1–15:13.
- H. Conclusion: the ultimate consummation of salvation—15:14-16:27.

III. The three major structures of Romans – salvation, life, and building:

- A. Salvation as revealed in 1:1–5:11 and 9:1–11:36 includes propitiation, redemption, justification, reconciliation, selection and predestination. In eternity past God predestinated us, He then called us, redeemed us, justified us and reconciled us to Himself. Thus we have full salvation.
- B. Salvation is for the life unfolded in 5:12–8:39.
- C. Salvation is for life, and life is for building, as revealed in 12:1–16:27, which building is the Body of Christ with all of its expressions in the local churches.

IV. Subject of Romans: The Gospel of God—to make sinners sons of God to constitute the Body of Christ, which is expressed as the local churches—Rom 1:1-4; 3:23; 8:14; 12:5; 16:1, 4-5, 16, 23.

Message One

Reference Scripture Verses:

Rom. 1:1-4. **1** Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, a called apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, **2** Which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, **3** Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh, **4** Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;

Rom. 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Rom. 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Rom. 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Rom. 16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchrea,

I.

Matt. 16:13-17. **13** Now when Jesus came into the parts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, Who do men say that the Son of Man is? **14** And they said, Some, John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets. **15** He said to them, But you, who do you say that I am? **16** And Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. **17** And Jesus answered and said to him, Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in the heavens.

Acts. 9:1:-4. **1** But Saul, still breathing threatening and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest **2** And asked for letters from him to Damascus for the synagogues, so that if he found any who were of the Way, both men and women, he might bring *them* bound to Jerusalem. **3** And as he went, he drew near to Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. **4** And he fell on the ground and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?

Rom. 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,

Eph. 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Rom. 1:17 For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, as it is written, "But the righteous shall have life and live by faith."

III.

Rom. 16:4-5. **4** Who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles; **5** And *greet* the church, which is in their house. Greet Epaenetus, my beloved, who is the firstfruits of Asia unto Christ.

Rom. 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

Rom. 16:23 Gaius, my host and *host* of the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, greets you, and Quartus the brother.

Romans Chapter 1

1 Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, a called apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, **2** Which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, **3** Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh, **4** Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord; **5** Through whom we have received grace and apostleship unto the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles on behalf of His name, **6** Among whom you also are the called ones of Jesus Christ; **7** To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, the called saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **8** First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all because your faith is proclaimed throughout the whole world. **9** For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers, **10** Beseeching if by any means now at last I may be prospered in the will of God to come to you. **11** For I long to see you that I may impart to you some spiritual gift so that you may be established; **12** That is, that I with *you* may be encouraged among you through the faith which is in one another, both yours and mine. **13** And I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, that often I purposed to come to you (yet was hindered until the present), that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles. **14** I am debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to foolish; **15** So, for my part, I am ready to announce the gospel to you also who are in Rome. **16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one who believes, both to Jew first and to Greek. **17** For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, as it is written, "But the righteous shall have life and live by faith."

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven upon all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold down the truth in unrighteousness, **19** Because that which is known of God is manifest within them, for God manifested *it* to them. **20** For the invisible things of Him, both His eternal power and divine characteristics, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being perceived by the things made, so that they would be without excuse; **21** Because though they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God or thank *Him*, but *rather* became vain in their reasonings, and their heart, lacking understanding, was darkened. **22** Professing to be wise, they became fools **23** And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into the likeness of an image of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and reptiles. **24** Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to uncleanness, so that they dishonor their bodies among themselves, **25** Who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creation rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. **26** Therefore God gave them up to passions of dishonor; for their females exchanged the natural use for that which is contrary to nature; **27** And likewise also the males, leaving the natural use of the female, burned in their craving toward one another, males with males committing unseemliness and fully receiving in themselves the retribution of their error which was due. **28** And even as they did not approve of holding God in *their* full knowledge, God gave them up to a disapproved mind, to do the things which are not fitting, **29** Being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, malice; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity; **30** Whisperers, slanderers, hateful to God, insolent, arrogant, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, **31** Senseless, faithless, affectionless, merciless; **32** Who, though fully knowing the ¹righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do them, but also have fellow delight in those who practice *them*.