

ROMANS OVERVIEW

AUTHOR: The apostle Paul (1:1), with the secretarial assistance of Tertius (16:22).

DATE: Approximately AD 57, near the conclusion of Paul's third missionary journey.

IN TEN WORDS OR LESS: Sinners are saved only by faith in Jesus Christ.

DETAILS, PLEASE: Some call Romans a "theology textbook" for its thorough explanation of the Christian life. Paul begins by describing God's righteous anger against human sin (Chapters 1–2), noting that everyone falls short of God's standard (3:23). But God Himself provides the only way to overcome that sin, "the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe" (3:22). Being justified (made right) through faith in Jesus, we can consider ourselves "to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (6:11). God's Spirit will "quicken" (give life to, 8:11) all who believe in Jesus, allowing us to "present [our] bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God" (12:1). It is possible, with God's help, to "be not overcome of evil, but [to] overcome evil with good" (12:21).

QUOTABLE:

- All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. (3:23)
- God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (5:8)
- The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (6:23)
- wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. (7:24–25)
- We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. (8:28)
- Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. (13:8)
- Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (13:10)

UNIQUE AND UNUSUAL: Unlike Paul's other letters to churches, Romans was addressed to a congregation he'd never met. The great missionary was hoping to see the Roman Christians personally while traveling westward to Spain (15:23–24). It's unclear if Paul ever actually reached Spain or if he was executed in Rome after the end of the book of Acts.

SO WHAT? In Paul's own words, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (5:1).

Know Your Bible: All 66 Books Explained and Applied (Value Books) (p. 71). Barbour Publishing, Inc.. Kindle Edition.