

Introduction to Romans

What have you found most:

- Encouraging?
- Challenging?
- Surprising?

What excites you about studying Romans together this year?

1. Compare 16:25-27 with 1:1-6, 11 - what are the repeated ideas?

2. From your reading of the rest of the letter, what are some of the big ideas? How do they fit with what Paul says in these bookends?

WHY was Romans written?

15:14-33

Paul's commission:

Paul's situation:

Paul's ambition:

16:25 – The gospel strengthens us... (cf. 1:11, 15)



...to be "all in" personally

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice...

Rom. 12:1

...to be all in it together

See esp. ch11, 14-15

HOW did Paul write to achieve this?

- Lots of OT quotes!
- Diatribe

WHAT did Paul write to achieve this?

1-4 Confidence in the means & scope of salvation

The summary: 1:16-17 - all people can be righteous only through faith.

1:18-32 All mankind is unrighteous...

2:1-3:20 ...Even the Jews!!!

3:21-26 But God gives righteousness to those who believe...

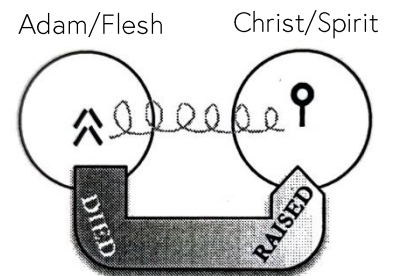
(3:27-30 - So no boasting or excluding)

3:30-4:25 ...which is just what the OT said!

5-8 Confidence in the now-and-not-yet of salvation

BOOKEND (5:1-11) Our justification means the hope of glory despite suffering

IN BETWEEN (5:12-8:17) We have moved (and are moving) from the realm of Adam to the realm of Christ. Our mind is already set on the things of the Spirit, but our body wages war against us... until the day our bodies will also be raised.



BOOKEND (8:18-39) Our justification means the hope of glory despite suffering

9-11 Confidence in the plan of salvation

Problem: If God has broken his promises to the Jewish people then how can we trust them for us?

Answer Part I (chapter 9): God never promised to save all the Jewish people.

Answer Part II (chapter 10): Those Jewish people who weren't saved failed to have faith in the Lord.

Answer Part III (chapter 11): God's unchanged plan is that even the 'failure' will turn out to produce a 'success'.

12-16 The "All in" implications of the gospel

Therefore, in light of God's mercies, and having a renewed mind, get your body serving God. This means:

Humbly loving and serving others in the church (12:3-16)

Living peaceably and honouring authorities in the world (12:17-13:7)

Casting off the works of darkness, because the day of salvation is dawning (13:8-14)

Sacrificing your own freedoms for the sake of others' good (14:1-15:13)