

## OUTLINE OF THE LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE ROMANS

1. Prologue (1:1-15)
  - a. Greeting (1:1-7)
  - b. Prayer of Thanksgiving: Paul's desire to preach in Rome (1 :8-15)
2. Salvation in Christ (1:16-8:39)
  - a. Theme: The Righteousness of God. Thesis: God's salvation comes through faith for both Jew and Gentile (1:16-17)
  - b. Condemnation: The Universal Corruption of Gentiles and Jews (1:18-3:20)
  - c. Salvation through faith in Christ as God's response to the sinfulness of humanity (1:18-3:31)
  - d. Justification: The Gift of Grace and Forgiveness through Faith (3:21-5:11)
    - i. Abraham as the ancestor of all believers (4:1-25)
    - ii. As Adam's sin brought death to all, so Christ's sacrifice brings reconciliation with God and life for all (5:1-21)
3. Jesus Christ: The New Adam (5:12-21)
4. Sanctification: Holiness in Christ (6:1-8:11)
  - a. The free gift of righteousness in Christ creates freedom, not increased sin (6:1-23)
  - b. Baptism is sharing in Christ's death so that we will share life with God (6:1-11)
  - c. "Dying" in baptism means dying to the passions which made us slaves to sin (6:12-23)
  - d. The law could not bring righteousness and life (7:1-25)
    - i. Human example: The law only binds those who are alive, not the Christian who has died with Christ and now lives by the Spirit (7:1-6)

- ii. Sin was able to pervert the law to awaken passions that led to death [Adam's story implied] (7:1-12)
    - iii. The law itself is good but the "fleshly" nature of humans makes it possible for sin to enslave us even when we want what is good [Paul reflecting on his story] (7:13-25)
  - e. Christ has freed us from bondage by making life in the Spirit possible (8:1-38)
  - f. Freedom is life in Christ/the Spirit and is opposed to the slavery of sin which works through the flesh (8:1-11)
  - g. Glorification: The Spirit, Sonship, and Suffering (8:12-39)
    - i. Baptism is our adoption as children of God/Abba in the Spirit (8:12-17)
    - ii. The Spirit helps us live in this world of creation waiting for its final redemption when we will have the image of Christ (8:18-30)
    - iii. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ (8:31-39)
- 5. Restoration of Israel (9:1-11 :36)
  - a. Though Israel is rejecting Christ now, God may still bring the people of the promises and covenants to salvation (9:1-11:36)
    - i. Israel's Election (9:1-29)
    - ii. Israel's Rejection of the Gospel (9:30-10:21)
    - iii. Israel's Resurrection and Salvation (11:1-36)
- 6. Christian Living (12:1-14:23)
  - a. Ethical instructions on mutual love, service and tolerance in the Christian community (12:1-15:13)
    - i. Christian Conduct in the Church (12:1-21)
    - ii. Christian Citizenship (13:1-7)

iii. Love Fulfills God's Law (13:8-14)

iv. Christian Fellowship and Flexibility (14:1-23)

7. Epilogue (15:1-16:23)

a. Admonition (15:1-7)

b. Summary of the Epistle (15:8-13)

c. Paul's Ministry and Travel Plans to Rome (15:14-33)

d. Personal Greetings (16:1-23 [24])

i. Recommendation for Phoebe and greetings to fellow workers (16:1-16)

ii. Final warning and greetings from Paul's associates (16:17-23)

8. Closing Doxology (16:25-27)