

Paul's Letter to the Romans

Romans 12:1-16:27

The Revelation of the Gospel

In Paul's Introduction we see something of a thesis statement for the book of Romans where he writes:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." --Romans 1:16-17

One of the most important things to know is that the Gospel (or Good News) is a **revelation**. That means that the message of the Gospel is not something that Paul is making up, rather it is a message that God is giving to the people of the world through the apostle. Over the course of his letter, Paul will systematically work through the major themes of this thesis statement.

First, he establishes the universal human need for salvation from the just judgment of a Holy, Holy, Holy God. Every person on this planet desperately needs the message of salvation held out in the Gospel. This is why Paul is not ashamed to bring this message. This was covered in the first 3 chapters.

The Literary Structure of Romans

Topic	Passage
Introduction to the Revelation of the Gospel	1:1 - 1:17
The Revelation of the Justice of God	1:18 - 3:20
The Revelation of the Grace of God	3:21 - 8:39
The Revelation of the Plan of God	9:1 - 11:36
The Revelation of the Will of God	12:1 - 15:13
Concluding Greetings and Benedictions	15:14 - 16:27

Having laid the ground work and basis for human need for salvation, Paul will expand on how God has revealed his salvation in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Paul calls this salvation "righteousness" or "justification", and it is a gift offered to all humanity. He then explains that the way a person receives this righteousness is by responding in what he calls "the obedience of faith" in Jesus. In chapters 3-8, Paul shows how this righteousness works and is appropriated in our lives through belief, or faith in the

revelation of the grace of God. Chapter 8 reveals the tremendous blessings of the believer’s calling to be a child of God in Jesus Christ. Paul will now build on the concepts he has introduced in chapter 8 regarding the initiating actions and sovereignty of God through the Holy Spirit.

After reading in Chapter 8 on the eternal security and assurance given to those in Christ, the reader may be wondering: “But what about the rest of the people of this world, particularly those of the Jewish people who have rejected Jesus?” Paul now turns his focus to the revelation of the plan of God.

Finally, Paul moves to teaching about the implications of the Gospel for the individual and Christian community. The verse Romans 12:1 marks a transition from the indicative of the Gospel to the imperatives of the Gospel.

The Revelation of the Will of God (Romans 12-16)

As Paul contemplates the implications of the Gospel, one way to frame this last section is using the theme of “relationships”. At the heart of the Gospel, is the message of how God has reconciled and redeemed our relationship with him. In view of this renewed and redeemed relationship, our human relationships are transformed as well.

Structure

The Revelation of the Will of God: Transformed Relationships	Romans 12-16
Our Relationship to God: Consecrated Bodies and Renewed Minds	Romans 12:1-2
Our Relationship to Ourselves: Soberly Understanding Spiritual Gifts	Romans 12:3-8
Our Relationships to One another: Love in the Family of God	Romans 12:9-16
Our Relationship to Our Enemies: Not retaliation Service	Romans 12:17-21
Our Relationship to the State: Contentious Citizenship	Romans 13:1-7
Our Relationship to the Law: Neighbor-Love as its Fulfillment	Romans 13:8-10
Our Relationship to the Day: living in the “Already” but “Not yet”	Romans 13:11-14
Our Relationship to the Weak: Welcoming, and not despising or judging	Romans 14:1-15:13
Conclusion: The Providence of God and the Ministry of Paul	Romans 15:14-16:27