

## **ROMANS 5 QUESTIONS FROM ROMANS**

### **INTRO:**

- Today we are going to start a series on the book of Romans.
- We will study it under 5 questions.
- Let's look at the whole book and its importance to the Christian and the Christian faith.
- John Piper has said,

I will claim, without any fear of contradiction, that Paul's letter to the Romans is the greatest letter that has ever been written in the history of the world by anybody — Christian or non-Christian.

Why Romans Is So Great? Here's what I mean by *greatest*. Three things.

1. It is the fullest divinely inspired summary of the greatest realities in the universe.
2. Among those inspired writings, it is not only the fullest summary of the greatest realities. It penetrates more deeply into those realities than any other book does, like the condition of humanity outside Christ, the meaning of justification by faith, the miracle of the Christian life lived after the law in the Spirit, the condition of the natural world under the fall, the future destiny of the people of Israel, the mystery of why God would prepare vessels of wrath for destruction — things like that. It's just unparalleled in its penetrating power.
3. What I mean by *greatest* is that no other letter has had a greater impact on the history of the church and the world than this one. Augustine traced his conversion to **Romans 13:13**. Martin Luther entered the paradise of imputed righteousness and freedom through the portal of **Romans 1:17**. And John Wesley's heart was freed from the strivings of the Oxford Club into the joy of faith by hearing the Moravians read Luther's *Preface to Romans*. And John Calvin wrote that Romans is the doorway to the treasures of all of the scriptures.

It's not just the Mount Everest of Scripture, which it is. It is a whole range of mountain peaks of soaring revelation. If there's any Scripture to which we should apply **Psalm 119:18**, this is it: "[O Lord,] open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your [instruction]."

- Before we get into this, I want to share an observation of this great apostle, Paul.
- I think it is so strange and wonderful that God would call a man, Paul, who was a Hebrew of the Hebrews, a Pharisee, As a Jew regarding the law, blameless.
- As concerning his zeal to serve the God he wrongly envisioned in his mind, persecuting the church, and touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.
- Trained in the Jewish faith from a child, zealous to the point of attempting to destroy and absolutely extinguish the church.
- **Acts 26:4, 5, 9-11**, Phil. 3:5- 10

- God would effectually call this man, this enemy of the church and of Christ, convert him, then task him with being the apostle to the Gentiles. (11:13)
- Not to the Jews, of whom he knew thoroughly and was a Jew of the Jews. Deeply taught by the greatest of their teachers, Gamaliel, (acts 22:3-5)
- He could communicate and identify with their teachings, doctrines and theology better than any, but NO God in His wisdom sends him to the Gentiles.
- And not only this, Paul became the greatest defender of the Gentiles protecting and shielding them, the church, both Jew and Gentile, from the Jewish zealots', Judaizers.
- Paul writes this letter about 57-58 A.D. and about 23 years after his amazing conversion.
- He had not traveled there yet, but was intending to do so after bringing a gift of money given by the churches in Greece and Turkey, to help the poorer saints in Jerusalem and minister there.
- In this letter Paul lays out for them the bible's greatest theological book.
- It is most likely written while in Corinth and it was dictated by a disciple named Tertius. (16::22) I Tertius, who wrote *this* epistle, greet you in the Lord.)
- The letter seems to have been carried to Rome by a sister in Christ named Phoebe. (16:1)
- This epistle holds the longest salutation, greeting of any of his epistles.
- The 3 most used or repeated nouns in this epistle are God, 153X, Law, 74X and Christ, 65X
- A holy God, an unachievable condemning law, and a redeeming Christ.

Paul introduces himself to the Christians at Rome in verses 1-7, and as is Paul's passion it's all about Jesus Christ. 5x Jesus is mentioned in these first 7 vs. and God is mentioned 8-9x, and in Ephesians Paul mentions God 15x in the first 14 verses.

#### Let's take a look.

- **Vs. 1:** Paul a servant:
  - Servant = Slave, a bond slave.
  - Doulos, the most hopeless, servile term used by the Greeks to denote a slave.
  - The word identified one who was born as a slave, one who was bound to his master in chords so strong that only death could break them,
  - one who served his master to the disregard of his own interests, one whose will was swallowed up in the will of his master.

- It was to this gospel Paul was separated (1:1). When he says "separated" he means that all bonds of interest and attachment alien to the promotion of the gospel had been rent asunder and that this gospel had made him captive

#### **NOW HERE ARE THE SEARCHING 5 QUESTIONS:**

1. What was my condition before Christ saved me?
2. What did God do to save me from that condition?
3. What did God do in me to save me?
4. How then should I live?
5. What does God have in store for me?

#### **WHAT WAS MY CONDITION BEFORE CHRIST SAVED ME? (just for clarification; these are not my words they are scripture, God's words.)**

- **Mankind, I was in a fallen state,** alienated from God for we have all sinned, and were sinners.
  - Rom. 3:23, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
  - Rom. 5:8, we were still sinners
  - Rom. 3:10-12; "There is none righteous, no, not one; <sup>11</sup> There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. <sup>12</sup> They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable, (useless) There is none who does good, no, not one."
  - Rom. 6:16, Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?
  - All humanity is born slaves to self and sin.
- **There was nothing we could do to remedy our state.**
  - Rom. 5:6, For when we were still without strength,
  - Rom. 2:5; But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent (unrepentant) heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,
  - Rom. 8:21-22, <sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools,
- **Because we were enemies of God** we Lived under the wrath and judgment of a righteous God, and could not live in a way to please God.
  - Rom. 5:10; For if when we were enemies
  - Rom. 5:18; Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation,
  - Rom. 8:18, For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,
  - Rom. 8:6-8, For to be carnally minded is death, <sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of

**God, nor indeed can be. <sup>8</sup> So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

- **Due to these things and being outside of Christ, everyone is guilty and everyone without exception is spiritually dead, alienated from the life of God.**
  - **Rom. 3:19, and all the world may become guilty before God.**
  - **5:12,17, Therefore, just as through one man, sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned, For the judgment *which came* from one *offense resulted in condemnation*<sup>17</sup> For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one,**
  - **Rom. 6:23, For the wages of sin *is* death**

### **CONCLUSION:**

- **So, what do these scriptures teach us? What is to be our take-away?**
- **That outside of Christ we are hopelessly lost.**
- **Dead in trespasses and sin and unable to save ourselves.**
- **There is not a person who is good.**
  - **Mk. 10:18, why do you call Me good? There is none good but God.**
- **Paul in this epistle, by the Spirit brings before our eyes, minds and hearts the hopeless condition of every human ever born, except Jesus and Adam and Eve.**
- **We like Paul have been purchased from the depraved, filthy slave market of this world by the God of love.**
  - **Not our own for we as the redeemed have been purchased by God. 1 Peter 1:18-19, 1 Cor. 6:19-20**
- **Serving Him only blesses us, brings true inner joy to our souls and lays up for us a great treasure in that day when we are taken to glory.**
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