

5 QUESTIONS FOR THE BOOK OF ROMANS PART 2

REVIEW:

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.

- **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)**
- **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.**

- **W. E. Vine says the theme or message of Romans is that the apostle Paul, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, vindicates and acquits the righteousness of God in His dealings with man.**
- **That the righteousness of God in ALL His dealings are good and right, just.**
 - **See Rev. 18:20, Rev. 19:1-5**
- **Especially His dealings with man regarding His righteousness as displayed in the gospel.**
- **With this in Paul's mind he sets forth the character and effects of the gospel, showing it as the means God has adopted by which righteousness can be reckoned to man in spite of their sinful state.**

NOW HERE ARE THE SEARCHING 5 QUESTIONS:

- 1. What was my condition outside of Christ?**
- 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 my future look like?**

WHAT WAS MY CONDITION OUTSIDE OF CHRIST?

- **Mankind, was in a fallen state**, alienated from God for we have all sinned, and were sinners. There are no exceptions to this state, Jesus excepted.
 - Rom. 3:23, for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God,
 - Rom. 3:10-12; "There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.
¹² They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable, (useless) There is none who does good, no, not one."
- **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; We were **enemies**
 - 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,
- 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 condemnation¹⁷ For if by the one man's offense **death reigned** through the one,
 - Rom. 6:23, For the wages of sin *is* death
- **There was nothing we could do to remedy our state.**
 - Rom. 5:6, We were **without strength**,
 - By nature, children of wrath... (Eph. 2:4)

WHAT DID GOD DO APART FROM ME, TO SAVE ME THAT CONDITION

- Verses that answer that question:
 - **3:24-25a;**
 - **5:18;**
 - **Rom 8:3;**
 - **Rom. 8:29-30;**
 - Rom. 8:32; He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Now let's take a look at one more set of scriptures that really makes it clear what God has done for us apart from us.

- These things we did not ask for, or pray for or reason with God about it. These things came from the free heart of God and happened in His heart and will before we ever existed.

Rom. 5:6-10

- ⁶ For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life
- Verse 6 is one of the greatest verses in the whole bible. There is no greater statement of the love of God than in this verse.
- This is the apostle Paul's exposition of Jn. 3:16. He says likewise in 3:24-25.
- Now the first thing we must notice is the first little word. "FOR"
- For what? because of what? What came before this that this answers?
- Vs. 1-5, the love of God is shed in our hearts, how do we know this? Vs 6 "FOR".
- It becomes the answer to the why or how do we know or see the love of God.
- These eternal truths are proof of God's love toward us. This love that has been shed abroad in our hearts.
- See Vs. 8 and the word "DEMONSTRATES: God displays the death of His Son Jesus Christ as evidence of His love for us. God holds the crucifixion up to our view as evidence of His love
- It is in the present tense, God is continually showing, displaying His love for us as we contemplate on cross, the death of Christ for us.
- WITHOUT STRENGTH: A total inability, completely and entirely devoid of any spiritual or redeeming strength.
- The unborn man cannot, is unable to understand spiritual truth.
 - But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Cor. 2:14)
 - Mankind is totally unable to please or impress God.
 - Rom. 8:8; So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.
- IN DUE TIME: A strategic time, A time pre-determined.
 - Gal. 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son,
 - Eph. 1:10; that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times
- It was the point beyond any doubt that man was incapable of saving himself.
- The law had had a full opportunity of doing its work.
- The children of Israel had had this law for nearly 1400 years and no one, not one had satisfied its demands, mankind's attempts to please the law were futile.
- The time was full; it was the due time. Just in time.
- It had become evident, as Rom. 3:20 states, that by the deeds of the law no flesh would be justified in God's sight.
- And so it was up to God alone to save man, "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." (1 Cor. 1:20) See **Rom 1:16-17**

- **FOR:** It is the GK word "huper." (hupe-air) It is a preposition and means "in behalf of," or instead of," or "in place of."
 - See John 11:50; nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish."
 - Gal. 3:13; Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree")
- **UNGODLY:** "without reverence for God," destitute of reverential awe towards God
- Part of the point here in the mind of the Spirit is to show us the love of God and the love of God to us. Before our love to Him.
- It is not our love that saves us, His love is our assurance.
- **CHRIST DIED:**
- Lastly; notice this phrase Paul used to describe the extent of God's love for us; It does not just say that Jesus came, that He labored, lived, ministered, healed, taught, suffered, but that He died for us.
- This is the absolute furthest love can go; it can go no further. It can give no more.
- To see this love clearer, look at the character of those He died for, powerless, weak, ungodly, wretched, sinners, enemies.
- Then add to this the horror and disgrace of the death He died. The death on the cross.
- He did not just die for us in our weakness, though of course this is true, the decision to do so was not an intellectual un emotional answer to a problem, but He loved us. God was moved by His love for us.
- Some times we get in our minds that after the crucifixion Jesus had to stand before the Father pleading for Him to forgive us, but we must remember it was the love of the Father that sent Christ for us.
- For God so love the world...
- God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself.
- God is against all ungodliness, sin and unrighteousness of men, and these things will be judged, but He has also sent forth His Son as a propitiation for our sin.
- God is the source and instigator of our salvation. Salvation is not a after-thought.

CONCLUSION:

- God, sending His Son to redeem us through His death, is the most positive and absolute proof of His love for us.
 - 1 Jn. 4:9-10; In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.
 - ¹⁰ Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.