

# Romans

## Breakdown

- Romans is the first of the epistles. Epistles are letters, and Paul was the writer of 13 of the 20 letters that make up the majority of the New Testament.
- Paul wanted to visit Rome, but he knew it would be a while before he could, so he wrote this letter to the church at Rome to strengthen their faith and remind them how they should act as a church.
- This letter was written during Paul's third missionary journey around 57 A.D.

## Main Points

- Ancient Rome (the namesake of our own Rome, GA) had grown from a small city to a huge empire through its victory over several neighboring nations. Although the majority of the population of Rome was pagan, there was a growing number of Christians, both Jews and Gentiles.
- Paul wanted the church at Rome to understand that even though we were disconnected from God, His plan was for us to now be reconnected to Him through Jesus. Paul wrote about how we all need righteousness, how Jesus made righteousness available to us, and how the church can now live a life of righteousness. Righteousness means that we trade our rights which lead to death for the rights of Jesus which lead to eternal life.

## Did you know?

- As a former Pharisee, Paul was well versed in the Old Covenant and the Law. Toward the beginning of his letter to the church at Rome, he quoted the phrase "*the just shall live by faith*" from one of the Old Testament minor prophets. Which prophet did he quote?
- Paul stressed the importance of faith in becoming righteous, and he gave us an important Old Testament example of faith. Who did Paul say was our father of faith?
- Paul reminded us that God Himself demonstrated His own love toward us. How did Paul say He demonstrated His love to us?
- Paul explained about the relationship between the law and sin using one of the 10 Commandments. Which commandment did he use?
- Just like every human being, Paul was caught in a vicious cycle of not doing the right things he wanted to do but instead doing all the wrong things he didn't want to do. How did Paul say we could break free from that trap?
- Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit helps us in prayer. How does He help us?
- Paul urged the Christians in Rome (and us) not to follow the example of the pagan worshippers by sacrifices to idols. Instead, how are we to present ourselves to God?

## Further Thought

- In his letter to Rome, Paul explained that the purpose of the Law was not to make us to do right but was actually to show us just how much we were doing wrong. Why is that important for us to know and what should our response be?
- Paul went into great detail about the things that could and couldn't separate us from God's love. What can separate us from God's love? Why is that important for us to know?