

## Romans Chapter 1 Summary

It pains me sometimes when I listen to a mega church sermon. There is little doctrine useful for growing, from my perspective. Some don't like the term "Bible Doctrine." It is just Bible information derived from studying multiple passages on the same subject. If you don't like "Bible Doctrine" and have children, ask yourselves a few questions.

Does your child know what a Christian is? (Faith alone in Christ alone)

Does your child know how to walk in faith dependence on the Holy Spirit? Does he use Faith-Rest? Or Does your child just do what is right in his or her own eyes? (Book of Judges)

Does your child believe the Bible is the innerant Word of God. If challenged concerning evolution would your child agree that evolution is right and the Bible is wrong? (Genesis chapter 1-3)

Does your child constantly engage in hatred whether in speech or in actions in the current political situation? (Multiple passages from Proverbs and Ephesians and 1 Corinthians).

Does your child believe that Christians have replaced Jews in God's plan? In other words, do they go in for Replacement Theology? (Faithfulness of God and Romans chapter 9)

Does your child go for the various attacks on conservative Christianity? For instance, there are various "Christian" movements that believe Christians have to bring in the Millennium by being good? Do they understand Dispensations and the Plan of God?

Answers to all these topics are found in the Bible. Without solid information that defines who and what they are In Christ, they are in danger of veering off course. The answer is Bible Doctrine.

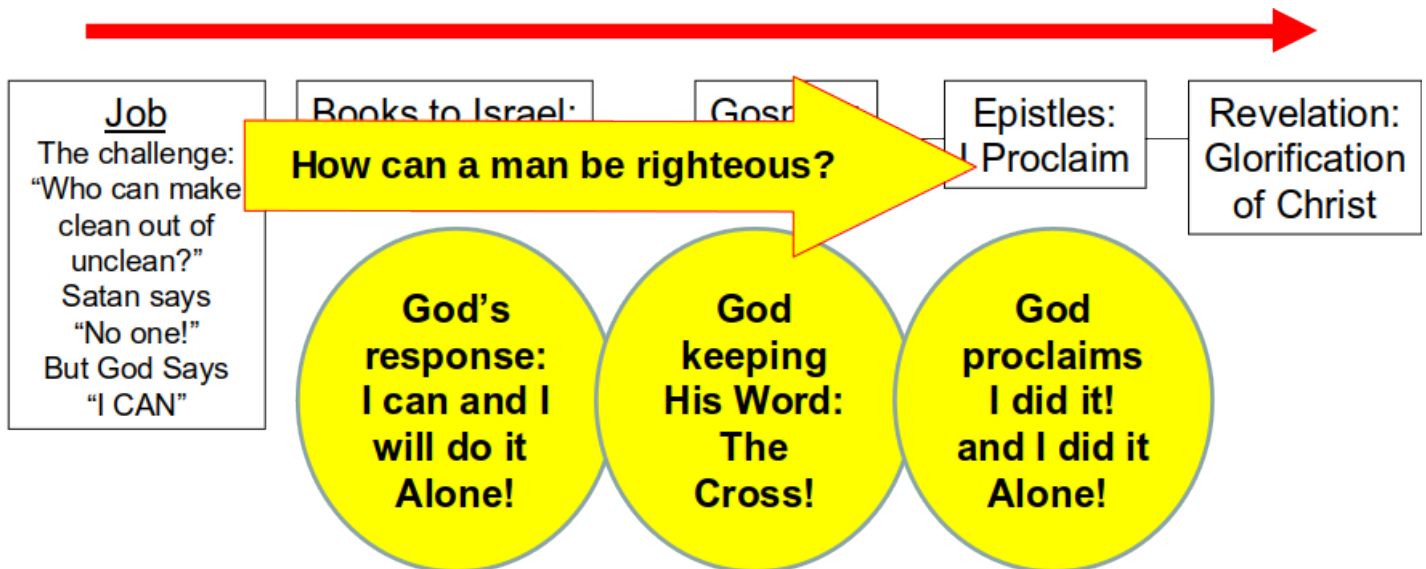
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**Hebrews 4:1** Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.

**Hebrews 4:2** For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.

What follows is a summary of the recently taught lessons on Romans chapter 1. This summary will read the chapter, highlighting important words and concepts. Details have already been taught in previous lessons.

There is a pictorial from Herman's teaching that shows the progression of God's plan through the Bible.



[from Herman Mattox]

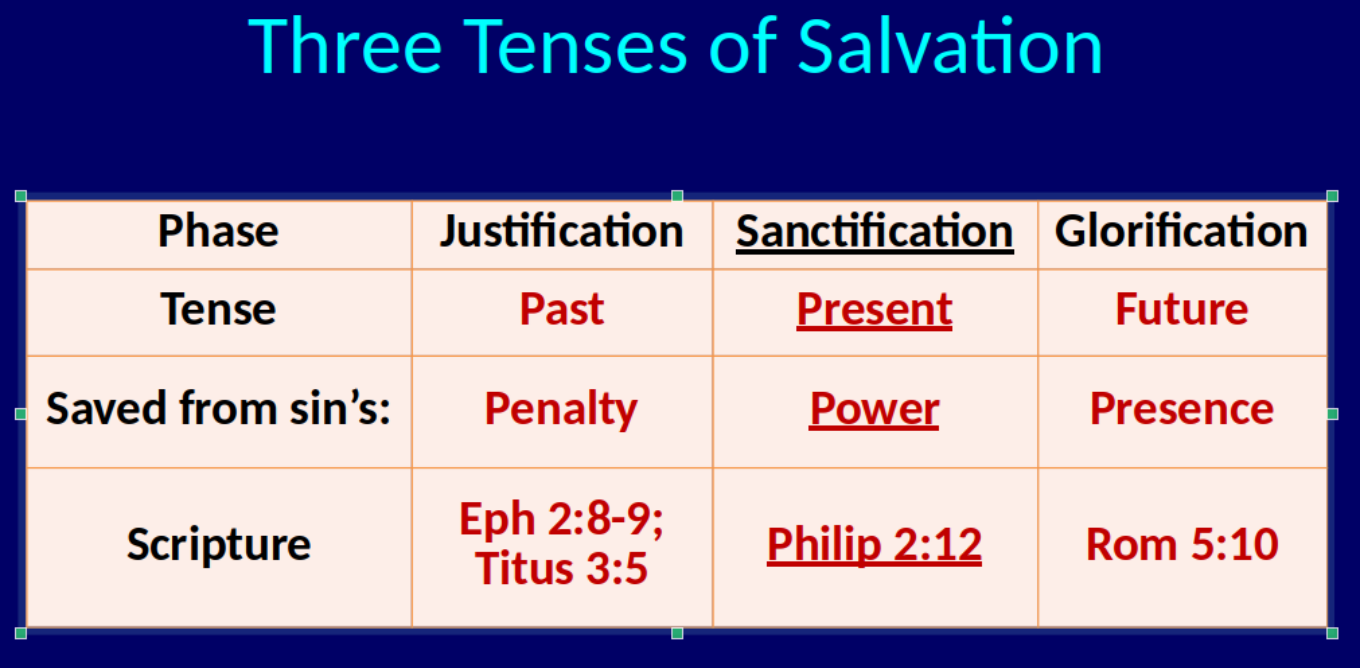
While teaching the book of Romans chapter 1, I made several references to Job, in particular, Herman's "Ten Questions of Job." These questions

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deal with righteousness before God and how is it even possible that a man can be righteous from God's perspective.

The Book of Romans is about the "gospel" or good news for both unbeliever and the believer. Righteousness is a key term in the book of Romans. This book answers the questions of Job. So in Herman's chart above, the epistles, in particular the book of Romans not only proclaims that God provided salvation, but Paul explains the details. Job encapsulates questions that unbelievers ask. Who am I? Where did we come from? What is our purpose? What happens when we die? Romans answers these questions.

Related to this is the illustration of the three phases or "tenses" of salvation:



Phase	Justification	<u>Sanctification</u>	Glorification
Tense	Past	<u>Present</u>	Future
Saved from sin's:	Penalty	<u>Power</u>	Presence
Scripture	Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5	<u>Philip 2:12</u>	Rom 5:10

### Three Tenses of Salvation<sup>1</sup>

There is a simple outline of Romans provided by Herman Mattox. It does not include details or nuances, just a very simple perspective. Remember,

<sup>1</sup> <https://slbc.org/sermon/soteriology-001/>

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an outline of any book of the Bible says as much about the author of the outline as it does about the content of the Biblical book.

### I. God's Relationship with Man (Chapters 1-11 )

#### A. Unbeliever: (Chapters 1-4)

How can man be righteous

The Gospel for the Unbeliever

#### B. Believers: (Chapters 5-11)

How can believer be righteous

The Gospel for the Believer

### II. Man's Relationship with Man (Chapters Ch 12 – 16)

Robby Dean has a detailed outline of the book of Romans. The following are just the main points of that outline. For the full detailed outline go to the link in the footnote.<sup>2</sup>

- I. Introduction: God's righteousness is revealed and is acquired by faith (1:1-17).
- II. Justification: God's righteousness revealed in condemnation and justification by faith alone in Christ alone (1:18–5:11).
- III. Sanctification: God produces righteousness in those who have been declared righteous and continue a walk by faith (6:1–8:39).
- IV. God will vindicate His righteousness in His relationship to Israel (9:1–11:36)
- V. Application: God's righteousness should be displayed in the life of the justified believer (12:1–15:13).
- VI. Conclusion: Paul's Purpose, Plans and Praise in Connection with the Dissemination of Righteousness (15:14–16:27) Paul provides three descriptions of himself in relation to God<sup>3</sup>:

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<sup>2</sup> [https://deanbible.org/dbmfiles/notes/Romans\\_Introduction.pdf](https://deanbible.org/dbmfiles/notes/Romans_Introduction.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Based upon comment from Joseph Fitzmyer, *The Anchor Bible: Romans*, New York: Doubleday, 1992, page 228; also Douglas Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans (NICNT)*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996, page 40

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In introducing himself, Paul connects to important doctrines and the theme of the book: the gospel or good news for mankind.

**Romans 1:1 Paul,  
#1 a bond-servant of Christ Jesus,  
#2 called as an apostle,  
#3 set apart for the gospel of God,**

### 1. **His master:** bond-servant/slave of Christ Jesus

We are either involuntary slaves or voluntary slaves. As unbelievers or believers out of fellowship, we are involuntary slaves to the Old Sin Nature (OSN). We don't have a choice. In fellowship, we are slaves/servants to God voluntarily.

### 2. **His office:** apostle

The important point to remember about the word "apostle" is that the mission of the apostle is driven by who appoints the apostle. The "12" apostles (including Paul as the 12<sup>th</sup> apostle) were appointed by Jesus Christ personally. Other "apostles" were appointed by the apostles or by local churches. They did not have the spiritual gift of "apostle." Those appointed by Jesus at the end of His ministry received the spiritual gift of apostleship. With that spiritual gift and the appointment by Jesus comes a mission to establish churches, teach pastors and congregations and write New Testament Scripture. There are people today who claim to be apostles or have "apostolic power." From our study of this word, that means someone had to appoint them, face-to-face. Did Jesus Christ come down from heaven and appoint them like He did for Paul? If Jesus did not appoint them, who gave them the authority? It is true that the 12 were given the spiritual gift of apostleship, but only because they were appointed by Jesus Christ.

### 3. **His mission:** gospel of God

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Paul's mission is tied to the good news (gospel). And that is the topic of the book of Romans. As Herman put it, "gospel" is in chapter 1 and chapters 15 & 16. It is like the bread in a sandwich. The meat of the message is in the middle.

### **Romans 1:2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,**

**Importance of Scripture.** After the fall of Adam and Eve through a single act of faith in the Devil, God already had a plan in place to provide salvation. He promised this salvation and had Spirit-led men write it down for all ages. In our world full of lawyers and lawsuits, the gospel was written down. God documented our salvation as provided by Him in writing.

### **Romans 1:3 concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh,**

### **Romans 1:4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,**

**Hypostatic Union.** Right at the beginning, in the so called introduction to the book of Romans, Paul outlines the doctrine of the Hypostatic Union: the savior/Messiah is both fully man and fully God qualified to mediate salvation by going to the cross. The hypostatic union fulfills the requirement that the sin issue must be solved by God and at the same time must be man in order to be the mediator. Only Jesus Christ qualified.

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Here is Herman's definition: "In the person of Jesus Christ are two natures, inseparable, united without loss or transfer of properties or attributes, the union being personal and eternal."

**Resurrection.** He also mentions resurrection. At this point in his ministry he has already written the powerful chapter on resurrection in 1 Corinthians chapter 15. Without the resurrection there is no Christianity. Resurrection of Jesus Christ proves who He is: the Son of God whose work on the cross paying for the sins of the world is accepted by God the Father. There are many attacks on this doctrine. Those that attack it with an open mind like the lawyer Simon Greenleaf end up becoming believers. He applied the laws of evidence to the four gospel accounts. He concluded that they are true.

**Romans 1:5 through whom we have received  
grace and apostleship to bring about the  
obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for  
His name's sake,**

This good news is not just for Jews but also for Gentiles. The obedience is faith.

**Romans 1:6 among whom you also are the  
called of Jesus Christ;**

Paul emphasizes that those who are in Rome are also recipients of good news.

**Romans 1:7 to all who are beloved of God in  
Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and  
peace from God our Father and the Lord  
Jesus Christ.**

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**All.** Paul's message is all inclusive. As Herman pointed out, He has good news for unbelievers and a good news message for believers.

**Romans 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.**

**Thanksgiving.** Paul first engages in thanksgiving. The doctrine of thanksgiving is very important. Each believer should be thanking God daily for who He is (His essence) and what He is doing (His Plan).

**Romans 1:9 For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you,**

**Romans 1:10 always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.**

**Will of God.** How do you know if you are in the will of God? There are prohibitions in the Bible. Stealing. Hatred. Jealousy. These are not the will of God. Love. Joy. Peace. These are the will of God which are produced by the filling of the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 1:11 For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;**

**Romans 1:12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.**



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**Encouragement.** Believers are to encourage one another. In the Angelic Conflict, believers are daily bombarded with human viewpoint and pressures to conform to this world.

**Romans 1:13 I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.**

**Romans 1:14 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.**

As believers we have been gifted by God, it is our obligation to operate in the power of the Holy Spirit, in the Plan of God.

**Romans 1:15 So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.**

**Romans 1:16 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.**

Jew first. Salvation came from the Jews. Jesus was a Jew.

**Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous man shall live by faith.”**

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**Faith.** We are saved by faith. We live by faith.

**Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,**

**Wrath.** There is an alternative to using faith alone in Christ alone for salvation. Instead of blessing there is the wrath of God. And there is a wrath from God against even believers who continually abandon God. For a believer, this wrath can lead to the sin unto death.

**Romans 1:19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.**

**God Consciousness.** For me, this is an important verse. I know that if I am talking to an atheist about God, he at one point at least was aware of God. It is documentation from God that people will eventually come to an understanding that the God exists. This includes atheists who say there is no God.

**Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.**

**Revelation.** In verse 2 Paul makes mention of Scripture which we call special revelation. Here in verse 20 Paul makes mention of the evidence for God in His creation. We call that general revelation.

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**Romans 1:21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**

**Romans 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,**

**Romans 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.**

From my perspective the validity of science research has come into question<sup>4</sup>. Scientists that have an agenda which drives the results of research do everyone a disservice. Many are anti-God. As a result, their anti-God agenda fits these verses of Romans. What I have said previously is that when lies meet reality, people get hurt.

**Romans 1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.**

There comes a time in some people's lives, those who reject God, and decide "anything goes," end up hurting themselves.

Much of what follows does not require much comment. It is self-explanatory. You can read the news and see these things happening. Crime shows are often loosely based on real life evil.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/flood-of-fake-science-forces-multiple-journal-closures/ar-BB1mmDKS>

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**Romans 1:25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.**

**Lie.** Once again, when a lie encounters reality, people get hurt. Just ask Adam and Eve.

**Romans 1:26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,**

**Romans 1:27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.**

**28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,**

**Romans 1:29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,**

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**Romans 1:30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,**

**Romans 1:31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;**

Early on Paul mentions the will of God. Here is a list of sins that are not in the will of God. He allows it as part of the Angelic Conflict.

**Romans 1:32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.**