

# READING ROMANS TOGETHER

## APRIL 2025

"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." – Romans 1:16

---

### INTRODUCING ROMANS

This is one of the most influential letters ever written. It was composed by the Apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to instruct and encourage Christians in Rome. Paul wrote the letter around 57 AD, when he was in Corinth, during his third missionary journey (Acts 20:2–3).

At the time of writing, Paul had not yet visited the church in Rome (Romans 1:13). It seems that there were two circumstances that prompted him to write:

- **His missionary plans** – Paul wanted to preach the gospel in Spain, and he wanted to gain support from Rome for this mission (15:24). The letter is a good introduction to him and the true gospel he preaches.
- **The church's unity** – The letter's contents suggest Paul had heard reports of disunity between Jewish and Gentile (non-Jewish) believers in Rome. He longed to see them united in Jesus.

## FIVE KEY THEMES

- 1. We all need Christ to save us** – There is one way of salvation, by faith in Jesus, who died and rose for our justification (a word for how God declares us "not guilty" so we can have a right relationship with him).
- 2. We are one body in Christ** – All believers, Jew and Gentile, have the same need of salvation and the same saviour. This unity should be reflected in our relationships with each other.
- 3. God is faithful to his promises to save** – Romans contains over 50 quotations from the Old Testament, showing how God keeps his promises. We see God's righteousness in the salvation of both Jew and Gentile.
- 4. In Christ, we are dead to sin** – Although we continue to sin, this sin no longer defines us. We are set free to live new lives, in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Law could not ultimately change us, but Christ can.
- 5. God's saving mercy transforms us** – In chapter 12, Paul starts to outline the practical implications of God's saving work. We offer ourselves as "living sacrifices", in lives of holiness, service and love.

## SOME READING ADVICE

This letter is filled with glorious truths and memorable verses. But some parts of the letter can be harder to follow. Don't be discouraged – even the apostle Peter said some things in Paul's letters are "hard to understand" (2 Peter 3:16)! If you struggle to follow the letter at any point:

1. **Pray** – The Bible has a divine author, and you can ask Him for help at any time!
2. **Read the verses again, and again** – It may be helpful to read them in another translation too.
3. **Focus on what you do understand** – The Lord still teaches us, even if we don't understand all the details.
4. **Chat with a friend** – Being church together means learning from each other. Who can you ask for insight?

### **Some extra resources that you might find helpful:**

- **BibleProject** – This has several helpful resources, including a video introduction (scroll to the bottom): [bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-romans/](https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-romans/)
- **The Gospel Coalition** – This has some good background information, as well as links to dig deeper: [thegospelcoalition.org/course/introduction-to-romans/](https://thegospelcoalition.org/course/introduction-to-romans/)
- ***Romans for You* by Tim Keller** – A helpful Bible study guide, available in paperback or eBook formats from The Good Book Company ([www.thegoodbook.co.uk](http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk))

## POSSIBLE READING PLANS

Paul's letter to the Romans is shorter than our previous two Books of the Month, with only 16 chapters. In order to get the most from your reading, you might find it helpful to either:

1. Read Romans twice across the month, one chapter a day;
2. Focus on a shorter section each day – there's a suggested 30-day reading plan below.

1:1–17

1:18–32

2:1–16

2:17–29

3:1–20

3:21–31

4:1–12

4:13–25

5:1–11

5:12–21

6:1–14

6:15–23

7:1–6

7:7–25

8:1–17

8:18–39

9:1–29

9:30–10:21

11:1–10

11:11–36

12:1–8

12:9–21

13:1–7

13:8–14

14:1–12

14:13–23

15:1–13

15:14–33

16:1–16

16:17–27