

The background of the image shows ancient Roman stone ruins. A prominent feature is a large, semi-circular stone archway. To the right, a stone cross is visible, partially overlapping the arch. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall composition is layered, with the text overlaid on the ruins.

ROMANS

Romans – The Christian faith perfectly explained.

- Romans answers virtually every question about life.
- Moral issues: where do perversion, hate, violence, and moral failure come from; where does *my* innate sense of right & wrong originate; how am I, too, guilty of these moral failures, and what do they do to me.
- Intellectual issues: who is God and can I know Him; does He care about me; why do evil & good exist; why do both seem present in me; what does God do with my moral failure; do I need forgiveness, and if so how do I acquire it.
- Social issues: why do I struggle with others; what is the secret to living peacefully with difficult people. what is my role in society.

Romans – The Christian faith perfectly explained.

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 - Psychological issues: what is guilt and how can I overcome it;
 - Spiritual issues: is there any hope for life beyond what I have now; do I possess a soul, and if so, what do I do with it; is there a difference between faith and religion; how can a good God allow evil and suffering.
 - Supernatural issues: are there spiritual forces at work that I am not aware of; what are they doing, and what do they want with me; what role do I have in this unseen activity.

1 This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News. 2 God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures. 3 The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line, 4 and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. 5 Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.

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Gk. – **doulos** a bond-servant;

one who chooses, without coercion, to live under the will of their master, disregarding their own interests.

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Our Values: (New Life Congregation)

1. God is in charge.
 - *This is how we see the world.*
2. We are all servants (**doulai**).
 - *This is how we see ourselves.*
3. Generosity distributes God's resources.
 - *This is how we see our possessions.*

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Gk. – **kletos** (root – kaleo) personally selected; called
out; summoned.

This letter is from Paul,

1. *a slave of Christ Jesus,*
2. *chosen by God to be an apostle, and*
3. ***sent out** to preach his Good News.*

Gk. – **aphorizo** to select for a specific purpose;
to appoint.

The Good News of God: (v.v. 2-6)

- *² God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures.*

The Point: The Old Testament has something to say ... and points to Jesus!

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- ³ *The Good News is about his Son:*
 - *In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line,*
 - ⁴ *and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

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- ***He is Jesus Christ our Lord!***

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 - **to tell** *Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them,*
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- ⁵ *Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles*
 - *to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them,*
 - *so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.*
- ⁶ ***And you are included*** *among those Gentiles who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ.*

Summary: The Gospel is Good News: (v.v. 2-6)

1. It was promised long ago by God.
2. It is about his Son:
 - He is fully human – a descendent of King David.
 - He is fully God – raised from death by the Holy Spirit.
3. His name is Jesus Christ!
4. He is for everyone ... all people, all nations, all of us.

... but what exactly is it that God has done for me?

- *Next Week!*