

# Romans - God's Heart Explained

Week #1: Let me introduce you to the Gospel.

September 08, 2019

Paul's letter to the Christians living in Rome is perhaps the most influential book of the Bible outside the four Gospels. Its influence lies in the way God's heart is explained, and how His heart powerfully interrupts our empty existence. The American Pastor, Charles Swindoll describes Romans as God's grace invading the sin-fueled storms of our humanity - a grace that puts an end to our emptiness by offering forgiveness, new life through Jesus Christ and hope both for this present life we live and what lies beyond.<sup>1</sup> More than any other book, Romans explains our depravity, God's holiness, Christ's redemption and what new life in Jesus really means. You cannot follow Jesus well without comprehending what Paul writes to the Christians in Rome.

Our Sunday teaching on Romans this fall will speak to some of these deep truths that we must grow familiar with: human depravity; justification through faith; sanctification in Christ; glorification in God. But the mind is never the target ... it's our heart that matters. So, while engaging our minds with the goal of renewing them, we will consistently target our heart - because God wants our affections not merely our assent.

## Study Questions:

### Read Romans 1:1:7

1. Pastor Ken said that Romans is one of the essential books within the Bible. It is the Constitution of the New Testament, and the Magna Carta of the Church.
  - What are your favorite books within the Bible? Why do you like them so much?
  - If you could only choose 3-4 books within the Bible to have, which would you choose and why?
2. Paul introduces himself as a servant, a slave, of His Master, Jesus Christ.
  - Why is this so important to learn at the very beginning of his Roman letter? How does it set the table for everything that he communicates to them?
  - Do you consider yourself a servant & slave to Jesus? If so, how would those around you understand this conviction you hold to? How does it dramatically change your outlook on life in Canada today? What kind of Master has Jesus been to you so far?
3. Read verses 2-4 again. The Old Testament is a big story that leads to Jesus.
  - Why is this story so important in setting up Christ's dramatic entrance into our world? How does the Old Testament explain the God's good news to you?
4. Read verses 5-6, noting already the key reason for God's good news: *belief; obedience; glory*.
  - What does believing obeying and giving glory to God look like?
  - Our congregational Mission Statement reads: *The mission of New Life Church is to love God by worshipping Him, serving others and making disciples.*
    - Does the mission we are embracing together agree with what Paul writes to the Romans? If so, how are we together doing as we work at our mission?
    - We also have the faith goal that each of us will baptize and disciple one person in the next 10 years. Does this desire also fit with what Paul is declaring?

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<sup>1</sup> Swindoll, Charles. Insight for Living Bible Study Guide: Romans 1-5. 1977, Insight for Living, Fullerton CA. Back cover.