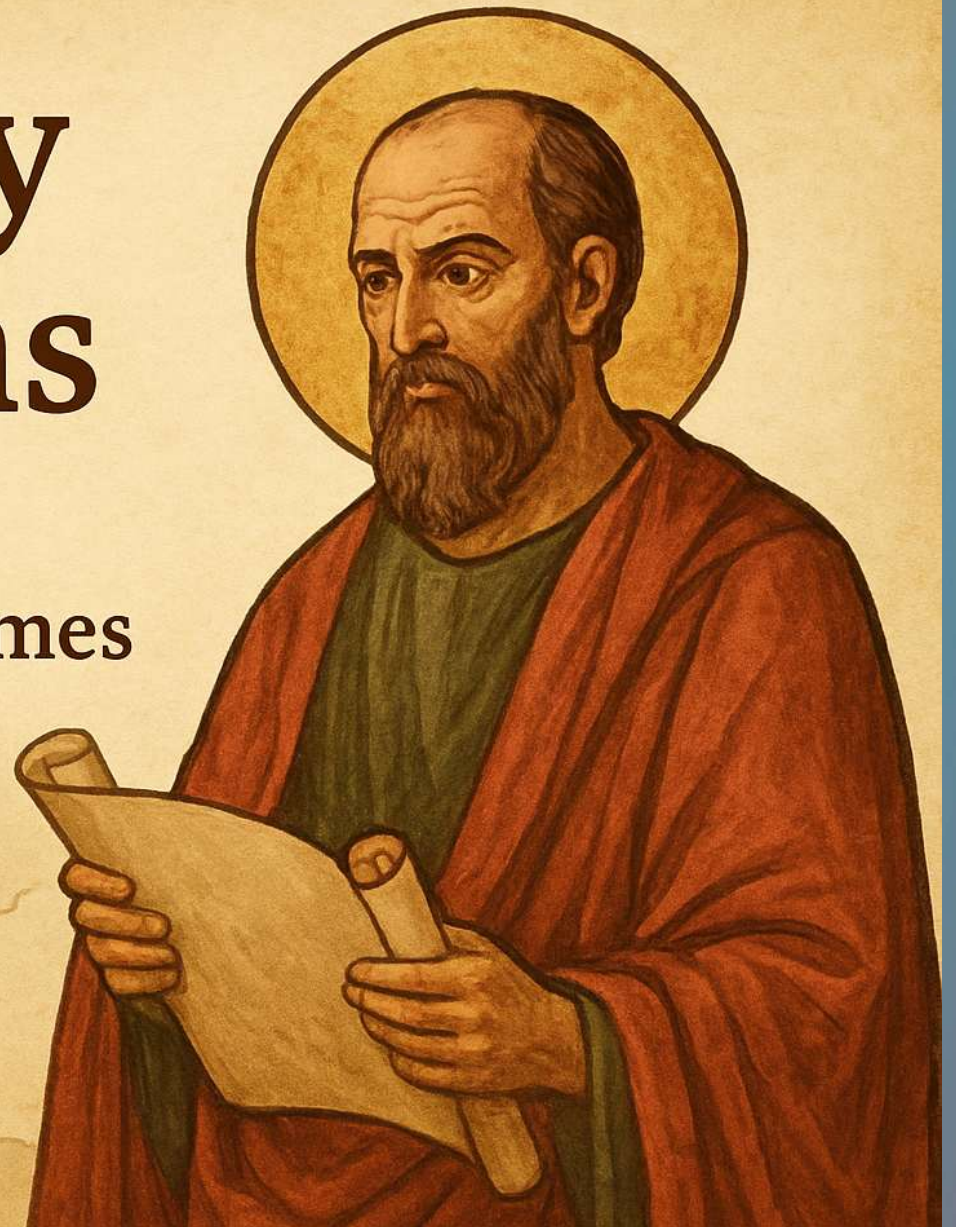


Summary of Romans

Historical Context,
Background, and Themes

ROME



Introduction



Romans = 'queen of the epistles'



Most systematic presentation of the gospel



Shaped Christian theology, sparked Reformation



Unlike other letters: not to a church Paul founded

Paul's Situation and Purpose

- Former Pharisee, persecutor, called as Apostle to Gentiles
- Wrote Romans ~AD 57 from Corinth
- Nero just became emperor; church in relative peace
- Purpose: mission trip (Spain), theological statement, appeal for unity
- Paul greets 26 people personally

Historical Context of Roman Church

- Founded likely by Jewish pilgrims at Pentecost
- Claudius expelled Jews (49 CE), Gentile-led church for 5+ years
- Jews return after Claudius' death → tension with Gentile believers
- Paul writes to resolve: Must Gentiles keep the Law?

Paul's Theological Response

- All are lawbreakers—Jew and Gentile alike
- Abraham justified by faith before circumcision
- Law shows sin but cannot save
- Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus
- God's covenant with Israel still stands; Gentiles included

The Big Idea of Romans

- Theme: God's righteousness revealed in the gospel
- Romans 1:16–17: salvation to Jew first, also to Gentile
- Flow: sin (1–3) → justification (4–5) → sanctification (6–8)
- Israel's role (9–11) → practical application (12–16)

Structure of Romans

- 1:1–17 – God has revealed the Good News - Introduction & Thesis
- 1:18–3:20 – God will judge all men - The Universal Problem
- 3:21–5:21 – God can save men from their sins - Justification by Faith
- 6:1–8:39 – God can keep us from sinning - Life in Christ
- 9:1–11:36 – God has His plans for Israel - God's Faithfulness to Israel
- 12:1–15:13 – God wants us to live a holy life - Practical Living & Unity
- 15:14–16:27 – God honors His people who serve Him - Closing

Main Themes

- The Gospel: salvation for all nations
- Justification by Faith
- Unity of Jew and Gentile
- God's Faithfulness
- Law fulfilled in Christ
- New Life in the Spirit
- Doctrine → Application

Conclusion

- Romans = theology + pastoral care
- Paul's mission + call to unity
- Unity through Christ, not cultural sameness
- Faith must shape daily life