

ROMANS – THE PUREST GOSPEL

Romans is a book that is important to the life of every Christian. Luther emphasizes the importance of Romans: “This letter is truly the most important piece in the New Testament. It is purest Gospel. It is well worth a Christian's while not only to memorize it word for word but also to occupy himself with it daily, as though it were the daily bread of the soul. It is impossible to read or to meditate on this letter too much or too well. The more one deals with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes.”(from *Luther: Preface to Romans*, PC Study Bible formatted electronic database Copyright © 2003 Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.) Romans is a life changing book as the lives of Luther, Augustine, and John Wesley attest. What makes this book so powerful and important? Paul in a very straightforward way deals with the subjects of sin, salvation, spiritual growth, the sovereignty of God, and spiritual service. We may ask these subjects are nothing new so what does Paul teach about these subjects that is different? Paul was addressing some possible tension between the Gentile and Jewish believers of Roman church. Paul was nearing the end of his third missionary journey and very much wanted to visit and work among the Christians at Rome. Being a prominent evangelist for Christ he became a target of false statements regarding the gospel he was preaching. Paul also wanted to open a ministry in Spain and was seeking to establish the church at Rome as his base of operations. To address these issues he penned the letter to the church at Rome and laid out the gospel in a clear and understandable way that has had great impact down through the centuries. Even though the letter is addressed to the Christians at Rome of the first century, the letter addresses the issues that the Christian church faces today. False doctrine is being taught in many churches, the influence of the evil world is strong, and Christians often struggle with living the Christian life. Paul's letter is very pertinent to us today and we can gain much from his Spirit inspired instruction. Come join us for a spiritually enriching study with much lively discussion.

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