

Comments About Romans 1

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's Web site, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Jan. 13, 2017.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At this time, I want to begin a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Romans. This week, we will talk about chapter 1.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Romans.

Paul's introduction

The apostle Paul began his letter with a quick review about his relationship with Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-6).

- Verse 1 has three bits of information—a servant of Jesus Christ, called an apostle (Acts 13:2 and Acts 14:14) and separated for the gospel of God.
- Verse 2 mentioned that God promised the gospel through the prophets in the Holy Scriptures.
- Verse 3 mentioned that the gospel was about the Son of God (Jesus Christ), who was born of the seed of David.
- Verse 4 mentioned that Jesus Christ was declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead.
- Verse 5 mentioned that people received grace and apostleship through Christ.
- In verse 6, Paul reminded the readers of the letter that they were the called of Christ.

Letter to Rome

In verse 7, Paul mentioned that the letter was addressed to people in Rome. These people were called "the beloved of God" and called "saints" (same verse).

Paul also called people saints in his letters to the following cities—Corinth, Ephesus, Philippi and Colosse.

Desire to visit

In the next section (verses 8-15), Paul mentioned about visiting them.

- He wanted to find a way to visit them (verse 10).
- He mentioned that he had often planned to visit them, but those plans had previously been hindered (verse 13).

■ He mentioned how he wanted to preach the gospel to those who were in Rome (verse 15).

Live by faith

In verse 16, Paul mentioned one of the important phrases in the letter (“for the Jew first and also for the Greek”) that is repeated later in the letter.

In verse 17, Paul quotes “The just shall live by faith” (which was taken from Habakkuk 2:4).

Wrath of God

The rest of the chapter (verses 18-32) deals with the wrath of God. Notice some of the concepts he mentioned.

- Ungodliness and unrighteousness (verse 18).
- God’s attributes are revealed by the creation (verse 20).
- Their foolish hearts were darkened (verse 21).
- They changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image of corruptible people and animals (verse 23).
- God watched them follow the lusts of their heart to dishonor their bodies (verse 24).
- They worshiped the creation more than the Creator (verse 25).
- God “gave them up” to vile passions (verse 26), and he proceeded to describe a particular “lust” (verse 27).
- God “gave them over to a debased mind” (verse 28).
- Paul proceeded to list over 22 characteristics (verses 29-31).
- Those who practice such things are worthy of death (verse 32).

Romans 11:32—“For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.”