



I am a Debtor

Romans 1:8-15

Why read Romans?

- 1st letter of NT
- _____ letter in ancient world
- Arguably the most important book of the _____
- Link to beginning of _____!!
- One of the most _____ book of Bible
- John Piper: “The Greatest Letter Ever Written”
- Similarity between Rome and _____

Why read Romans?

- 1st letter of NT
- **Longest** letter in ancient world
- Arguably the most important book of the **Reformation**
- Link to beginning of **Methodists!!**
- One of the most **quoted** book of Bible
- John Piper: “The Greatest Letter Ever Written”
- Similarity between Rome and **Singapore**

Quick facts and background

- Longest letter in ancient world (7000 words)
- Writing to church he didn't start & hasn't seen.
- AD55; Paul has planted a church in every province east of Mediterranean Sea.
- Preparing to go West – Rome, Spain
- Stuck in Greece: writes Romans.

Why Paul wrote Romans?

- First church in Rome was Jewish (cf. Acts 2:10)
- Claudius persecuted and throws out all Jews, e.g. Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:2)
- Small Gentile church left in Rome; Church grew
- Claudius died. Jews came back.
- Tension between the two: Jews and Gentiles.
- **Paul's primary intention was to get the two back into one fellowship in Christ.**

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9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,

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10 making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you.

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11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—

12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

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13 Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, *just as among the other Gentiles.*

Romans 1:8-15

14 I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.

15 So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.

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Acts 9:1-5

Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting ... "

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, **who loved me and gave Himself for me.**”

Philippians 1:21

“For to me, **to live is Christ**, and to die is gain.”

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Romans 11:1

I say then, has God cast away His people?
Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the
seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

Philippians 3:4-7

... If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in
the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of
the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin,
a Hebrew of the Hebrews;
concerning the law, a Pharisee; ...

I am a debtor ... I am ready to preach the gospel to you

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Acts 26:15-18

So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?'

And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from **the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith ...**'

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