

# ROMANS – FROM GUILT TO GLORY!

Week #1

## The Big Picture

This is where we are going to spend 21 weeks as we look at a book of the Bible called “*The cathedral of the Christian faith.*”

William MacDonald – Author of the Believers Bible Commentary – says that the book of Romans is “the most influential book in all the Bible.”

- Many would consider this to be Paul’s magnum opus (**greatest work**)
- Let’s look at the influence that the book of Romans has had on some great men of the faith.
  - St. Augustine of Hippo was a Roman African, early Christian theologian whose writings influenced the development of Western Christianity was converted through reading **Romans 13:13-14.**
  - The Protestant Reformation was launched when *Martin Luther finally understood the meaning of God’s righteousness* through **Romans 1:17.**
  - John Wesley, the English cleric and theologian who founded Methodism received assurance of his salvation after hearing Luther’s Commentary on Romans read in a Moravian house church on Aldersgate Street in London.
  - John Calvin, the French theologian, pastor and reformer in Geneva during the Protestant Reformation made this statement, “*When anyone understands this Epistle (Romans) he has a passage opened to him to understanding of the whole Scripture.*”

The question that we must ask this morning as we begin, as a Church Family, our journey through the book of Romans is this, “how will it impact my life?”

Any time that you decide to study a book of the Bible here are some key questions to answer:

**Who is the author:** For the book of Romans this question is an easy one – **Romans 1:1.**

- The Church Family in Rome had never met Paul, they no doubt had heard of him but look at his resume:

- Bond servant of Jesus Christ.
- Called an apostle.
- Set apart for the gospel of God.

**Who is the book written to:** That is a pretty easy question also – **Romans 1:7**.

**Why the book was written:** Paul’s primary purpose for writing the book of Romans was to teach the great truths of the gospel of grace to believers who had never received apostolic instruction (also Paul hoped to use Rome as a launching pad for future mission efforts)

- **To explain how God makes sinful people righteous.**
- **Romans 15:20**
- **Romans 15:22-25**

**When was the book written:** A.D. 56

**Hub Verse for Romans:** **Romans 5:1**

In the book of Romans Paul would use his usual “2-pronged approach” in his writing:

- Doctrine followed by duty.
- Theology followed by practice.
- Understanding followed by application.
- Believing followed by doing.

You could divide the book of Romans into 2 parts:

- **Chapters 1-11** shows us how God has revealed His righteousness in the world, and why that good news needs to be proclaimed.
- **Romans 12:1 - *Therefore***
- **Chapters 12-16** shows us how God’s righteousness should be lived out in our daily lives as followers of Christ.