

# Paul's Epistles – Romans 1-7

The New Testament \* Week 17 \* Opening Collect: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany, BCP 215

If you have questions from past weeks or your reading, email them to

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I. Purpose of Epistles (letters). Why Paul wrote.

A. To greet and stay in touch -- Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon

B. To address problems

1. 1 & 2 Corinthians

2. 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Galatians

C. To instruct, advise, and encourage – 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

D. To share, because he hadn't been there personally, yet – Romans.

II. Romans 1:1-7 – Foundations

A. Romans 1:4-5 – Son of God

B. “Grace” is “God’s divine influence on our heart, and its reflection in our lives.”

C. “Obedience that comes from faith.”

III. Romans 1:18-32 – Sad reality.

A. Romans 1:18-20 –enough evidence

B. Romans 1:21-23 – People don't just ignore God.

C. Romans 1:24-28 – If we reject God, he “gives us over”.

1. Truth

2. Sexual relations

3. Depraved mind.

D. Romans 1:29-32 – What a list!

IV.

V. And we are ALL on it! -- Romans 2-3

A. Romans 3:23 – ALL have sinned and fallen short. Deserve to die.

B. Romans 3:24-25 – But all may be justified, forgiven, saved, made whole by Jesus’ “atoning sacrifice.” “Atonement” = “at one ment.” Reconciliation.

1. Beat sin, death, and the grave. Ransacked hell! Set captives free!
2. Substitute sacrifice. Jesus died in my place.
3. Moral example.

VI. Romans 4-6 -- Grace continued

A. Romans 4 – “he believed, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” “Righteousness” = “right relationship with God and others.”

B. Romans 5 – “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

C. Romans 6 – Baptism

D. Romans 7 – Deep “do do”

1. Romans 7:1-6 -- In Christ we die to sin AND the law.
2. Romans 7:7-12 – Law defines sin, and prompts it. We are rebellious to the core!
3. Romans 7:15-23 – Do do verses!
4. Romans 7:24-25 – What a wretch! Thanks be to God. Chew on that!

Closing Collect: 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany, BCP 216

## Preparation for next week: Read Philippians

*Somehow Tom got mixed up and omitted Philippians! It's a short book, but a GOOD one! We'll get back on track next week.*