

Book 45: Romans

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. – *Romans 8:1 (NKJV)*

- First book of the Epistles or Doctrinal Books of the New Testament
 - 21 Epistles total
 - 9 from Paul to Churches
 - 4 from Paul to Individuals
 - 8 from Various Authors to All Believers in General. These are sometimes called the *General Epistles*

- Written by Paul in Corinth during his third missionary journey.
- Paul had not yet been to Rome.
- Delivered by Phoebe, who was a servant (deaconess) of the church in Cenchrea, near Corinth.
- Among others, Paul greets Priscilla and Aquila who are now back in Rome.

- Romans is the most influential doctrinal book in the Bible.
- Paul's most formal and systematic writing
- More than any other book it helps us to understand the righteousness that comes to us by faith.
- Three key words: **Law** – 78x, **Righteousness** – 68x, **Faith** – 62x

“Romans is the chief part of the New Testament, and the very purest Gospel. ... It can never be read or considered too much or too well; and the more it is handled, the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes.” – *Martin Luther*

“It opened the door to all the treasures in Scripture.” – *John Calvin*

“It is the greatest and richest of all the apostolic works.” – *F. B. Meyer*

Romans 7	Romans 8
I struggle to keep the law	I yield myself to Jesus
Battlefield: Self Effort	Battlefield: Empowerment
§ Combatants: Law of sin in the flesh vs. Law of the mind	§ Combatants: Law of sin in the flesh vs. Spirit of life in Christ Jesus
§ Outcome: I serve sin.	§ Outcome: The requirements of the Law are fulfilled in us.
§ Relating to God through an impersonal code	§ Relating to God personally through faith
§ “law” used 20 times § “I” used 22 times § “I do” used 14 times	§ “law” used 4 times § “Holy Spirit” used 20 times

Righteousness by Faith

- In baseball, a batter gets to first base not by focusing on the base, but on the ball as it is pitched.
- If he does that, he eventually hits the ball, turns toward first base and starts running.
- If he doesn't focus on the ball, getting to first will be impossible no matter how hard he concentrates on the base.

- In the same way we fulfill the law not by focusing on the law.
- We begin by focusing on our relationship with Jesus by faith.
- As we do this, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit within us. We then look towards God's will and start running.
- If we insist on focusing on the law, a righteous life will never be possible.

Romans Chapter 8

- Using this chapter as a starting point, consider how this chapter can encourage a struggling Christian regarding:
 - Power over Sin
 - God's Love for the Believer
 - The Role of the Holy Spirit in the Believer's Daily Life