



## Big Photo:

The Roman Colosseum—It was being built during Paul's lifetime.

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## Romans

Epistle of Righteousness

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## Martin Story: Me and Chuckie Brown



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## Basics:

- Author: Paul
- Recipients: Church of Rome
- Date Written: 57

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## Purpose:

- Preparation for coming visit to a church he had never been to
- System of Salvation--the whole Christian Faith in one book
- Describe the relationship between Jew and Gentile in our new Religion

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## Key Verse & Chapter:

- Key Verse: 3:22-24
- Key Chapter (Required Reading): 3
- "the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction; for all who have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus"ESV

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## TCF #1

- Systematic explanation of everything about Christianity
- Written to people he's never met with before, so he basically starts at the beginning
- The "Desert Island" Epistle for most Lutherans

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## TCF #1

- Luther: "This epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament, and is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day..." (LW 35:365)

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## TCF #1

- Luther, "In this epistle we...find...the things that a Christian ought to know, namely, what is law, gospel, sin, punishment, grace, faith, righteousness, Christ, God, good works, love, hope, and the cross; and also how we are to conduct ourselves toward everyone..." (LW 35: 380) from CSSB p. 1713

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## TCF #2

- 9:24-33 "What then shall we say?"--Paul uses these as part of his argument.
- Lots of OT Quotations
- "Although Paul regularly quotes from the OT in his letters, in Romans the argument is sometimes carried along by such quotations" (CSSB 1715)

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### TCF #3

- Shows concern for Israel and Jews--christianity won't be a Gentile-only religion
- Jewish Christians were being rejected and/or pushed around by Gentile Christians

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### TCF #4

- How would you describe Paul's Writing Style?
- 3: 1-9 **Scholarly, Logical**
- 5:1-5 **Persuasive, Passionate**
- 7:15-25 Always points toward Christ

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### TCF #5

- God's Plan for salvation and righteousness is the same, whether you are Jew or Gentile
- Justification by Grace through Faith, more clearly than anywhere else
- Follow this:

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### TCF #5

- 1:21-23 Humans turned away from God.
- 2:2 God punished humans.
- 3:22 God offered justification.
- 5:1-2 We live in a state of forgiveness.
- Chapter 12 ~~show~~ reflect, share God's love.

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## TCF #6

- Two interesting passages:
- 6:4 In baptism, our sins died on the cross We live dead lives, and become one of the people Christ died for when we are baptized.
- 9:3, "For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel..." --Paul would give up heaven for his fellow brothers. Would you?

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## TCFs

1. Whole NT in one book
2. Lots of OT quotations
3. Christianity is not Gentile-only
4. Paul's Writing is Logical, Christ-pointing
5. Clear JoGoF
6. Two Interesting Passages--Read Them!

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## Activity to Remember

Plan a Trip: Trace Paul's Journeys

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## Life Lessons from Romans

- According to ITBOTB, "Romans not only undergirds justifying faith in Christ but also serves as a guide for Christian living amid joys and sorrows. Chapter 8 is especially rich in comfort. Chapter 13 is a Biblical classic with regard to the Christian's relationship to government. Martin Luther calls Romans "the chief book of the New Testament and purest Gospel. The more one uses it, the more precious it becomes."
- Why is Romans the "desert island" book for many Lutherans?
- One thing the Bible is for is answering questions about life.
- What are you usually looking for when you're just paging through the Bible by yourself?
- What questions do you have that the Bible answers?

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