



EPISODE 5: ROMANS FEBRUARY 15

I. CONTEXT (FROM THE ESV STUDY BIBLE)

- a. The city of Rome was founded upon seven hills on the eastern shore of the Tiber River. Rome grew from a small city to an empire through its conquests of Italy (3rd century b.c.), Carthage in north Africa (3rd century b.c.), Greece and Macedonia (2nd century b.c.), western and northern Europe (2nd century b.c.–2nd century a.d.), and Egypt and much of the Near East (1st century b.c.). By Paul's day, the senatorial rule of the Roman republic had succumbed to a centralized empire under the leadership of Augustus (27 b.c.–a.d. 14), Tiberius (a.d. 14–37), Gaius (37–41), Claudius (41–54), and Nero (54–68).
- b. The Roman church probably began as a Jewish church, though it is not known exactly when it was established. Perhaps Jews from Rome returned from Jerusalem after Pentecost (Acts 2:10) and founded the church, or perhaps the church was established later. Some have suggested that Peter founded the church in Rome, but no significant evidence supports this premise.
- c. The focus on Jew-Gentile issues suggests that tensions existed between Jews and Gentiles in the church in Rome.

<u>Book</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Recipients</u>	<u>Place of Writing</u>
Romans	Paul	57	Church in Rome	Corinth

II. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE? – Partner and Pastor

- a. Missional Cooperation in Partnership and Presentation of the Gospel
 - i. Romans 1:11–12 (ESV): ¹¹ *For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—* ¹² *that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine...*

- ii. Romans 15:24 (ESV): ²⁴ *I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.*
 - iii. Romans 10:13–15 (ESV): *For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” ¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”*
- b. Yet in this, he is still the pastor (12-16) and can’t help pastoring.

III. WHAT IS POWERFUL (DOCTRINE)?

Key Themes (from the ESV Study Bible)

1. All people are sinners, therefore all, without exception, need to be saved from their sin.	1:18–3:20; 5:12–19
2. The Mosaic law, though good and holy, cannot counteract the power of sin.	2:12–29; 3:9–20; 5:20; 7:1–25; 9:30–10:8
3. Through the righteousness of God, sin is judged and salvation is provided.	3:21–26; 5:12–19; 6:1–10; 7:1–6; 8:1–4
4. With the coming of Jesus Christ, the former age of redemptive history has passed away and the new age of redemptive history has begun.	1:1–7; 3:21–26; 5:1–8:39
5. The atoning death of Jesus Christ is central to God’s plan of salvation.	3:21–26; 4:23–25; 5:6–11, 15–19; 6:1–10; 7:4–6; 8:1–4
6. Justification is by faith alone.	1:16–4:25; 9:30–10:21
7. There is a certain hope of future glory for those who are in Christ Jesus.	5:1–8:39
8. Those who have died with Christ and who enjoy the work of the Holy Spirit are enabled to live a new life.	2:25–29; 6:1–7:6; 8:1–39
9. God is sovereign in salvation; he works all things according to his plan.	9:1–11:36
10. God fulfills his saving promises to both Jews and Gentiles.	1:18–4:25; 9:1–11:36; 15:8–13

11. The grace of the gospel calls Christians to personal holiness, mutual service, good citizenship, and wholehearted neighbor-love in Christ.	12:1–13:14

- a. The **eternal plan of God for the salvation of sinners.** (see 1:15-17)
- b. The Righteous Shall Live by Faith: Romans 1:15–17 (ESV): ¹⁵ *So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.* ¹⁶ *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.* ¹⁷ *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”*
 - a. *Sola Fide* (How is Grace appropriated? (Gotten, claimed, acquired— how do we get it? Only by faith in Jesus Christ)
 - b. “Abraham believed and it was accounted to him as righteousness.” (Genesis 15:6)
 - c. Romans 4:18-5:2
 - d. Salvation by Faith alone depends upon the Faithfulness of God Alone (*Sola Gratia*)

IV. WHAT IS PROBLEMATIC (CONTROVERSIAL)?

- a. The Sovereignty of God and Predestination
 - i. 8:28-30: ²⁸ *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.* ²⁹ *For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.* ³⁰ *And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*
 - ii. 9:15-18: ¹⁵ *For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”* ¹⁶ *So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.* ¹⁷ *For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”* ¹⁸ *So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.*
 - iii. 9:19-24: ¹⁹ *You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?”* ²⁰ *But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?”* ²¹ *Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?* ²² *What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,* ²³ *in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—* ²⁴ *even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?*

- iv. 11:33: ³³ *Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!*
- b. Jews and Gentiles in the Body of Christ (Future of the Jews)
 - i. Paul's selection of themes (gospel and law; the significance of Abraham; the future of Israel) suggests significant tensions between the Jews and Gentiles in Rome. Paul wrote Romans so that they would be united in the gospel he preached, and so that they would comprehend how the gospel spoke to the issues that divided them.
 - 1. Can one be right with God through obeying the law (Rom. 1:1–3:20)?
 - 2. What can be learned from Abraham, and is he the father of both Jewish and Gentile Christians (4:1–25)?
 - 3. What role does the law play with reference to sin (5:20; 7:1–25)?
 - 4. What does the salvation of Gentiles indicate about the future of Israel as God's people (9:1–11:36)?
 - 5. Should Christians observe OT food laws, and how should they relate to fellow believers on such matters (14:1–15:13)?
 - c. Phoebe the Deacon: Romans 16:1–2 (ESV): *I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae, ² that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.*
 - d. Submission to Authorities (13:1-14) ¹ *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.*

V. WHAT IS POETIC (THE RHETORICIAN-- JUST BEAUTIFUL)?

- a. *Because...because...because...because...because!* (Gar...For)
- b. The DIATRIBE. A dialogue with hypothetical questioners or opponents; as part of that, question-and-answer constructions, sometimes catechism-like in effect; use of questions or hypothetical objections as a transition to the next topic.
 - i. Romans 6:1–2 (ESV): *What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?*
 - ii. Romans 6:15 (ESV): *What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!*
 - iii. The best of these leads into the most poetic part of the letter.
 - 1. Romans 7:7–25 (ESV): *What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. ... ¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. ...¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and*

making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

C. CHAPTER 8

- i. Romans 8:15–39 (ESV): *¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”*
- ii. *²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.*
- iii. *²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.*
- iv. *²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*
- v. God’s Everlasting Love: *³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ...³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

VI. WHAT IS PERSONAL AND PRACTICAL?

- a. Appreciation and greetings to coworkers in the gospel (16:1–23)—People matter in the ministry
- b. The establishment of churches among the Gentiles (15:14–33)
- c. Travel plans and the offering

VII. WHAT IS PRAYERFUL (THE PART HE PRAYS TO GOD)?

- a. Romans 15:30–33 (ESV): *I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, ³¹ that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ³² so that by God’s will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. ³³ May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.*

VIII. PASTORAL SUMMARY

- a. Back to Chapter 7: The Struggle with Sin and the Faithfulness of God
- b. The Comfort of our Justification through faith
- c. Romans 5:1–8 (ESV): Endurance in Suffering. ...³ *Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,* ⁴ *and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,* ⁵ *and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.* ⁶ *For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.* ⁷ *For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—* ⁸ *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- d. God’s Righteousness in Everyday Life (12:1–15:13)
 - i. Total dedication to God (12:1–2)
 1. Romans 12:1–2 (ESV): *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.* ² *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*
 - ii. Marks of the Christian community (12:3–21)
 1. Romans 12:3–5 (ESV): *For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.* ⁴ *For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,* ⁵ *so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*
 - iii. Romans 12:9–21 (ESV): Marks of the True Christian
 1. ⁹ *Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.* ¹⁰ *Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.* ...¹⁹ *Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”* ²⁰ *To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”* ²¹ *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*
 - iv. Time to Wake Up! (13:11-14) ¹¹ *Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.* ¹² *The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.* ¹³ *Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.* ¹⁴ *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*

- v. A call for mutual acceptance between the strong and the weak (14:1–15:13)