

INTRODUCTION

Romans 1:1-17 sets the stage for the rest of the letter. Major themes include the Gospel, Jesus as the Son of God, righteousness, and justification. This one-page guide offers information for your consideration, and is to be supplemented by our group study guide, *Romans: 18 Studies for Individuals and Groups*, by N.T. Wright. Complete pages 9-14.

ROMANS 1:1-17

We can break this section of the letter into three segments without losing a sense of either Paul’s intention or the flow of the letter. Each segment reveals a different aspect of Paul’s heart and theological convictions. Be sure to visit the supplemental study guide, as noted above.

Romans 1:1-7 → Greeting

Paul’s heart

A sense of purpose from understanding who he is in Christ Jesus. (Identity in Christ)

Theological conviction

- Jesus is Lord.
- God at work through the ages.
- Grace for faith (belief) & work (action).

Romans 1:8-15 → Ready for Rome

Paul’s heart

Committed to the Gospel.
A desire to visit Rome.

Theological conviction

- God anoints and employs for service.
- God orders/arranges our path.

Romans 1:16-17 → Intro to Righteousness and Justification

Paul’s heart

Willing to be and do as the Gospel compels.

Theological conviction

- Salvation is available to all.
- Faith in Christ avails God’s righteousness.