

**Exegetical Paper: Romans**

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Paul explained that we share in Christ's sufferings and this means that we will also share in His glory. All present sufferings because of being one with Christ are insignificant compared to the glory that will come. Those who are with Christ know that the pains of this world will pass and something greater is waiting. According to Romans Chapter 8, people who are with Christ are victorious. Because God is larger than everything, those who are with Him need not be afraid of anything else in the world. I chose the Book of Romans because knowing and understanding the depth of this truth through my research will not just help me apply it to my own life but enable me to inform my future clients, my brothers and sisters in Christ as well as non-believers that they are also free from a life of condemnation. Every child of God deserves salvation.

### **Interpretation**

Romans 8:26-30 describes our livelihood as Christians, both past and present. As children of God, we are co-heirs with Jesus Christ in the kingdom of heaven. We go through our earthly lives patiently waiting in hope for the day to come in which we no longer have to suffer the hardships and pains of this life. In these verses, Paul acknowledges that even Christians remain weak in the flesh spiritually, emotionally as well as physically. As we become weak in these areas, our faith also dwindles and our resilience to overcome our fleshy nature also falters. Paul reiterates that it is the help of the Holy Spirit that enables us to overcome these weaknesses, along with utilizing the power that comes with prayer. Paul describes God as the father and explains that the father and spirit are eternally connected. The spirit forms are unspoken groanings of our hearts toward God into prayers that conform to God's will. Romans 8:28 provides a comforting promise for Christians: saved believers who have placed their trust in Jesus Christ, stating that for those who love God, all things work together for good and that

they are also called according to his purpose. Retrospectively, this verse cannot be applied to non-Christians or to those who reject God. They do not express their love for God by coming to him through faith in Jesus. Romans 8:28 provides comfort in the understanding that nothing in this life of waiting is wasted time and effort. Our pain and suffering are also not in vain.

Romans 8:29 speaks on the notion that Christians did not simply stumble into a relationship with God. Paul begins by saying that Our Calling to serve God's purpose was pre-designed for us way before we were born. The word "foreknew" means that God knew each Christian before we knew of him. God's purpose for us has always been that we should become like Christ. God has predestined, determined, appointed, and ordained us in our purpose way in advance. Much like the previous verse, in Romans 8:30, Paul mentions that those who are predestined by God (which includes every one of us) serve a purpose and that we are also justified. To be justified by God is to be made right by him period since we are unable to justify ourselves because of the sins we commit, we can only be justified through our faith in Jesus Christ. Being justified by faith in Christ means that we are also glorified.

### **General Historical Context**

Paul the apostle was a disciple of Jesus Christ who wrote the book of Romans. However, before he became a disciple he was known as a man named Saul who was tremendously zealous for his religious beliefs and Jewish traditions. As a result, he launched a prosecution against all who believed in Jesus. After his conversion from Saul to Paul, he dedicated his time to writing about the grace of God from both experience (Acts 9:1-19) and his training and education (Acts 22:3). Paul's work was fundamental because of his role as a prominent apostle of Christianity during the initial spread of the gospel throughout the Roman Empire. Not only did his works make up a significant part of the New Testament, but he became one of the most influential writers in Christianity.

Citizens of the Roman Empire during this time with comprised of both Jewish and non-Jewish residents. The people during this time obeyed the laws of the Torah and based on where the church in Rome was, the language of commerce and culture would have been either Latin (in the West) or Greek (in the East). the people of this time were very cosmopolitan; cultures and ethnic groups mixed freely. it was during this time that the apostle Paul discovered just how divided the Roman church was because of such customs. The Roman Empire at the time Claudius had expelled all the Jewish people from Rome. However, after some time, approximately 5 years after they were initially kicked out, all of the Jews (including Jesus-following Jews were allowed to return). Unfortunately, upon their return, they discovered that the church had then become very non-Jewish in custom and practice which created a lot of tension. Many believed in polytheism which is the belief in many gods. They also practice idolatry and worship many things that were not of God. because Paul was a Roman citizen himself he had a unique perspective on many of the things that were going on during this time. He saw the chaos that was unfolding right before his eyes and therefore the purpose of Paul's writing at the time was so that he could introduce himself to the believers in Rome and enlist their help in spreading the gospel. He wanted to develop and defend the truth of the gospel. Paul's goal was to preach the good news to the people in Rome. His goal was to bring the good news so that he could present the people as an acceptable offering to God. The good news was intended to be spread not just to the Jews but to the gentiles as well, allowing those who have never heard of Jesus Christ the opportunity to hear about him and get to know him and understand him for themselves.

### **Purpose**

Paul informs the people that the good news instruction them on how God makes everyone righteous in his sight by faith. In this particular letter, Paul expresses God's anger toward sinful and wicked people. He pinpoints how many have suppressed the truth by their

wickedness and that they know the truth because God had made it obvious to them, however, they continue to do wicked things. They have turned to worshiping idols and altars instead of worshipping God. Their minds have become dark and confused, participating in every kind of wickedness from sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, malicious behavior, gossip as well as sexual immorality. Paul also expresses that no one is righteous, not even the Jews that obey the law, and that the righteous are those that believe in God and follow his commands by faith. Paul informs the people that they will be judged for every sin and wickedness committed. He reiterates that all people are sinners, that no one is born without sin, and that the law was placed to show sinners just how sinful they are.

Throughout time God has remained faithful to his promises, even as we have remained unfaithful to him. God gave up his only beloved son for our sins to be right with him. Jesus Christ frees us from the penalty of our sins because he shed his blood on the cross. This act shows God's faithfulness when he held back and did not punish those who had sinned. God declares that it is only when we have faith that we truly fulfill the law. We are saved from God's condemnation because of Jesus Christ and the power of sin is broken. Although we are no longer bound to the law God still uses the law to expose our sins.

### **Abraham's Good Faith**

Abraham was the founder of our Jewish nation. He believed in God and God counted him righteous because of his faith. God made a promise that Abraham to give him the whole earth because of it, making him the father of many nations. Despite his challenges, Abraham's faith did not weaken, even in his old age of approximately 100 years old. As a result God also blessed Sarah's womb and he was able to bore a son named Isaac. Abraham's faith said the blueprint of how we ought to look at God and come into a relationship with him. There are many benefits of faith. By standing in good faith, we can look forward to sharing God's glory. We can

run into problems and situations and we can look to God for hope during those situations. We can also look at it as God helping us to develop character and endurance through those particular situations. Our confidence strengthens and our hope for salvation increases.

### **God's Declarations and Conditions**

God declares that those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about the things that please the spirit and contrary to those who are controlled by the flesh those people can only think to satisfy their fleshy desires. Allowing the spirit to control your mind leads to life and peace. We are adopted and our children to our heavenly father. We are also coheirs in the Kingdom of heaven alongside Jesus Christ. Share with him everything even his glory and suffering. Nothing can separate us from God's unconditional love when we are led by the spirit. In this truth, we can also know that God declares salvation for everyone. He guarantees mercy for everyone and everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Despite Israel's many mistakes and disobedience to God.

God requires us to live a life sacrificed unto him. In doing so, he works to transform us from the inside out by the way we think, behave, and feel. When we allow this to happen we also learn God's will for our lives. In turn, he will also grant us many spiritual gifts that we can use to serve him and others. Under his commandments, we are obligated to respect authority; everyone must submit to governing authorities For they are his servants sent for our good. We are also obligated to love our neighbors and our enemies just as we love ourselves without criticism or judgment.

### **The Meaning of Grace**

The word grace shows up in the book of Romans approximately 24 times. The word grace is described as a gift for a blessing. Grace is given to all by Jesus Christ. Grace is described as God's favorite to move on in life with the ability to see another day. Grace opens doors of gratitude and thanks. Grace is described as kindness and more chances. In Greek lexicons, the word grace is described as that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, time, and loveliness. Grace is the favor given to us by God. It is described as the spiritual condition of one governed by grace and it is the capacity and ability given to us so that we may do all things because of it.

The book of Romans was written around 57 A.D. To believers, most of them Gentiles, in Rome. Some of the features illuminated in the text speak on the glorification of believers and explore the theme of the relationship between their glorification and the sufferings that they presently experience along with everyone else because of sin. Individuals back then were involved in polytheistic culture and rituals that were set on worshipping idols as well as many gods. They were essentially bound by the laws of the land which held them captive and unable to access the glory and justification of their one true God. The separation they experienced from God as a result of their sin and religious customs caused them to live in a world of confusion and repeated disobedience.

The Pauline letters to the Romans during this time aided in understanding the costumes of polytheistic and paganistic cultures at the time. Paul's letters were a desperate plea to the Romans to change their ways and lean on to their one true God. They had essentially turned their backs away from God and began worshipping things that were not of God and so the apostle Paul was on assignment to spread the good news about their Messiah to encourage them to turn from their wicked ways and to seek God. He wanted them to come into alignment with God's will and purpose for their lives. He intended to show them the true way of salvation through having faith in Jesus Christ. The Bible speaks about the Spirit helping us in our

weakness. Calling on our Father and the Holy Spirit through prayer for our needs and concerns brings us closer to God and eternal salvation. Other passages speak about allowing the spirit of our father to intercede and speak on our behalf. Similar examples come from Matthew 10:20; Galatians 4:6; John 14:16; Ephesians 2:18 etc. Over the years Christians have come to know the sovereignty of God. Because of the love that God has for us, he sent his only beloved son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sins. The book of Romans is essentially the blueprint of our salvation in having eternal life with Jesus Christ in the Kingdom of heaven. It is the instruction of the things we ought to that would give us hope in experiencing that eternal life and giving us the opportunity to share in and the glorification of all the things we have suffered in this natural life that will soon come to pass.

## **Conclusion**

My research as it pertains to the book of Romans has influenced my understanding of the cultural customs that took place during a time in which people did not know the true meaning of salvation in Jesus Christ. We are no longer condemned for our sins because of our faith in Jesus Christ. We now have access to eternal life and we have a bloodborne right to have a relationship with our heavenly father because of the sacrifice you did for us to pave the way. Paul the apostle was able to deliver this same good news to the people of Rome and to all who were willing to receive it just like us. Knowing and understanding the depth of this truth through my research will not just help me apply it to my own life but enable me to inform my future clients, my brothers and sisters in Christ as well as non-believers that they are also free from a life of condemnation no matter what they have done or no matter what their past may have looked like.

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