
Calvary Church: Coordinated Curriculum 2007-2008

Romans: The Transforming Power of the Righteousness of God

To prepare for class read: New Testament review of Old Testament Acts 7 and Acts 13:13-43 and Paul's summary of story of Jesus Acts 24:10-21 and Acts 25-26

Introduction

The first two lessons are for the background and introduction to the book of Romans. In these lessons we will seek to understand flow of the New Testament and where Romans fits in, as well as seeking to know the author of Romans, Paul, better.

Goal

Our goal is to survey the New Testament, to seek to understand the **flow**, the unique **structure** and some of the **connections**. *We do this because we want to know God better.*

Incremental Revelation

Let me start with *presuppositions*. While not technically part of a survey of the Bible, it is necessary.

I have two fundamental presuppositions, God exists and He revealed Himself through the Bible. This self-revelation is done progressively or better *incrementally*. Therefore we must understand the whole of His revelation and its sequence. The Bible was not given as a systematic theology or as isolated stories, but as an incremental revelation of God's dealing with humanity. The Bible contains actual reliable records of people and events in history.

Route 66

The Bible covers the whole span of history from the creation of the heavens and earth and to the re-creation of heavens and the earth. The writing of the Bible occurred over:

1. 1,500 years
 2. 66 books
 3. 40 generation
 4. over 40 authors
 5. 3 languages (Hebrew, some Aramaic, and Koine Greek—common languages, by which God's revelation can be understood by men.)
 6. 3 continents (Asia, Africa, Europe)
- With such great diversity the Bible still possesses a single
7. 1 message
 8. 1 God
 9. 1 Lord

The Old Testament looks forward to Him

The New Testament reveals Him and looks back and forward to Him

The Bible was written by real people, for real people, containing actual events and reliable truth.

Message of the Bible

But, if the Bible has **one** message what is it? (That question will be discussed and answer in class)

If we approach the Bible from the perspective of God's purpose, putting the focus on God, it helps us prevent elevating ourselves beyond our own importance. As we read the Bible, we find a Sovereign God who has a plan.

God has a Plan

The plan comes out of His character—loving, merciful, and gracious, but also holy, just, and perfect.

Man has a need

The need comes out of man's character

The Bible provides the story for how God's plan meets man's need for God's glory, through the central figure who is Christ.