

## The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

### Romans Overview:

- I. Letter Introduction (1:1-17)
- II. Letter Body: Exposition of the Gospel and its Implications (1:18-15:13)
- III. Letter Closing (15:14-16:27)

### Romans Overview:

Q: Why did Paul write Romans?

- to establish the Christians at Rome in *his* gospel as the apostle to the Gentiles

<sup>14</sup> And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.

<sup>15</sup> But I have written very boldly to you on some points so as to remind you again, because of the grace that was given me from God,

<sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, so that *my* offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

(Romans 15:14-16)

### Why Romans?

1. Not because they were ignorant or immature
  - Paul gives three marks of their spiritual maturity:
    - *full of goodness*: always doing good for others
    - *filled with all knowledge*: comprehensive grasp of the Christian faith
    - *able to admonish one another*: instruct, correct, warn, reprove in order to produce change

### Why Romans?

2. To encourage and strengthen them in the gospel
  - he wrote to remind them of certain important truths and implications of the gospel
  - *mature Christians need the gospel continually!*

## Why Romans?

### 3. As part of Paul's apostolic responsibility

*<sup>13</sup>I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles. <sup>14</sup>I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. <sup>15</sup>So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. (Romans 1:13-15)*

## Why Romans?

### 3. As part of Paul's apostolic responsibility

- he has a God-given responsibility for these Gentile Christians in his gospel ministry
- Paul pictures himself as a priest, using the gospel as the means by which he offers the Gentiles as a sacrifice acceptable to God
- we are acceptable to God by the sanctifying work of the Spirit through the gospel