



A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF *ROMANS*

Paul longed to take the message of Christ to the rest of the world. His desire was to:

- *Spread the good news of Jesus to the entire Asian world including the Roman Empire.*
- *Get to Rome and tell of Jesus love in the great land of the time.*

Why was Rome on his mind:

- *Paul loved the Roman citizens and wanted to see them come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Many Roman citizens came to the realization that Jesus was the Messiah and that He did do as He said He would...He arose from the grave and is living today. Paul wrote to the Roman churches, its members and those that loved the Word as he did.*
- *He was adamant about the Roman churches professing, confessing and proclaiming the same message that had inspired him to have zeal and stamina to “press toward the mark of the high calling of God.”*
- *Paul stated several times in his letters that his interest was in going to Rome. He was shipwrecked, imprisoned, beaten, starved, and even was bitten by a deadly poisonous snake...but he never failed to long for one more soul to win.*
- *He wanted to have his time in court to present his case to the highest authority in the land...the case that Jesus was the Messiah prophesied in the Book of Isaiah and other prophetic writings. He knew...because he experienced an encounter with the righteous one...the healer, the omnipotent one, the King of King and the Lord of Lords. He had encountered the Son of God...and it changed his life.*

The book of Romans is not about the journey to Rome or about the Roman soldiers or politicians. The book of Romans is a letter to the Roman Christians. A letter challenging the Roman Christians to “present their bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God” which to Paul, was a reasonable and normal thing to do. Because if God loved us so much that He gave His Son to die for each person...including Paul (a wretched sinner), then why should living holy be such an unreasonable service for anyone?

The letter to the Church in Rome provides intricate details of Paul’s desire to increase the knowledge of the Christian message to the Roman converts and to those that needed to be saved.

The Book of Romans

As we study the Book of Romans, let's look for passages that stir our hearts to make us a better and more knowledgeable worshipper of a Holy God and a Savior who loves us so much.

Of all forms of literature, a letter is most personal. Everyone reveals his own soul in a letter.

Because Paul left us so many letters, we feel we know Paul so very well.

To read a letter is like listening to one side of a telephone conversation. Therefore, when we read the letters of Paul we are often at a quandary. Why? Because:

- *We do not possess the letter which he was answering;*
- *We do not fully know the circumstances with which he was dealing.*
- *Before we can hope to understand fully any letter Paul wrote, we must try to reconstruct the situation which produced it.*

Most ancient letters contain the following sections (a pattern)...

- *There is a greeting.*
- *There is a prayer for the health of the recipients.*
- *There is a thanksgiving to the god(s)....or God.*
- *There are the special contents.*
- *There are the special salutations and personal greetings....*

Nearly all of Paul's letters fall in this pattern. The Book of Romans is one of those:

- ✓ *The Greeting....Romans 1:1*
- ✓ *The Prayer....Romans 1:7*
- ✓ *The Thanksgiving....Romans 1:8*
- ✓ *The Special contents....The main body of the letters*
- ✓ *Special Salutations and Personal Greetings....Romans 16*

Paul's letters were very personal. They were written as a friend to a friend.

One other thing we must note about Paul's letters. Paul did what most people did in his day. He did not normally pen his own letters but dictated them to a secretary, and then added his own authentication signature. We do know one of those people who did the writing for him...

In Romans 16:22, Tertius, the secretary, slips in his own greeting before the letter draws to an end.

- ✓ *When Paul dictated an epistle to a scribe, he always provided a mark of authenticity at the end, a signature of sorts:*
- ✓ *"I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand, which is the distinguishing mark in all my letters. This is how I write" (2 Thessalonians 3:17).*
- ✓ *"I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand" (1 Corinthians 16:21, ESV).*
- ✓ *"I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand" (Colossians 4:18).*

- ✓ *“I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand” (Philemon 1:19).*
- ✓ *“See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand!” (Galatians 6:11).*

When Paul composed his letters, he had in his mind’s eye a vision of the folk to whom he was writing, and he was pouring out his heart to them in words that fell over each other in his eagerness to help.

The Occasion of Paul’s writing to Rome:

1. Paul had been haunted by the thought of Rome all his life as a Christian. It had been one of his dreams to preach there.

“After I have been there, I must also see Rome” (Acts 19:21). Even in threatening situation in Jerusalem, Paul had one of those visions which always lifted up his heart. The Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage, Paul. For as you have testified about me at Jerusalem, so you must bear witness also at Rome.” (Acts 23:11) Paul’s desire to see Rome breathes out in Romans 1:11, “I long to see you that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong.....”

Romans 1:15, “That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome.”

2. He was to bring to a conclusion a scheme/plan that was near to his heart.

He wrote the letter to the Romans sometime in 58 A.D. while he was in Corinth. His plan was to help the poor saints in Jerusalem. They were very poor, and he wanted the younger churches to give to the saints in Jerusalem because:

- ✓ *It was an opportunity for his younger converts to put Christian charity into Christian action.*
- ✓ *It was the most practical way of impressing on all Christians the unity of the Christian Church, of teaching them that they were not members of isolated and independent congregations, but one great Church, each part of which had a responsibility to all the rest. “At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem with aid for the saints” (Romans 15:25).*

The Objective of Paul’s Writing

Paul was going to Jerusalem where he knew that there was strong opposition, even danger for his life. He desired the prayers of the Roman Church before he set out on this expedition (Romans 15:30,31)

He was mobilizing the prayers of the Church before he embarked on this perilous undertaking.

Paul wanted to carry the Gospel message to new regions....especially Spain and Rome (Romans 15:24; 15:28)

Great men were in Spain and Rome....Lucian, the epic poet, Quintilian, the master of Roman oratory, and many others known worldwide. He wanted the opportunity to tell them of Christ Jesus. If he could win one of these great men, he knew that Christianity would be enhanced. As far as we know, Paul never got to Spain.

His base to get to the far regions was to be in Rome. He wanted to address the King and great men...for he knew that if he could just present Christ to them, they would listen...and be saved.

The Layout of the Letter....to the Romans

Romans falls into four (4) definite divisions:

- 1. Chapters 1-8, which deal with the problem of righteousness.*
- 2. Chapters 9-11, which deal with problem of the Jews, the chosen people.*
- 3. Chapters 12-15, which deal with practical questions of life and living.*
- 4. Chapter 16, which is a letter of introduction for Phoebe, and a list of final personal greetings.*

- 1. When Paul uses the righteousness, he means a right relation with God. The man who is righteous is the man who is in a right relationship with God, and whose life shows it.***
 - ✓ *The Jews had not solved the problem of righteousness because they sought the problem by meticulous obedience to the law.*
 - ✓ *The Gentiles did not solve the problem of righteousness. For we only have to look at its decadence and corruption to know it (Romans 1 and 2).*
 - ✓ *So, Paul finds the way to righteousness in the way of utter trust and utter yieldedness. We fall on the mercy of God...and trust (faith) that God knows what is best for us in the final plan for our eternal state.*
- 2. The problem of the Jews was a torturing one. They are God's chosen people...but are a stubborn people who opened the way for the Gentiles to come into the Kingdom...not by favoritism, but by mercy...by adoption...by being grafted branches into the root.***

Somehow...it was all God's doing. We find the plan in the plan...Give people reason to want more of God.
- 3. In the 12th Chapter of Romans, Paul lays down the ethical character of the Christian faith. In the 14th and 15th Chapters, Paul makes it clear that no man should ever do anything to hurt the conscience of a weaker brother or to put a stumbling block in his way. His whole point of view is that we must never do anything which makes it harder for someone else to be a Christian.***
- 4. The 4th section is a recommendation on behalf of Phoebe, a member of the Church at Cenchreae, who is coming to Rome. The letter ends with a list of greetings and a final benediction.***

From very early times the Church felt that Romans was so great an expression of the mind of Paul that it must become the possession not of one congregation, but of the whole Church body.

With this...we start our study in what men have always thought...that the book of Romans was the quintessence of Paul's gospel.



TWO-EDGED SWORD

1. Psalm 149:6

Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand,

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

2. Proverbs 5:4

But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

3. Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

4. Revelation 1:16

He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

5. Revelation 2:12

The Compromising Church

“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

The "two-edged sword" in the Bible, particularly in Hebrews 4:12, symbolizes the powerful and penetrating nature of God's Word, which discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Biblical Reference

The primary reference to the "two-edged sword" is found in Hebrews 4:12, which states: "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart". This verse emphasizes the effectiveness of God's Word in revealing truth and discerning the inner workings of human hearts.

Symbolism and Interpretation

1. *Dual Nature: The metaphor of a two-edged sword represents both condemnation and restoration. It highlights how the Word of God can cut through deception and reveal sin, leading to conviction and the need for repentance. At the same time, it offers healing and restoration through forgiveness and grace.*

2. *Power of God's Word: The imagery of a sword signifies the power and authority of Scripture. Just as a sword can cut through physical barriers, God's Word penetrates spiritual barriers, exposing hidden thoughts and intentions. This ability to discern is crucial for spiritual growth and understanding one's relationship with God.*

3. *Application in Spiritual Warfare: The "two-edged sword" is also seen as a metaphor for the spiritual weaponry available to believers. In Ephesians 6:17, the Word of God is referred to as the "sword of the Spirit," indicating its role in spiritual battles against evil.*

Conclusion

The concept of the "two-edged sword" in the Bible serves as a powerful reminder of the transformative and discerning nature of God's Word. It encourages believers to engage with Scripture actively, allowing it to shape their thoughts, actions, and relationship with God. By understanding both its convicting and restorative power, individuals can experience spiritual growth and deeper intimacy with their Creator.