

## Lesson 7 – Romans/1-2 Corinthians Craig Crawshaw

The first three letters of Paul in the New Testament, ROMANS, 1 CORINTHIANS and 2 CORINTHIANS are the “doctrinal giants” of Paul’s letters, and are appropriately placed first in the letters of the New Testament. (Note: the first of the non-Pauline letters is the “doctrinal giant” of Hebrews)

These three are placed first in the letters of the Bible because of:

- **LENGTH** - They are the longest of the letters of Paul (16,16,13 chapters respectively) Paul’s letters to the churches come first, longest to shortest; then his letters to individuals, longest to shortest
- **CONTENT** - They are the letters that best teach the gospel message of salvation, appropriately following the historical records of Jesus and the early church

### Remembrance Aid

**Romans – Righteousness** This book teaches how to be RIGHT with God

**1-2 Corinthians - Conduct** These books teach key lessons on CONDUCT as a follower of Jesus, also correcting wrong conduct

## ROMANS

✓ **Romans is Paul’s treatise on Habakkuk 2:4**

*Habakkuk 2:4 Behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith.*

This is the verse that so captivated Martin Luther, and ultimately caused what we now know as the Protestant Reformation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Luther called Romans “the masterpiece of the New Testament.”

Paul quotes Habakkuk 2:4 at the outset of Romans, stating his premise and purpose:

*Romans 1:17 For in [the gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous man shall live by faith.”*

Paul, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, interpreted the Habakkuk passage as teaching how a man is to be right with God, namely by nothing but faith. Martin Luther interpreted it the same way.

✓ **Romans best teaches us “how to be saved”**

The gospel of John best DEMONSTRATES the way of salvation and the book of Romans best TEACHES the way of salvation.

✓ **Romans is divided into DOCTRINE and PRACTICAL APPLICATION**  
(chapters 1-11 & 12-16) - as is true of most of Paul’s letters

For the conclusion of our lesson today, I will show you the “Romans Road” – the way of salvation threaded so clearly through the book. These will be the key verses in Romans relating to salvation.

For now, let me offer some other key doctrinal teachings from this “magnus opus” of Paul.

### KEY DOCTRINAL TEACHINGS IN ROMANS (I offer 7)

✓ **GOD IS EVIDENT IN CONSCIENCE and CREATION**

*Romans 1:19-20 ...That which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.*

✓ **HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOR IS UNNATURAL AND DEGRADING**

*Romans 1:26-27 ...God gave them over to degrading passions, for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire towards one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.*

✓ **A TRUE JEW IS ONE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*Romans 2:28-29 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the*

flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit ...

✓ **ALL MANKIND IS AFFECTED BY “ORIGINAL SIN”**

**Romans 5:12** Therefore, just as through one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death through sin, so death spread to all men, because all sinned.

✓ **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN EVERY BELIEVER**

**Romans 6:9** ... You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

✓ **OUR SALVATION IS PART OF A DIVINE PURPOSE**

**Romans 8:28-30** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son ... and whom He predestined, these He also called, and whom He called, these He also justified, and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

✓ **ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED AFTER THE GENTILES HAVE THEIR CHANCE**

**Romans 11:25-26a** For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, ... that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles has come in; and thus all Israel will be saved ...

✓ **The two Corinthian letters are Paul’s answer to conduct issues within the church**

## **1 CORINTHIANS**

### **1. FACTIONS IN THE CHURCH** (chapters 1-4)

**1 Corinthians 1:10** Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

**1 Corinthians 1:18** For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**1 Corinthians 3:1-3** And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ. ... For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

### **2. IMMORALITY AND TEMPTATIONS** (chapters 5-11)

**1 Corinthian 5:1** It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father’s wife ...

**1 Corinthians 6:12,19-20** All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in our body.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

### **3. MISUSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS** (chapters 12-14)

**1 Corinthians 12:1, 7, 13** (1) Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. (7) But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (13) For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body ... and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 13:1-3** If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels ... and have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries ... and have all faith as to remove mountains ... and give all my possessions to feed the poor ... but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

**1 Corinthians 12:12** ... Since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church.

### **4. MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THE RESURRECTION** (chapter 15)

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

**1 Corinthians 15:20-22** But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.

**1 Corinthians 15:51-52** Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

## **2 CORINTHIANS - answering many questions of faith** (chapters 1-9) (I offer 7)

### **1. THE ROLE OF AFFLICTION IN COMFORTING OTHERS**

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

### **2. SANCTIFICATION: OUR TRANSFORMATION INTO THE LIKENESS OF JESUS**

**2 Corinthians 3:18** Now we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

### **3. THE REALITY OF AGING AND LIFE AFTER DEATH** (chapters 4-5)

**2 Corinthians 4:16** Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

**2 Corinthians 5:1** For we know that if the earthly tent, which is our house, is torn down, we have a building from God, a house, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

**2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

### **4. THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST BECOMING SIN FOR US**

**2 Corinthians 5:21** He [the Father] made Him [the Son] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

### **5. THE WRONG OF MARRYING OUTSIDE THE FAITH**

**2 Corinthians 6:14** Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

### **6. THE JOY OF SACRIFICIAL GIVING** (chapters 8-9)

**2 Corinthians 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

**2 Corinthians 9:6-7** Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.

### **7. GOD'S STRENGTH THROUGH OUR WEAKNESS** (chapters 10-13)

**2 Corinthians 12:9-10** And He [Jesus] has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ... When I am weak, then I am strong.

**2 Corinthians 13:4** For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we shall live with Him because of the power of God directed toward you.

## **ROMANS ROAD TO SALVATION** (one verse from each chapter)

Verses from the New American Standard Bible

1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to every one who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

2:4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

4:5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness.

5:8 But God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

9:16 So then it does not depend on the man who wills, or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

10:9 That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.

11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

12:1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another, for He who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

14:12 So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.

15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

16:27 To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.