

Lecture 23 – Romans: Addressees & Flow of Thought

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” Romans 1:16-17

Key Terms

Righteousness as justification, righteousness as sanctification, the question of Israel, hortatory section, community life

Objectives

- *Memorize an outline of Romans.
- *Explain what is meant by ‘righteousness as justification.’
- *Explain what is meant by ‘righteousness as sanctification.’

Romans: Addressees & Flow of Thought

I. The Addressees of Romans

A. Romans 16

1. Paul knows much about this church.
2. Priscilla and Aquila are back in Rome after the expulsion of AD 52.

II. Church in Rome

- A. Predominantly Gentile
- B. Mostly lower class

III. Outline of Romans

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|-------------------------------------|---------|
| A. Introduction | 1:1-15 |
| B. Thesis statement | 1:16-17 |
| C. Righteousness as justification | _____ |
| D. Righteousness as sanctification | _____ |
| E. The question of Israel | _____ |
| F. Hortatory section | _____ |
| G. Concluding remarks and greetings | _____ |

IV. Flow of Thought in Romans

Careful and systematic development, thesis is in 1:16-17

A. Righteousness as justification (Rom. 1:18 - 5:21)

Seems like bad news – some people skip this in favor of a “victorious life” understanding

1. The human condition
 - a. Man tries to ignore the fallenness of his condition
 - b. Paul exposes the depth of fallenness
 - c. Rom. 1:18
 - d. The judgment of God is that He lets you succeed in your evil desires
2. Justification
 - a. Rom. 3:21
 - 1) We all have lost our way, but God has revealed His righteousness.
 - 2) Atonement of Christ and universal significance
 - b. Rom. 4:1-25
 - 1) Abraham as the father of the faithful
 - c. Rom. 5:12-21
 - 1) Grace

- 2) Through Adam's fall, we are part of this situation.
 - 3) Paul presents God's view of our situation and points to the way out.
 - 4) We have to understand our situation before we can understand the mercy and grace of God in our justification and sanctification.
- B. Righteousness as sanctification (Rom. 6-8)
1. New life needs to grow out of our justification.
 2. Our old self can only be overcome by letting it die.
 3. We overcome evil by yielding to God's discipline.
- C. The Question of Israel (Rom. 9-11)
1. Election as selection (9:1-29)
 2. Image of the potter and the clay
 3. Israel's rejection of God's righteousness (9:30-10:21)
 4. Hope for the people of Israel (11)
 - a. Verses 1-10
 - 1) A remnant is chosen by grace
 - b. Rom. 11:23: Regrafting
- D. Hortatory section (Rom. 12:1-15:13)
1. Transition (Rom. 12:1)
 - a. Use of the word 'therefore'
 2. Revolves around God's mercy
 3. Statements of God's intent for your life
 4. From _____ on to _____
 5. A life from love (Rom. 12:2-13:14)
 6. Accept one another (Rom. 14)
 7. The example of Christ (Rom. 15:1-6)
- E. Concluding remarks and greetings (Rom. 15:14-16:27)
1. An expression of community life, not just a list of names
 2. Because of community, we help each other to grow.