

RIGHT THROUGH ROMANS (1-8)

(Today's New International Version, arranged for four readers)

(a) section for group study (b) section to read (c) section to skim (but not skip!)

1

INTRODUCING THE THEME (1:1-17)

1:1-6 Paul a servant of Jesus Christ (a)

- ALL ¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus,
A called to be an apostle
B and set apart for the gospel of God—
C ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the
Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son,
D who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David,
A ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son
of God in power by his resurrection from the dead:
ALL Jesus Christ our Lord.
C ⁵ Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the
Gentiles to faith and obedience for his name's sake.
B ⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to
belong to Jesus Christ.

1:7-13 Paul greets the Romans (b)

- ALL ⁷ To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:
D Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus
Christ.
A ⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because
your faith is being reported all over the world.
B ⁹ God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is
my witness how constantly I remember you ¹⁰ in my prayers at all
times;
C and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me
to come to you.
D ¹¹ I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to
make you strong—
ALL ¹² that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's
faith.
B ¹³ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I planned
many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so
until now)
A in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had
among the other Gentiles.

1:14-17 What the gospel is all about (a)

- C ¹⁴ I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the
wise and the foolish.
D ¹⁵ That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who
are in Rome.
B ¹⁶ I am not ashamed of the gospel,
ALL because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone
who believes:
A first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.
B ¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—
C a righteousness that is by faith from first to last,
D just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."
ALL "The righteous by faith will live."

CONFRONTING THE SITUATION (1:18-32)

1:18-25 How the human race has gone wrong (a)

- A ¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of human beings
 B who suppress the truth by their wickedness,
 C ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them,
 D because God has made it plain to them.
 A ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities
 C —his eternal power and divine nature—
 A have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made,
 ALL so that people are without excuse.
 B ²¹ For although they knew God,
 D they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him,
 C but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.
 B ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools
 A ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God
 C for images made to look like mortal human beings and birds and animals and reptiles.
 ALL ²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts
 D to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.
 A ²⁵ They exchanged the truth about God for a lie,
 C and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator
 ALL who is for ever praised. Amen.

1:26-27 How sexual relations have gone wrong (c)

²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

1:28-32 Examples of the dark side of humanity (b)

- A ²⁸ Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God,
 D so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.
 ALL ²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity.
 B They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice.
 C They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters,
 D insolent, arrogant and boastful;
 B they invent ways of doing evil;
 A they disobey their parents;
 C ³¹ they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.
 B ³² Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death,
 D they not only continue to do these very things
 ALL but also approve of those who practise them.