

Introduction to Life

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 1:1-7.
- B. Romans is a book with which every Christian should be familiar.
- C. Many of the greatest Christian theologians have been shaped by Romans.

II. Introductory material.

- A. The letter was written between AD 56-57 in Corinth.
- B. The heart of the letter is the theme that Jesus is Lord.
- C. The great truth from which all others flow is union with Christ—that is, Christ in you.
- D. The gospel is the message about Jesus that is given by the apostles to the Christians.

III. Christ is the promised one presented to us.

- A. He is presented to us in His humanity.
- B. He is presented to us in His deity.
 - 1. He came by miraculous power.
 - 2. He came by the Spirit of holiness. Holiness is wholeness.
 - 3. The resurrection of Jesus—the unshakable fact that God has broken into our times.

IV. Christians are...

- A. Called by God.
- B. Loved by God. The proof of this is that two things are constantly given to believers by God—grace and peace.
- C. Characterized by their faith.
- D. Characterized by prayer.
- E. Strengthened by spiritual gifts.

V. Paul as an apostle.

- A. He is called and set apart.

B. An apostle is obligated to call people out for the obedience of faith.

C. Paul was eager to preach the gospel in Rome—that is, the great facts about God that make us whole.

VI. The gospel.

A. The gospel is power to do the things that man cannot do otherwise.

B. We need never be ashamed of the gospel because of this.

C. The gospel gives us worth before God.

D. The gospel is by faith—it is something that meets our needs all throughout our lives.

Application questions:

1. Describe the gospel. Why is it not just important for conversion?

2. Which characterization of the Christian stands out to you? Why?

3. How would you defend the deity of Christ before someone questioning it? Explain.
