

Romans

Church History Comments

Impact of Romans huge—key book on Christian doctrine

Augustine

Luther

Wesley

Barth

Paul the apostle

Birth--Tarsus

3 Cultures

Jewish religiously--Phil 3:5, Acts 22:3f

Roman politically—Acts 22:25ff

Greek culturally—Acts 17:28; 1 Cor 15:33

Characteristics: upright (Acts 23:1), intellect (Gamaliel, 2 Pet 3:16), will (2 Cor 11:23f), compassion Rom 9:3, physically--Thecla.

One person can make a difference

Romans

Date: 57 AD; 3MJ from Corinth

Authorship: Paul

Purpose: uniqueness

Coming to them—1:11ff

Needs support for Spain—15:28

Major Issue: Jews & Gentiles

Propositio: Rom 1:16-17 main point—gospel

Gentiles grafted in to olive tree 11:13, 17

Greetings: Rom. 16

Jewish: Herodion, my relative, Priscilla...

Women: Junias—apostle—16:7

Phoebe—servant, carrying letter, receive her—16:1

Tertius: amanuensis—16:22

Basically: neither Jew/Gentile, male/female, bond/free

Rom. 12:1-2 sacrificial system reoriented to personal piety

Romans' Themes: Hamartiology

Rom. 1-3 on Sin: How do you tell if something is right or wrong? Rom. 1:18, 32; 12:9

Sin—how do we get rid of the notion of sin?

Victim, my parents, my genes, society, pushback—hypocrites, psychological, relativism, tolerance, freedom, love, second chance, supports our ideology

Importance of separating: cultural & transcultural

General External Revelation—1:20 no excuse

Does God ever give up on people?—1:24

Are we better? No; sin→ repentance; cf. Rom 1:29-32;

2:4 kindness of God leads to repentance

Modern difficulty with the wrath of God because of moral issues—propitiation, anger appeased 1:18; 2:5f

Gentiles sinful Rom 1:28-32; spiral down

Jews sinful 2:21; 3:20-22

Romans' Themes

Total Depravity – hamartiology

What's the problem with "Total Depravity"? Rom 3:9

Gentiles sinful – Rom. 1

Jews sinful (Rom 2): Jews as foil to Christians?
sin/grace; law/faith/works; flesh/Spirit

All sinful - Rom. 3:9f; 20

Rom 1:16f Major theme—new way
not human need/sufficiency,
movement beyond Judaism

How do you get rid of sin: repent /confess/ forgive
or deny/hide/rationalize/accept/defend/advocate

Justification by Faith – sola Fidei

Is sola Fidei a man made doctrine made up by Martin Luther? –Rom 1:16; 5:1; 10:8-9; Gal. 2:16

Careful on the sola—James 2:21ff; Rom 2:6f; Mat 25 sheep/goats; Mat 7:7; Mat 12—who is my brother and sister?

Soteriology Terminology

Justification, 5:1 –legal term (regeneration)

Redemption, 1 Pet. 1:18f—debt term

Atonement, 3:25—covering, substitutionary, 5:8

Propitiation, 1:18—appease wrath

Expiation; 1 Jn. 2:2--cleanse

Reconciliation 5:10; 2 Cor 5:18ff--enemies

Adoption: Rom 8:18ff—family term

Sole fidei? cf. James 2:24, 1 Jn. 3:9; Mt 25

Paul's view of Law

Old view: Jews as foil to Christianity: legalism/grace, law/faith, flesh/spirit, individual salvation

New View: Dunn/E.P. Sanders; law as exclusion
/separation versus inclusion –group salvation

Rom 7:12 law good

Rom 3:28, 20, 22 law –expose sin not goodness

Abraham justified when uncircumcised; 4:9

Adam—universal sin; 5:12, 20—all dead/all live

Law not a means of justification—misuse

Sanctification

Is perfection possible? Mat 5:28 be perfect.

Paul's struggle – Rom 7:21ff

Four approaches

Unbeliever's struggle—pre-Christ days

Young believer's struggle

Struggle in the flesh outside the Spirit

Mature believer's struggle—Normal Xn life

2 Cor 10:5 every thought captive

Election – Predestination

Election

Rom 8:28-29

Eph. 1:4

Rom 9:11 Jacob/Esau; Jer 1:5; 1 Pet 1:2

Problems (see below)—Puritan terror: am I chosen?

Human choice and divine election?

Hyper-Calvinistic Hard determinism—Ultra-Reformed position – good part = sovereignty of God

All divine → problems --whosoever will passages

Contingency or Lucky Calvinists -reformed

Oxymoron/Antinomy/Paradox –

TULIP Calvinism

TULIP

T otal Depravity –image of God in people

U nconditional Election: predestination based in divine choice, nothing in us -- whosoever believes

L imited Atonement: Christ died for the elect, 1 Jn 2:2

I rresistible Grace: God irresistibly calls the elect-Choice

P erseverance of the Saints—eternal security; once saved always saved; --fall away? Solomon, Israelites

Election – Predestination cont.

Arminianism – foreknowledge → predestination, prevenient grace open to all.

Openness – future open and unknown even to God, pros/cons. We partner with God. God choses some for special tasks—Paul, Isaiah, Jeremiah but not everything specified...open to possibility,

Election/Rejection of Israel not individualized in Rom 8-11 –point is to show building of God's grace from 9 → 11 (Doxology: 11:33ff).

Some difficulties

Rereading Romans 9-11 Election of Israel/Gentiles as groups

Problem of evil

Problem of prayer

Problem of God changing His mind

Stories of choice—Moses, David

“If” passages --Saul

Invitations seem open to all

Reflections

Systems and boxes: knowing and not knowing—yet wonder/mystery

Transcendence and immanence

Holy other – relational

On breaking boxes and heretic hunting

On arrogance and humility Isa 40:28

Importance: sovereignty of God 8:39f/ choice 2:4

Christian Living

Rom 12:1f—self-sacrifice, transforming the mind,

Hating evil 12:9

Overcoming evil with good 12:21

Government – Rom 13—submit to gov.

Christian Liberty: Weaker Brother – Rom 14