# Bible Study 46

# Wednesday June 29, 2022

 The Letter to the Romans (continued)

The letter to the Romans is such an important document for the Early Church. Paul is the scholar who first begins to make sense of the meaning of Christ’s life and how it fulfills the Old Testament prophecies.

Paul has longed to go to Rome for some time. He knows its importance as the capital of the Roman Empire and a steppingstone to Spain.

Chapter one: he condemns the wicked evil ways of man, in the light of God’s goodness. In Chapter 2, he speaks of God’s judgment. God is truth, and his judgment is based on truth not man’s inability to see truth. Unrepentance and stubbornness is no excuse for ignoring God’s love and goodness. For the first time Paul speaks of the reward of ‘eternal life’ for all who choose good.

Reject the truth, choose evil, you will only receive God’s wrath and anger. Evil doers, Jew or Gentile will find trouble while the good inherit peace honor and glory. Therefore obey the law of God. Do not just recite and know it but practice it. Do not say: “Because we are Jews we have the law and will be saved.” You must keep the law and all that it teaches. Circumcision means nothing if you do not keep the law of Moses.

As for the Gentiles even if they are not circumcised and keep the law then they are right with God. Who dare condemn them? You cannot be a Jew in name only; you must live that Judaism by your words and conduct.

Chapter 3: what does it all mean? Is it important that we were born Jews? Did God have a plan? God is faithful, we men are sinners. Turn away from God and live in sin and corruption but God stays faithful. This we know. It is we who must move our hearts and seek after righteousness.

Once we depended so much on the law. Now we know that there is a righteousness to be found outside the law. Whether you are a Jew or a Gentile we all belong to the human race and all fall under the spell of sin. We all need saving. That is why we need Jesus Christ. He is the one who makes us righteous. He was the sacrifice that atoned for our sins.

God is not the God of Jews only but the God of all, the God of Gentiles.

Read Chapter 2 & 3