

STRUCTURE

Romans 1:1–7 is the “salutations” of Paul’s letter.

1. Paul (the author) identifies himself (1:1)
2. Paul identifies the gospel he preaches (1:2–6)
3. Paul identifies his letter’s recipients (1:7a)
4. Paul extends blessing to his letter’s recipients (1:7b)

UNIFYING THEME

As he opens his letter to the church in Rome, the apostle Paul revels in the gospel with respect to his personal experience of its power (v. 1), its essence as good news of the triune God (vv. 2–6), and its effect among those who believe it, including the church receiving his letter (v. 7).

AUTHOR’S AIM

As Paul introduces himself and “his” gospel and extends God’s blessing to his letter’s recipients, he aims to begin demonstrating the incomparable, all-embracing power of God’s gospel to save (holistically!) everyone who believes, from all the nations.

Teaching Outline:

In **Romans 1:1–7**, we discover:

1. The **proof** of the gospel’s power (**1:1**)
 - a. Revolutionized self-understanding
 - b. Revolutionized commission
 - c. Revolutionized ambition
2. The **profile** of the gospel’s essence (**1:2–6**)
 - a. Its origin (*not man-made*)
 - b. Its attestation (*not an afterthought*)
 - c. Its substance (*not mainly about you*)
 - d. Its purpose (*not just for select nation(s); and again, not mainly about you*)
3. The **privilege** of the gospel’s people (**1:7**)
 - a. Belonging (*called to belong to Jesus Christ; in Christ, belonging to one another*)
 - b. Beloved (*beloved by God*)
 - c. Abiding (*called to be saints—once-for-all sanctified by the indwelling, abiding Holy Spirit*)
 - d. Abounding (*abounding in grace and peace from God the Father and Son*)
4. The **pitch**: Take hold of the gospel of God. Believe his promise. In every area of your life, give yourself to Christ Jesus our Lord as his glad bondservant.