**Romans 1-4**

**Romans 1:16-18**  16  For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith." 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth.

**Introductory Questions: (discuss with 1-2 others)**

What is RIGHTEOUSNESS?

What is the WRATH OF GOD?

What is FAITH?

**Outline of Romans 1-4 (**[**www.enterthebible.org**](http://www.enterthebible.org)**)**

**I. Greetings and Thanks (Romans 1:1-17)**
Paul sends greetings to "God's beloved in Rome." He gives thanks for them and their faith, known throughout the world, and speaks of the gospel as God's power of salvation.
 **II. The Revelation of the Wrath of God (Romans 1:18-3:20)**
In the style of a diatribe, Paul declares that the wrath of God is being revealed against Gentiles and Jews alike, so no one can boast before God. God's judgment is universal and impartial.

**III. The Revelation of the Righteousness of God (Romans 3:21-4:25)**
Since God has sent God's Son into the world, crucified and risen, the righteousness of God (that is to say, God's saving power) has been revealed, by which human beings are justified purely by accepting the good news by faith. Abraham is an example of how a person is justified by faith, that is, by believing God's promises.

**Reading notes:**

1. Pay attention to audience – Paul is writing to a group of Christians that come from both Pagan and Jewish backgrounds. Is one of these groups more favorable to God?
2. Notice both what the words communicate and the effect of the words. Especially in 1:18-23.
3. How does Paul use the key terms that are listed above?

**SKIM** **the Introduction:** Romans 1:1-15 – How does Paul introduce himself? What else do you notice?

**READ Romans 1:16-32**

1:17 – how does one become righteous? How do you obtain faith?

1:18-32 –Who is the wrath of God revealed against?

What other questions does this passage stir up in you?

**READ Romans 2:1-16**

What is Paul saying in this passage?

What does this passage “do” to you?

**Summary of Chapter 2:17-3:20**

Paul goes to great lengths to show that Jews (himself included) are also guilty of breaking the law. Paul also redefines circumcision and the Jewish relationship with God on Spiritual terms rather than outward expressions of law keeping.

**Romans 2:29**  29 Rather, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly, and real circumcision is a matter of the heart-- it is spiritual and not literal. Such a person receives praise not from others but from God.

**READ Romans 3:21-31**

What are some Old Testament references that Paul is using?

What is Paul communicating to you in this section?

**READ Romans 4:1-3 & 4:13-23**

How did Abraham become Righteous?

How are we connected with Abraham (and Sarah)?

TERMS: (From Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms)

Righteousness: An attribute of God’s being; God’s right and just character, actions and judgements. God’s righteousness as understood in a covenantal context includes God’s right judgment of both God’s own people and those who oppress them.

Wrath of God: The free, subjective and holy response of God to sin and to the evil and wickedness exhibited by creatures in opposition to God.

Faith: A biblical word that refers both to intellectual belief and to relational trust or commitment.