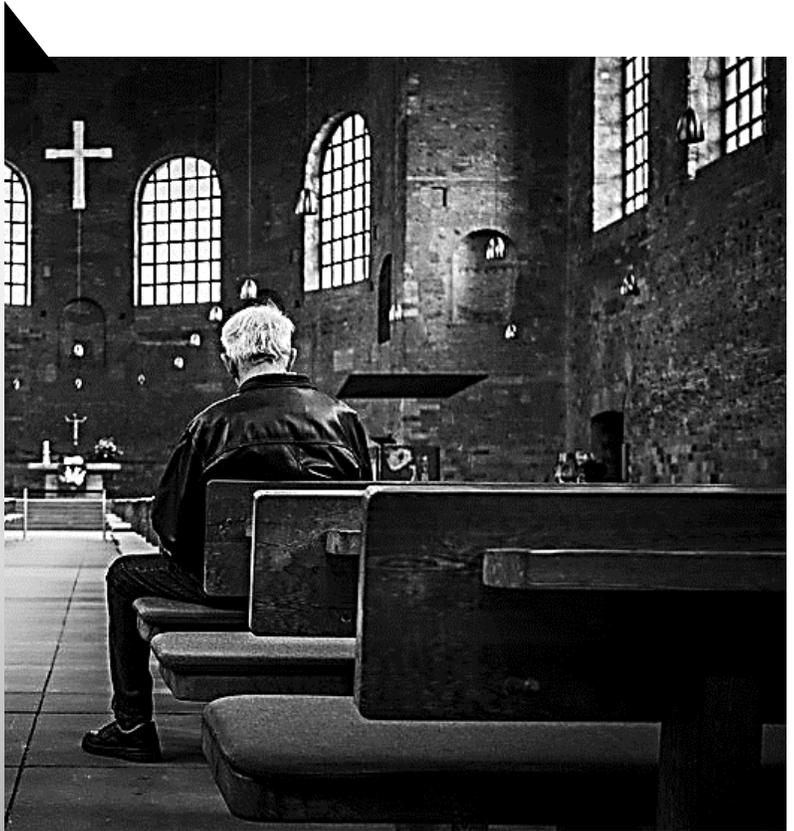




St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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The Epistle of Romans

The Justification of the Ungodly

Introduction:

Martin Luther once wrote of Romans, saying,

“It appears that Paul wanted in this one epistle sum up briefly the whole Christian and evangelical doctrine, and to prepare an introduction to the entire Old Testament.”

Thus, it could be succinctly stated that when we study the book of Romans, we learn what the Gospel is and how to read the Old Testament properly.

Before we examine the contents of Romans, let us pause and examine some of the background information about Romans.

Date Written: 55 A.D.

Words: 7,111 Words

Author: The Apostle Paul

Recipients: Christians in Rome

Context:

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome before visiting them in 62 A.D.

Other Notes:

Epistles are Letters, not sermons. They follow the conventions of ancient letters.

Luther On Romans:

“One had better follow the order of this epistle. Worry first about Christ and the Gospel, that you may recognize your sin and his grace. Then fight your sin, as the first eight chapters have taught. Then when you have reached the eighth chapter and are under the cross and suffering, this will teach you correctly of predestination and how comforting it is. For in the absence of suffering and the cross and the perils of death, one cannot deal with predestination without harm and without secret anger against God.

[Luther continued from page one...] The old Adam must first die before he can tolerate this thing and drink the strong wine. Therefore beware that you do not drink wine while you are still a suckling. There is a limit and an age of every doctrine."

Key Words to Know when Studying Romans:

Wrath: anger of God incited by sin.

Original Sin: sin that has been passed on from our first parents, Adam and Eve.

Sin: anything that we think, say, or do that violates God's Law.

Concupiscence: man's inclination to sin, which is brought about by the original sin.

Justify: to declare right, or to free.

Atonement: an event between the Father and Son.

Justification: an event between God and us.

Grace: God's generous mercy to ungodly people.

Faith: trust (a gift of God); it clings to and receives Jesus.

Predestination: the teaching that God elects mankind to be saved from the foundation of time.

Sanctification: Latin "Sanctus" (meaning holy). Being made holy.

Simultaneously Sinner & Saint: the Christian after conversion is seen as the following: 100% old man/100% new man, or 100% flesh/100% spirit, or 100% outerman/100% innerman.

