

Intro to Romans

— Student Team Training 26 September 2020 —

1. Introduction

“This epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament, and is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. It can never be read or pondered too much, and the more it is dealt with the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes.”

Martin Luther, *Preface to the Epistle to the Romans*

In groups: compare and contrast the bookends of Romans. 1.1-7; 16.25-27. What do you think will be some of the key themes and ideas in the letter?

2. The Frame (1.1-17, 15.14-16.27)

a) Context

From Paul

1.1-5; 15.19b-20, 23-24, 28; 16.1-2 (C.f. Acts 20.2-3)

To the church in Rome

1.8-10; 15.14; 16.3-16, 17-19 (C.f. Acts 18.2)

b) Theme Sentence

1.16-17

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

3. The Body

a) The heart of the gospel: justification by faith alone (1.18-4.25)

Universal problem

Universal solution

Pray it in...

b) The benefits of the gospel: life in the Spirit (5.1-8.29)

A certain hope

A new humanity

What about the law?

The new way of the Spirit

A certain assurance

Pray it in...

c) The defence of the gospel: the sovereign mercy of God (9.1-11.36)

Paul's anguish

God's sovereign choice

God's sovereign grace

God's sovereign plan

Pray it in...

d) The outworking of the gospel: communities transformed by love (12.1-15.13)

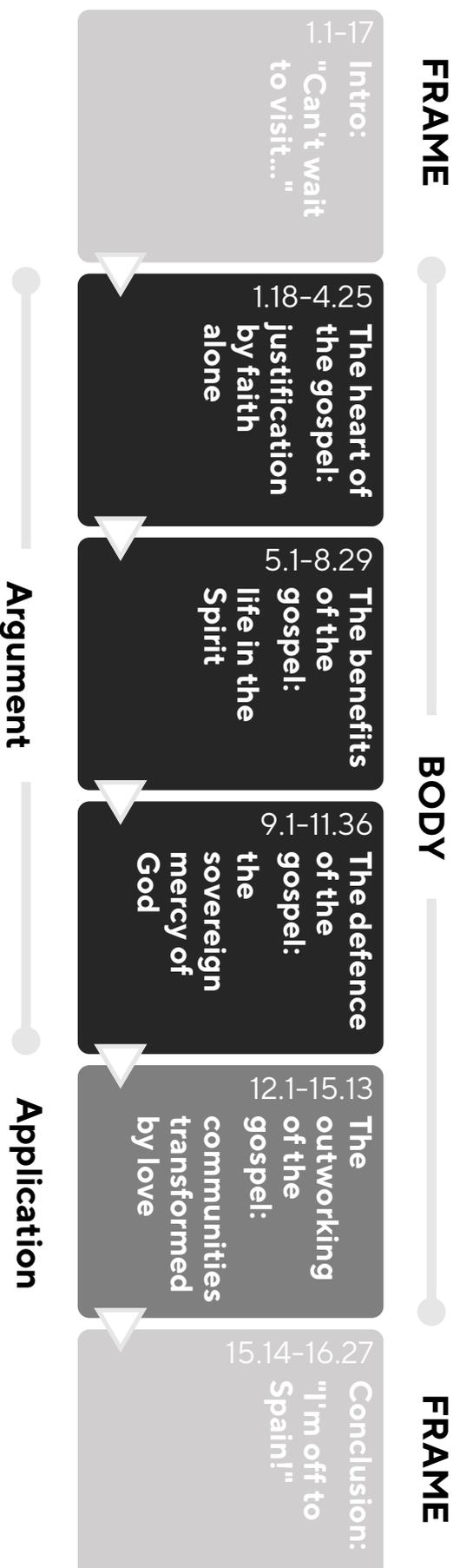
In view of God's mercy...

Love one another

Accept one another

Pray it in...

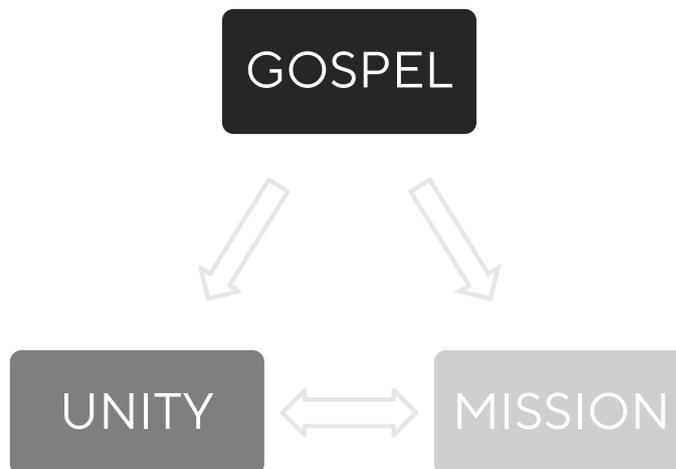
Romans: an outline



4. Why did Paul write Romans?



5. Application



Pray it in...