

# ROMANS

CRITICAL GRACE THEORY

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Week 1 – The Greatest Letter Ever Written

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## Introduction:

Romans Can Be Intimidating because...

1. ...Romans is \_\_\_\_\_
  - It has 16 action-packed chapters
2. ...Romans is \_\_\_\_\_
  - It is profoundly thorough
3. ...Romans is \_\_\_\_\_
  - It offers diagnosis and deliverance to everyone
4. ...Romans is \_\_\_\_\_
  - It is lofty and filled with both clarity and mystery

## The Letter Divides into Three Major Components:

1. Provides an accurate \_\_\_\_\_ of our need for Jesus (chapters 1-3)
2. Articulates God's powerful \_\_\_\_\_ through Jesus (chapters 4-11)
3. Teaches us how to live as \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus (chapters 12-16)

## Romans 1:1-7

1. Jesus Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel (vs. 2-4)  
“...the gospel He promised beforehand ...regarding His Son...Jesus Christ our Lord.”
2. We are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel (vs. 5-7)  
“...we received grace...and you also are among those called to belong to Jesus...”

## QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

### Personal Life:

1. What do you think of the claim that Romans is possibly the most significant piece of literature in all of human history? In your opinion, is that an over-statement? An under-statement? Something else? Discuss...

### Ponderings:

2. Read Paul's introduction in Romans 1:1-7 as a group and discuss the following...
  - In agreement with Jesus, Paul alludes to the entire Old Testament ("through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures") as that which points to the promise of Jesus and His gospel. What do Jesus and Paul mean, specifically, when claiming that the entire OT reveals Christ?
  - Paul says that the "Spirit of holiness" (the Holy Spirit) declares Jesus to be the Son of God. Why do you think Paul appeals to the authority of the Holy Spirit in revealing the identity of Jesus?
  - By the time he wrote Romans (56-58 A.D.) Paul was already widely known as the "Apostle to the Gentiles." The church in Rome, like many of the early churches, was a diverse mixture of both Jews and Gentiles. How do verses 6-7 draw his audience into the heart and intent of this letter?
3. In the weekend message it was said that "Jesus Christ our Lord" (vs. 4) is the *Subject* of the gospel articulated in Romans. In practical, daily terms, what does it mean to live under the Lordship of Christ? Discuss...
4. How is the Lordship of Christ on display in your daily life at work? At home? At school? In your social life? Try to give at least one tangible example that Christ is making in your lifestyle...

### Promptings:

5. Pray for our journey through Romans to literally transform the Valley family in a profound way. God's Word is living, active, powerful and effective when we receive God's revelation by faith into our lives...