

Week 1

Discussion – 27 January 2002

1. Themes of Romans reflected in introduction?

- Justification by faith – 1:5, 1:17
- Role of the law – not as such
- Sanctification, life in the Spirit – 1:4, 1:11
- Christian relationships – 1:9, 1:12
- Unity – 1:14, 1:16b
- Righteousness – 1:17
- Gospel – vv. 1, 2-4, 9, 15, 16-17

2. Why did Paul write Romans?

- **Rome/pastoral reasons**
 - encourage their faith
 - 'harvest' – preach the gospel
 - common ground with Romans
 - explain himself against criticisms
 - reconciling Jews and Gentiles
 - impart spiritual gift
 - mutually encourage
 - make strong
- **Jerusalem/theological reasons**
 - dealing with Jewish issues
 - clear theological statement
 - 'task' theology
- **Spain/evangelical reasons**
 - preach where Christ unknown
 - 'assistance' from Romans
 - somewhat 'political'

3. What 'shame' in the gospel?

- **Possible reasons for shame:**
 - Philosophical offence –salvation is unique
 - Historical offence – crucifixion: a past and present offence
 - Cultural offence – impolite subject ('icky')
 - Moral offence – cannot save yourself
- **How to overcome?**
 - Power of God
 - Relationship with God - righteousness