

A	<p><b><u>For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith (Rm 1:17);</u></b>  <b><u>Introduction to Romans</u></b></p> <p>“Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” (Jn 11:40). Those who believe, see; they see with a light that illumines their entire journey, for it comes from the risen Christ, the morning star which never sets” (LF, #1).</p>	Rm 1:1-32
B	<p><b><u>An Introduction to St. Paul's Letter to the Romans</u></b></p>	Research Presentation
C	<p><b><u>Greetings and Reasons of Going to Rome</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ” – “servant” or “slave”; it is not Paul’s intention to debase human dignity but to show that he has already given his life to Christ and is living for Christ only. All Christians need to embrace this attitude of a “slave” such that their lives may become a complete offering to Christ.</li> <li>• Why does Paul call himself an “apostle”?</li> <li>• “... the gospel of God which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures” affirms that readers of Scriptures recognize the principle of the new hidden in the old while the old is revealed through a new set of lens of reading Scriptures. In Paul’s letter to the Romans, Paul has alluded to OT passages in over 60 instances. How should Christians read the OT?</li> <li>• The focus of the gospel that is promised in the OT is Jesus Christ the Lord who became human and “descended from David according to the flesh and designated Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by suffering and resurrection =&gt; Lk 24:25-26. This teaching is undecipherable to those who are foolish. This passage may belong to a popular song or part of the Creed. Note the Trinitarian formula used in the Greetings in Rm 1:2-4.</li> <li>• “... bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all nations”: obedience according to faith or reflects the faith of obedience. This is the faith that opens and concludes the letter (Rm 16:26) and envelopes the theme of the whole letter. This theme also guides our reflection during this year’s BSP. “To glorify God’s holy name” – “hallowed be thy name”; the name of the Father is also the name of His children. We who marked ourselves with the sign of the cross live and act in God’s name.</li> <li>• “... your faith is proclaimed in all the world” – the centre of faith has moved westward to Rome.</li> <li>• Paul is obliged to all: “I am under obligation” – a fitting attitude for an evangelist.</li> </ul>	<p>Rm 1:1-15</p> <p>Rm 1:1 CSB, SN1</p> <p>SN2</p> <p>Rm 1:2 CSB, Rm 16:26 CCC 121-123</p> <p>Rm 1:3-4 CSB</p> <p>1:5;CSB; S.Hahn, <i>Cath. for a Reason—Scripture &amp; Mystery of the Family of God</i>, pp.4-5; Ezk 9</p> <p>Rm 1:8 CSB Rm 1:14-15 , 2Cor 5:14 , 1Cor 9:16 , Jer 20:9 , SN3</p>

Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church  
 Bible Sharing Program 2012-13  
 Romans #1: Greetings; God's Righteousness; Wickedness of  
 The Gentiles

<p>D</p>	<p><b><u>The Righteousness of God is Revealed through Faith for Faith; Wickedness of the Gentiles</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is “righteousness”? “The Righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith” – Christians who live in righteousness, rooted in faith, are righteous, therefore, may avoid God’s wrath and judgment.</li> <li>• God’s existence and internal life, “Theologia”, is revealed through “Oikonomia”, visible and tangible work.</li> <li>• “... exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images ... exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator” – the definition of idolatry.</li> <li>• Homosexual acts are wicked.</li> <li>• God has left the most severe punishment for the wickedness of the Gentiles: “ God gave them up to a base mind and to improper conduct”.</li> </ul>	<p>Rm 1:16-32</p> <p>Rm 1:17 CSB, SN4</p> <p>Rm 1:19-20 CSB, CCC 236</p> <p>Rm 1:23-25, CCC 2113, 2130-32, Col 3:5, Mt 4:9-10</p> <p>Rm 1:26-27 , 1Cor 6:9 , Lv 18:22 , 20:13 , 1 Tm 1:10</p> <p>Rm 1:28-32 CSB</p>
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**SPECIAL NOTES**

1. This is an occasion to confirm you in your faith and encourage you in your vocation of unconditional dedication to the Lord, with 'the joy of belonging exclusively to God,' since your entire existence is a solemn response to 'Follow me' as a declaration of love" (JPII's greeting to all the consecrated men and women of the Secular Institutes, April 3, 1987).
2. According to Paul, three principal characteristics made him a true apostle, setting him on the same level as the Twelve:
  - to have "seen Jesus our Lord" (cf. 1 Cor 9:1)
  - "to have been sent" (1 Cor 1:1; 2 Cor 1:1)
  - the task of "proclaiming the Gospel"

In Paul's writings, the term apostle also refers generally to a universal office, directed toward the whole of humanity and thus toward the whole of the one Church (e.g. 1 Cor 12:28, Rm 16:7).

(Ref: BXVI, *General Audience*, September 24, 2008; J. Ratzinger, *Pilgrim Fellowship of Faith – The Church as Communion*, pp.189-191.)

3. "The joy we receive from the word of God has its origin in the heart of the Trinitarian life; it is profound; it is an ineffable gift the world cannot give; it is the fruit of the Holy Spirit, a joy we want to share" (BXVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 64).
4. "Christian faith, in as much as it proclaims the truth of God's total love and opens us to the power of that love, penetrates to the core of our human experience." "Those who believe, see; they see with a light that illumines their entire journey." (LF, 32, 1)