

good
NEWS BIBLE

Paul's letter to the

ROMANS

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Welcome to the Good News Bible

Welcome to this dyslexia-friendly edition of Paul's letter to the Romans, using text from the Good News Bible.

If you are dyslexic, you may find most Bibles very difficult to read, with their small type, long paragraphs and thin paper. This book has been specially designed with the British Dyslexia Association's style guide in mind, so it has the following features:

- Thicker paper, so that type does not show through
- Cream-coloured paper
- Matt paper
- Plain font
- Larger type
- Wider line spacing
- Short paragraphs
- Bold headings

The Good News Bible is a clear, easy-to read translation of the Bible. It uses ordinary, everyday language so that as many people as possible can read and understand it. This has made it a very popular translation, selling over 150 million copies in the UK alone.

About the Bible

The Bible isn't one book but a collection of books, one of them being Paul's letter to the Romans. These books were written at different times by different people. They include many types of writing, such as history, poetry, stories, laws, letters, visions, songs and prayers.

The Bible has two main sections, known as the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament contains the story of God's relationship with the Israelites, over hundreds of years. It was written mainly in the Hebrew language, with some parts in a language called Aramaic.

The New Testament continues the story. It tells us about Jesus Christ and how his first followers began to spread the Christian message across the world. It was written in Greek, a language spoken through most of the Roman empire.

Even the newest parts of the Bible are about 2,000 years old, and many parts are much older. This means that everyone who reads it today will find some parts of it hard to understand. It might be helpful if you try to imagine what life was like for the people who first read it. Then think about what the words might mean for us today.

If you focus on the parts you do understand, not the parts you find difficult, there will always be something interesting to learn.

Finding your way around Paul's letter to the Romans

Most of the books in the New Testament are actually letters. Some are written to individuals and some to whole churches, aiming to encourage the first Christian believers in their faith.

Paul's letter to the Romans is the longest of them and is quite complicated. Paul was one of the most important early Christian leaders. In this letter, he explains why people need to be saved from their sins, and how they can find that salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

If you're reading the letter to the Romans on your own, it's a good idea to read it from beginning to end. This will give you an idea of how Paul's beliefs about faith and salvation fit together. However, if you are in church or at a study group, someone might ask you to look up the reference for a verse or short passage.

References are always given in this order – book title, chapter title and verse number. For example, Romans 5.6 means the fifth chapter of Romans, and the sixth verse of that chapter.

In this book, the chapter numbers are in very large type on a separate line. The verse numbers are the very small numbers that you can see as you read the story.

You can also follow the chapter and verse numbers through the book by looking at the reference at the top of each page.

Enjoy reading!

It is all too easy to assume that we know exactly what a Bible story says, especially if it's a famous one or we have heard it many times before. If this book helps you to read Romans for yourself more easily, you might find that you understand it in a new way.

Don't be afraid to ask questions about what you are reading. What excites you? What confuses you? Which are your favourite verses or stories? Write notes for yourself, or draw pictures, or memorise the words so that you can think further about them later.

Why not get together with other people to read Paul's letter to the Romans? We all bring our own experiences and thoughts to the Bible, so it can be helpful to talk about it together and find out how other people understand it.

If you've enjoyed this book, the Gospel of Mark, the Gospel of John and the book of Psalms are also available in a dyslexia-friendly version. Go to our website, biblesociety.org.uk, to find out more.



Paul's letter to the Romans

The letter of the covenant

What's it about? The letter was probably written because the church in Rome had some problems – in particular, tension between Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews). The letter explains how the old covenant (obeying the Law of Moses) connects with the new covenant (believing in Jesus Christ).

Who wrote it? Paul was a Pharisee who persecuted the followers of Jesus. However, after a dramatic meeting with Jesus, Paul became a missionary for him. He travelled around the Roman empire, starting churches and writing to encourage Christians everywhere. This is his letter to the church in Rome, written around AD 57.

Why read it? The letter to the Romans is an explanation of faith in Jesus, taking in God's judgement and the salvation that can be found in Jesus.

What's special about it? Romans is the only letter in which we read of Paul's hopes for the salvation of Jews and Gentiles together. In the last chapter, he sends warm greetings to a long list of his friends and fellow workers in

the church, both men and women. Many of these names are found nowhere else in the New Testament.

Chapter 1

¹From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus and an apostle chosen and called by God to preach his Good News.

²The Good News was promised long ago by God through his prophets, as written in the Holy Scriptures.

³It is about his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: as to his humanity, he was born a descendant of David; ⁴as to his divine holiness, he was shown with great power to be the Son of God by being raised from death.

⁵Through him God gave me the privilege of being an apostle for the sake of Christ, in order to lead people of all nations to believe and obey.

⁶This also includes you who are in Rome, whom God has called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷And so I write to all of you in Rome whom God loves and has called to be his own people:

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

⁸First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because the whole world is hearing about your faith.

⁹God is my witness that what I say is true — the God whom I serve with all my heart by preaching the Good News about his Son. God knows that I remember you ¹⁰every time I pray. I ask that God in his good will may at last make it possible for me to visit you now.

¹¹For I want very much to see you, in order to share a spiritual blessing with you to make you strong.

¹²What I mean is that both you and I will be helped at the same time, you by my faith and I by yours.

¹³You must remember, my brothers and sisters, that many times I have planned to visit you, but something has always kept me from doing so. I want to win converts among you also, as I have among other Gentiles.

¹⁴For I have an obligation to all peoples, to the civilized and to the savage, to the educated and to the ignorant.

¹⁵So then, I am eager to preach the Good News to you also who live in Rome.

The Power of the Gospel

¹⁶I have complete confidence in the gospel; it is God's power to save all who believe, first the Jews and also the Gentiles.

¹⁷For the gospel reveals how God puts people right with himself: it is through faith from beginning to end. As

the scripture says, "The person who is put right with God through faith shall live."^a

The Guilt of the Human Race

¹⁸ God's anger is revealed from heaven against all the sin and evil of the people whose evil ways prevent the truth from being known.

¹⁹ God punishes them, because what can be known about God is plain to them, for God himself made it plain.

²⁰ Ever since God created the world, his invisible qualities, both his eternal power and his divine nature, have been clearly seen; they are perceived in the things that God has made. So those people have no excuse at all!

²¹ They know God, but they do not give him the honour that belongs to him, nor do they thank him. Instead, their thoughts have become complete nonsense, and their empty minds are filled with darkness.

²² They say they are wise, but they are fools; ²³ instead of worshipping the immortal God, they worship images made to look like mortal human beings or birds or animals or reptiles.

²⁴ And so God has given those people over to do the filthy things their hearts desire, and they do shameful things with each other.

^a put right with God through faith shall live; or put right with God shall live through faith.

Customer endorsements

"It was a relief for me, and I could read large amounts at a better speed. More books in this format please!"

"My son is delighted with his two books of the Bible in a form he can read easily. He can't wait for the rest to come out so he can read confidently and be just like his friends in Bible class. You have no idea how much this means to him! Thank you."

"I was so favourably impressed with the book that, although I am not dyslexic, I found that my failing eyesight coped well with the book and fully intended to buy another for myself."

"I found the books brilliant, made reading them so much better. Nothing needs changing."

"The girl I gave the book to was really thrilled to receive it and said it made her feel very special. Thanks"

"The friend I bought the books for was delighted with them & said they were much easier for her to read than other books."

"I am so grateful to Bible Society for the dyslexia-friendly Bible texts. I am a church minister and for the first time ever I have found the Bible easy to read! I'm really looking forward to future editions. THANK YOU SO MUCH!"