

## AN ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST SECTION

In studying any book of the Bible, you should look carefully for its logical divisions. It is wrong to try to force the contents into an arbitrary outline. After the main sections have been established, it is then important to determine the subdivisions.

The subject of the first section of Romans is a statement of the theme and an explanation of it. There is also a large subdivision that shows the need for God's revelation of His righteousness in the gospel. The reason for this revelation is that "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men" (**Romans 1:18**). In other words, all people, collectively and individually, are sinners. This is explained in **Romans 1:1–3:20**.

The glorious provision God has made to redeem sinners is the doctrine of justification. It is only through the death of Jesus Christ that God can be both "just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus" (**Romans 3:26**). The nature, provision, and illustration of justification are given in **Romans 3:21–5:21**.

The last subdivision of this section concerns the doctrine of sanctification. Although many people are confused about this subject today, the apostle Paul shows how it is possible for the believer to live a life of holiness. It is only in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is explained in **Romans 6–8**.

A logical grouping of this material is as follows:

Part One: The Doctrinal Section (**Romans 1–8**)

1. The Doctrine of Sin (**Romans 1:1–3:20**)
2. The Doctrine of Justification (**Romans 3:21–5:21**)
3. The Doctrine of Sanctification (**Romans 6:1–8:39**)

## AN ANALYSIS OF THE SECOND SECTION

There was an important and unanswered question in the minds of Paul's listeners. This was the question of how the doctrines of justification and sanctification relate to the Old Testament promises given to the nation Israel. Had God not promised this people to be a nation? Had He not given them covenants? Had He not chosen them for Himself? How could God offer a salvation based wholly and only on faith? What is the relationship of these New Testament truths to the Old Testament promises?

The apostle Paul gives a clear answer to this question in three crucial chapters. In **Romans 9**, he traces the past history of Israel. God chose to work with the entire nation, but the promises went only to those who believed in Him. In **Romans 10**, he shows that God's

message today is to both Jew and Gentile, that “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved” (**Romans 10:13**). It is still by faith. In **Romans 11**, he describes the glorious future of this nation. One day the people as a nation will turn to the Lord by faith. There is no conflict between what God promised in the Old Testament and what He presents in Romans. This section may be summarized as follows:

Part Two: The Dispensational Section (**Romans 9–11**)

1. Israel, Its Past (**Romans 9**)
2. Israel, Its Present (**Romans 10**)
3. Israel, Its Future (**Romans 11**)

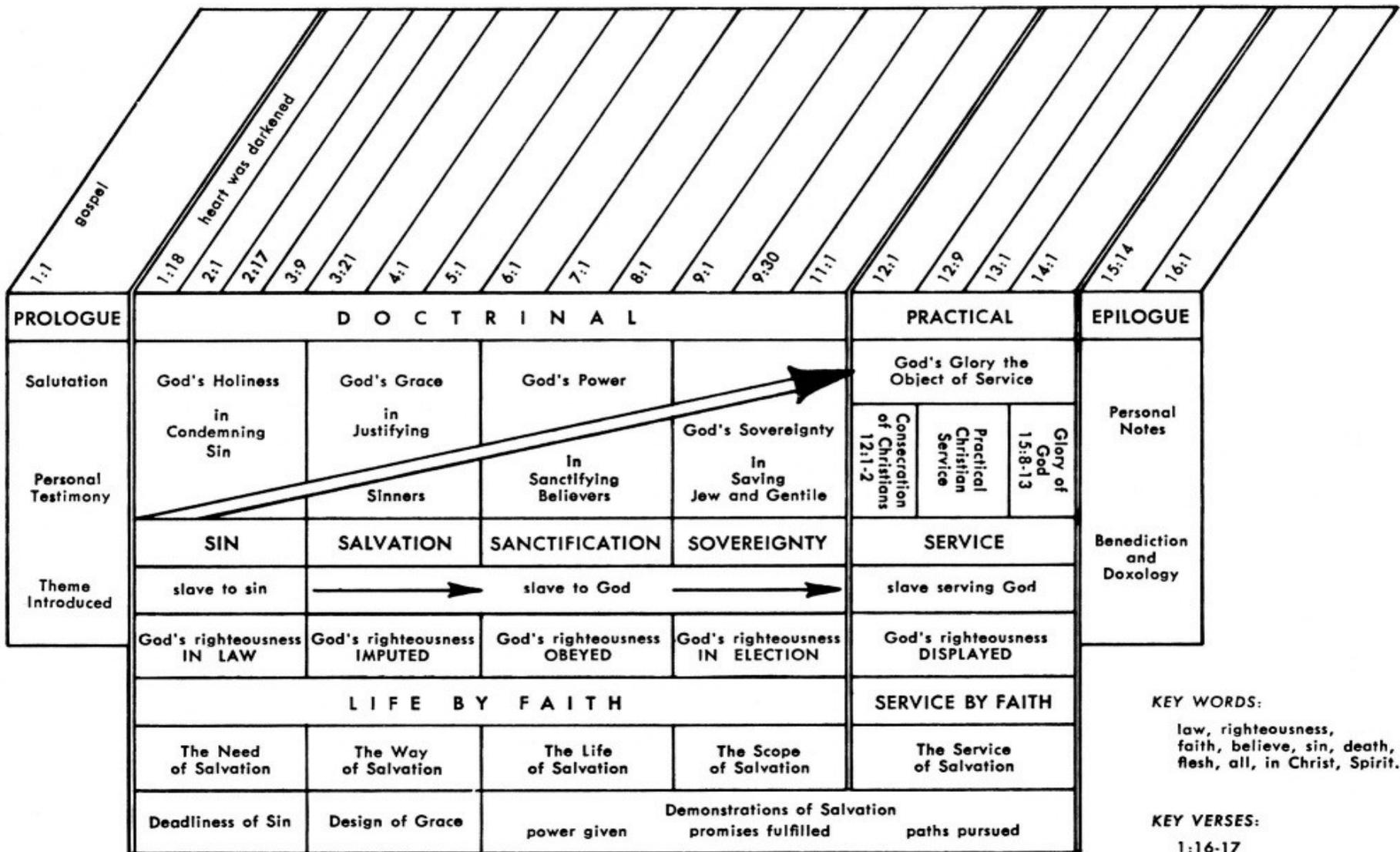
### AN ANALYSIS OF THE THIRD SECTION

Having explained how God, on the basis of Christ’s death, declares the sinner righteous and enables him to live for God, Paul goes on to explain how righteousness should be demonstrated in the life of the believer.

Paul describes the service of the believer to God, to other believers, and to non-believers in **Romans 12–13**. He gives principles for disputed issues in **Romans 14:1–15:13**. The epistle concludes with Paul’s personal testimony in a practical demonstration of the righteousness God gives (**Romans 15:14–16:27**). These subdivisions may be seen as follows:

Part Three: The Duty Section (**Romans 12–16**)

1. The Duty in Service (**Romans 12:1–13:14**)
2. The Duty Concerning Disputed Issues (**Romans 14:1–15:13**)
3. The Duty of Paul (**Romans 15:14–16:27**)



FROM Jensen, I. L. (1981). *Jensen's Survey of the New Testament: search and discover*. Chicago: Moody Press.

## IX. OUTLINE\*\*\*

### ROMANS: God's Salvation for Sinners

PROLOGUE	1:1–17
DOCTRINE	1:18–11:36
God's Holiness in Condemning Sin	1:18–3:20
God's Grace in Justifying Sinners	3:21–5:21
God's Power in Sanctifying Believers	6:1–8:39
God's Sovereignty in Saving Jew and Gentile	9:1–11:36
PRACTICE	12:1–15:13
The Christian Servant	12:1–21
The Christian Citizen	13:1–14
The Christian Brother	14:1–15:13
EPILOGUE	15:14–16:27

\*\*\*The chart and outline are from Jensen, I. L. (1981). *Jensen's Survey of the New Testament: search and discover*. Chicago: Moody Press.