

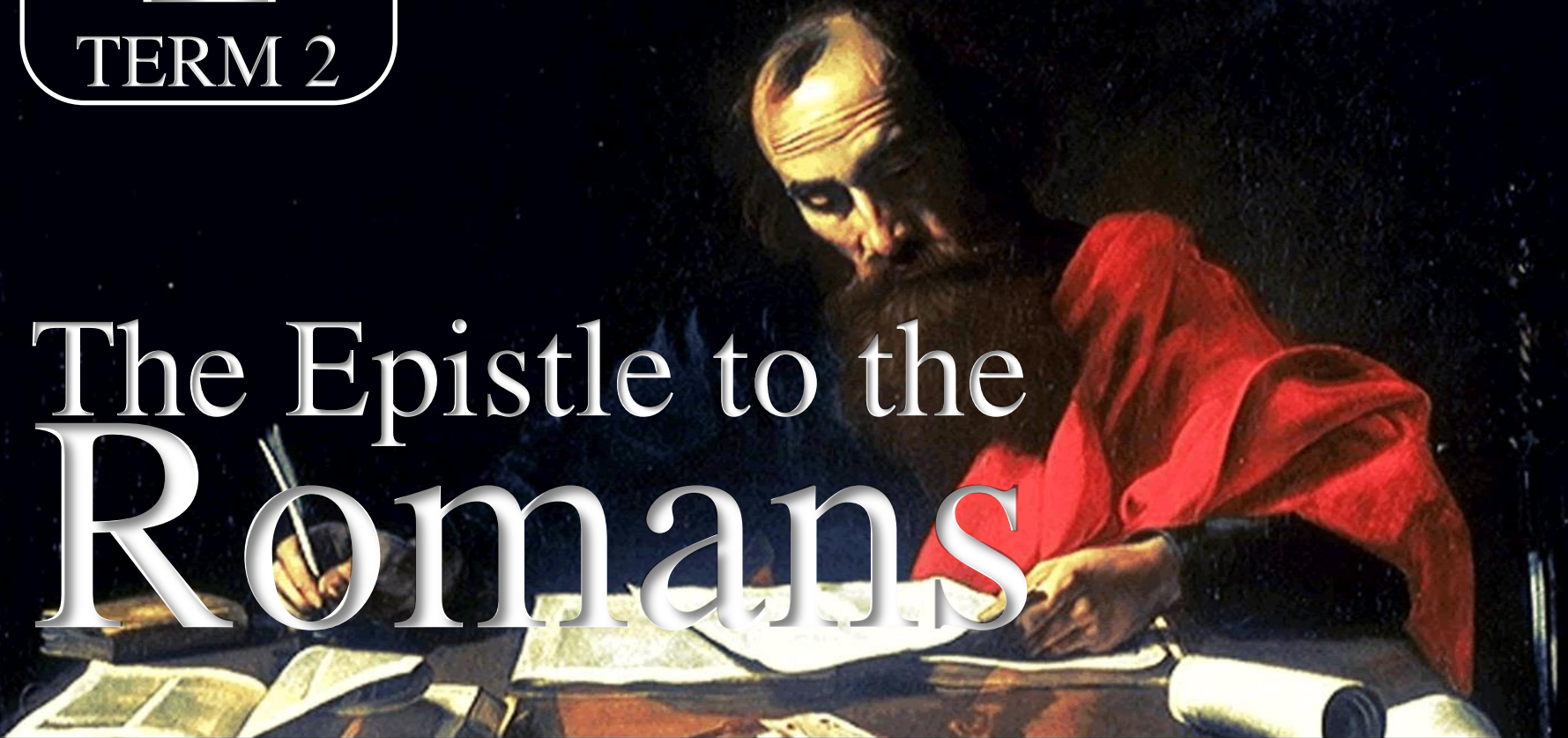


WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
IS ABOUT

2021  
SESSION  
**1**  
TERM 2

WHAT THE  
**B**IBLE  
IS ABOUT

The Epistle to the  
**Romans**



# Romans Chapters 1-8 – Salvation:

- Justification
- Sanctification
- Glorification

## Romans

# Romans Chapters 9-11 – Israel

# Romans Chapters 12-16 – Practical





'Cicero indicts Catiline before the Senate' by H. Schmidt, 1920.

'The Romans in their decadence' by Thomas Couture, 1846.





'Peter in the Catacombs' by Peter Styka, 1900



'Sermon of St Paul amidst the Ruins' by Giovanni Paolo Panini, 1744.



# Big Ideas in Romans



God is righteous, people aren't.

Romans 1:1-17



God's wrath against sin is just.

Romans 1:18-3:20



Salvation is only found through Jesus' death.

Romans 3:21-4:25



Our faith brings hope.

Romans 5:1-8:39



God provides for Israel and the Gentiles.

Romans 9:1-11:36



Paul gives instructions for everyday living.

Romans 12:1-15:13



Paul tells his plan to spread the gospel.

Romans 15:14-16:23



The closing sums up the gospel.

Romans 16:25-27

## Key Theme

# ROMANS

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

**“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written,**

**‘The just shall live by faith.’”**

ROMANS 1:16-17

# Themes in Romans

**1** Our natural inclination to sin separates us from God.

We cannot make ourselves right or earn salvation on our own.

**2** A loving God provided a way to redeem us.

His Son Jesus Christ paid our sin-debt through his sacrificial death.

**3** By accepting Christ as our Saviour, we are saved.

Justification: through belief in Christ's atoning work, God credits Christ's righteousness to us.

**4** The Holy Spirit works in us to help us avoid sin.

God's grace, not keeping the law, makes us acceptable. Living sanctified lives is a by-product.

**5** God's plan is just and fair.

Both Jews and Gentiles are eligible to come to Christ to receive salvation.

**6** We give thanks for salvation by service to Christ.

Working with other members of the body of Christ builds each other up and gives honor and glory to God.

# Epistle to the Romans

## SIN

Righteousness  
Demanded

- The Gentiles guilty—1:18–32
- The Jews guilty—2:1–3:8
- The whole world guilty—3:9–20

## SALVATION

Righteousness  
Declared

- Justification stated—3:21–31
- Justification illustrated in Abraham—4
- Justification explained in Adam—5

## SANCTIFICATION

Righteousness  
Defended

- Victory—the flesh—6
- Liberty—the Law—7
- Security—the Spirit—8

## SOVEREIGNTY

Righteousness  
Declined

- Israel's past riches—9
- Israel's present rejection—10
- Israel's future restoration—11

## SERVICE

Righteousness  
Demonstrated

- In the church body—12
- In society—13
- Toward the weaker believer—14:1–15:6

# Paul the Theological Architect/Engineer



The Courthouse



The Power Plant



The Synagogue



The Church

# Paul the Theological Architect/Engineer



## The Courthouse

In Romans 1-5 Paul introduces the concept of righteousness by faith, but in order to show us our great need of salvation he spent the first five chapters showing that we are all guilty before God.

# Paul the Theological Architect/Engineer



## The Power Plant

Romans 6-8 help us understand the power to live out the Christian life God is calling us to. These are some of the most powerful chapters in Scripture, and for many, some of the most rewarding.

# Paul the Theological Architect/Engineer



## The Synagogue



Romans 9-11 describes Israel's place in God's overall plan. Chap. 9 covers Israel's past, 10 its present from the 1<sup>st</sup> century to today, and 11 Israel's future. He shows how God hasn't written off or replaced Israel as His Chosen People. He explains Israel's special place in the End Times and beyond, and shows how God's sovereignty fits with man's free will.



# Paul the Theological Architect/Engineer

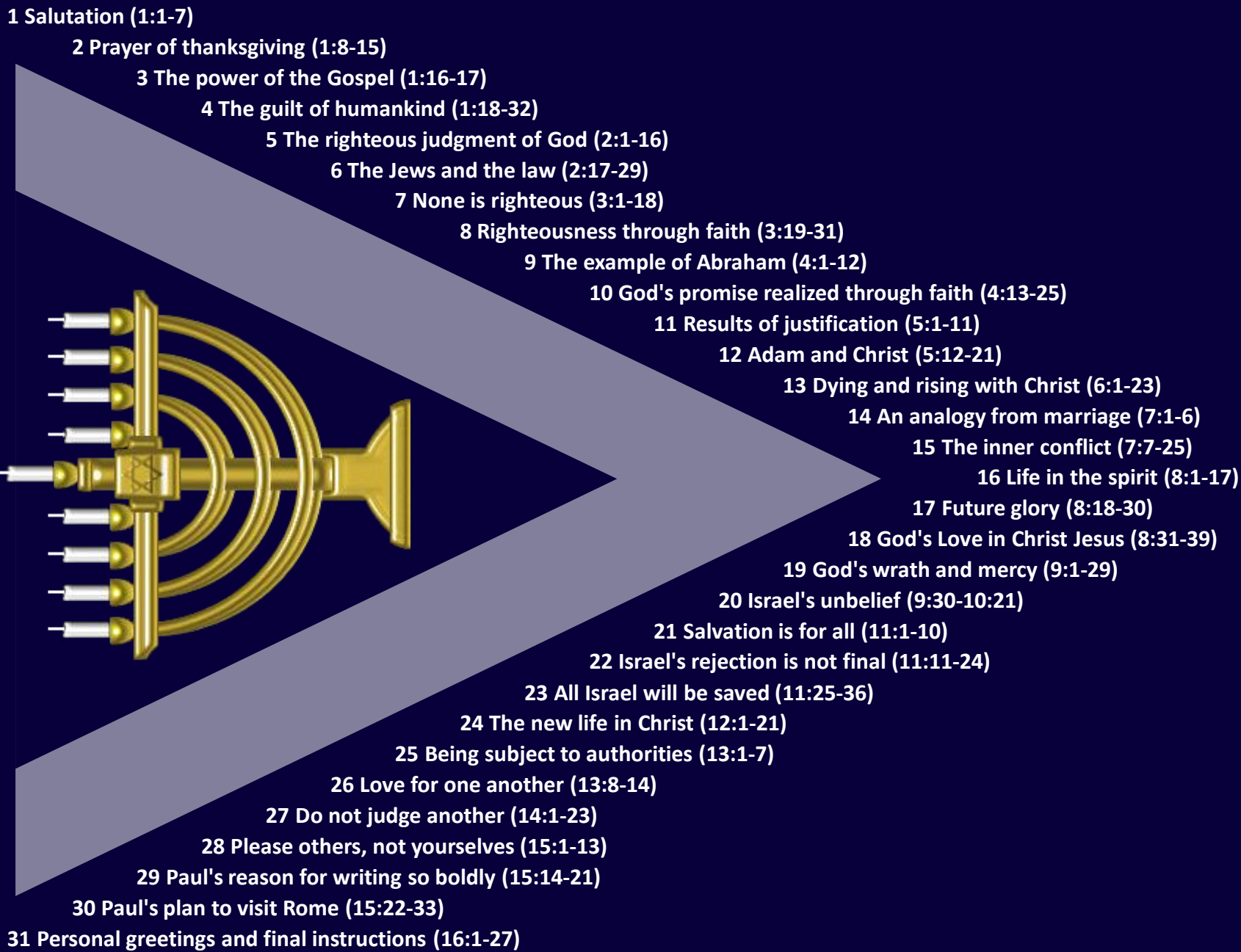
## The Church

Last but not least, Paul uses the final section of Romans, Chapters 12-16, to describe how the church is practically supposed to operate in light of the all the amazing truths about God in this book. He ends this letter, as he does all of his letters, with very practical advice.



# Literary Structure of the Epistle to the Romans

A  
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# PREFACE

**O**n May 24, 1738, a discouraged missionary went “very unwillingly” to a religious meeting in London. There a miracle took place. “About a quarter before nine,” he wrote in his journal, “I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”

That missionary was John Wesley. The message he heard that evening was the preface to Martin Luther’s commentary on Romans. Just a few months before, John Wesley had written in his journal: “I went to America to convert the Indians; but Oh! who shall convert me?” That evening in Aldersgate Street, his question was answered. And the result was the great Wesleyan Revival that swept England and transformed the nation.

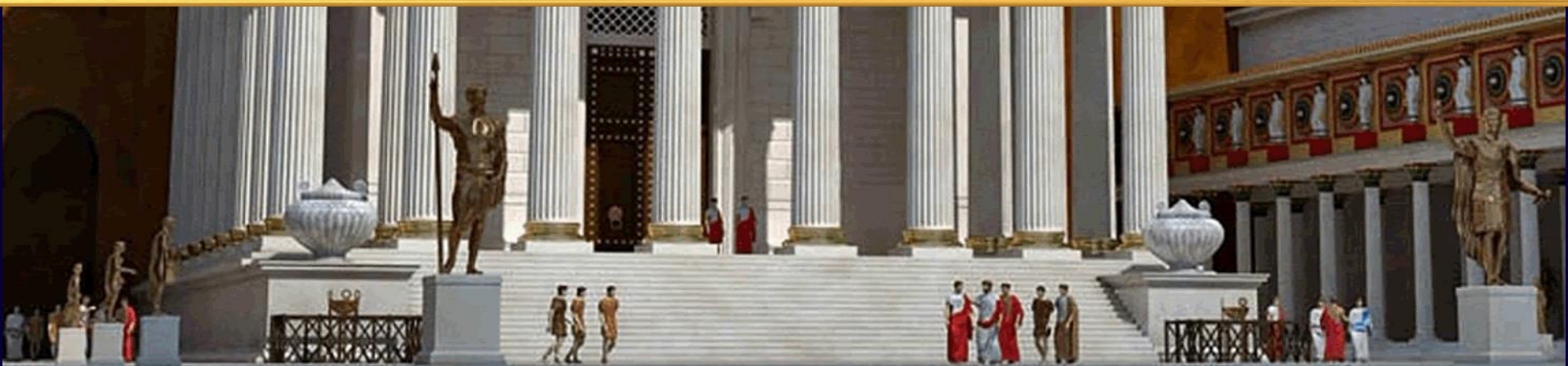
Romans

Part  
1

# INTRODUCTION


(Romans 1:1-17)

- Paul presents his credentials. (1:1–7)
- Paul expresses his concern. (1:8–15)
- Paul affirms his confidence. (1:16–17)





# Chapter 1



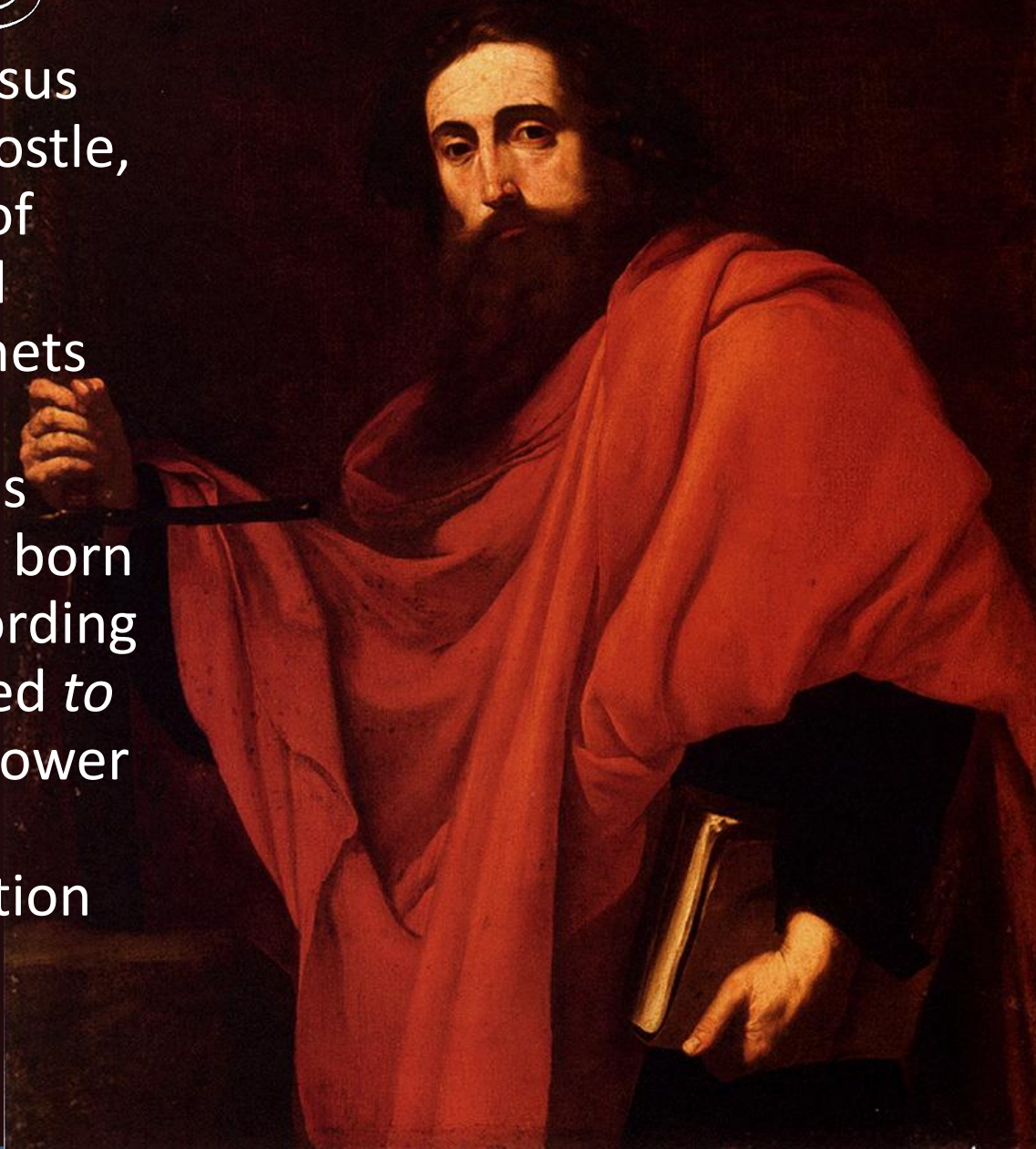
# ROMANS



# Greeting



**1** Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated to the gospel of God <sup>2</sup> which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> and declared *to be* the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.



'Saint Paul' by Jusepe de Ribera, 1637.

<sup>5</sup> Through [by] Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,  
<sup>6</sup> among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

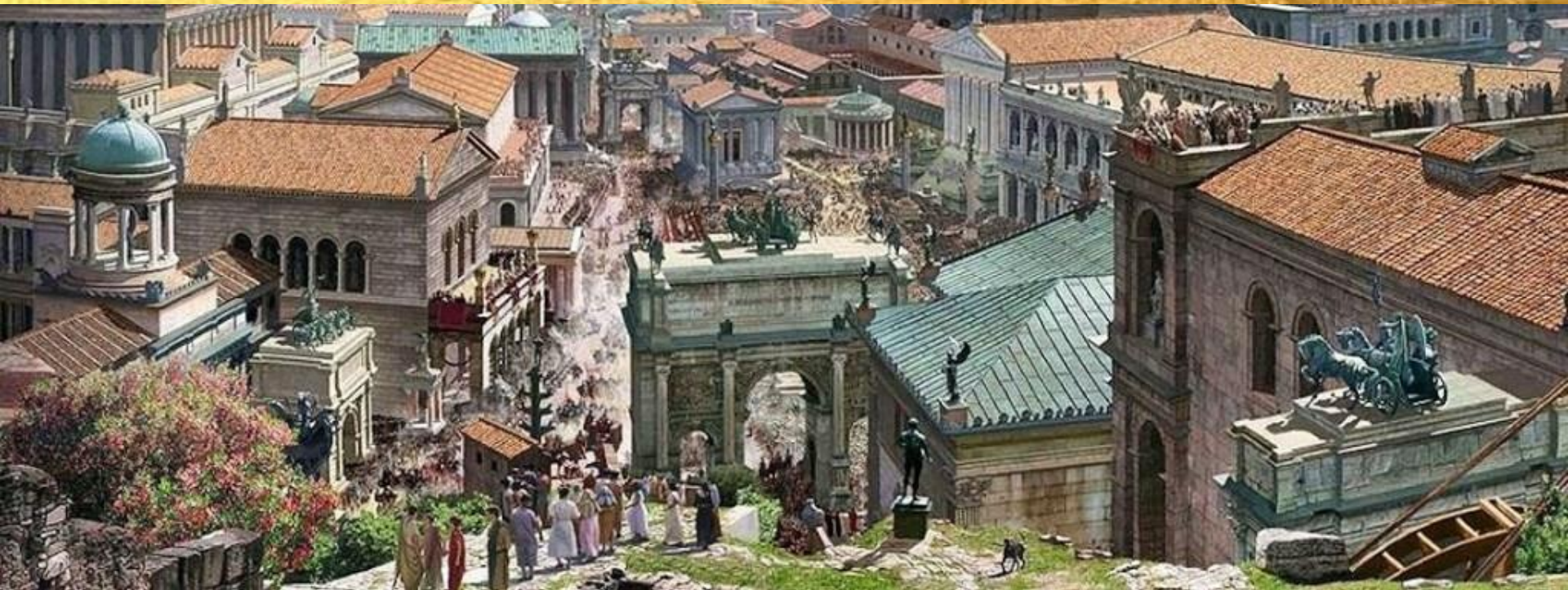


7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord  
Jesus Christ.





<sup>8</sup> First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. <sup>9</sup> For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers, <sup>10</sup> making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you.



<sup>11</sup> For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—

<sup>12</sup> that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

<sup>13</sup> Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles.

‘Roman and Florentine Court Culture’  
by Giorgio Vasari, c. 1550.



<sup>14</sup> I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. <sup>15</sup> So, as much as is in me, *I am* ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.



## The Just Shall Live by Faith

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith;

I AM NOT  
ASHAMED  
OF THE GOSPEL NO

## The Just Shall Live by Faith

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” [Habakkuk 2:4]

THE JUST  
SHALL LIVE  
BY FAITH

# Paul affirms his confidence on the gospel

## • The **origin** of the gospel:

- it is the gospel of Christ (v. 16a).

## • The **operation** of the gospel:

- it is the power of God (v. 16b).

## • The **outcome** of the gospel:

- it is the power of God unto salvation (v. 16c).

## • The **outreach** of the gospel:

- “to everyone that believes” (vv. 16d–17).

## The Just Shall Live by Faith

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” [Habakkuk 2:4]

THE JUST  
SHALL LIVE  
BY FAITH

## Paul's and Martin Luther's insight

A single verse in an obscure Old Testament book – Habakkuk – illuminated God's plan of salvation to St. Paul, Martin Luther, etc.:

"The **just**  
shall **live**  
by **faith**."

(Habakkuk 2:4)



Per the Bible

**Salvation**

is a matter of

**FAITH**

# The paradigm of “salvation”

Past tense: *I have been saved.*

Separation from the *penalty* of sin

Justification



# The paradigm of “salvation”

**Past tense:** *I have been saved.*

Separation from the *penalty* of sin

Justification

**Present tense:** *I am being saved.*

Separation from the *power* of sin

Sanctification



# The paradigm of “salvation”

**Past tense:** *I have been saved.*

Separation from the *penalty* of sin

Justification

**Present tense:** *I am being saved.*

Separation from the *power* of sin

Sanctification

**Future tense:** *I will be saved.*

Separation from the *presence* of sin

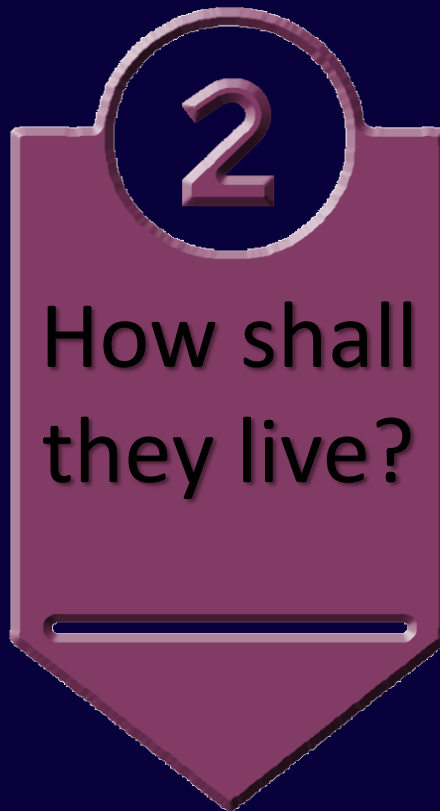
Glorification



The New Testament Trilogy on Habakkuk 2:4  
**“The just shall live by faith.”**



Romans



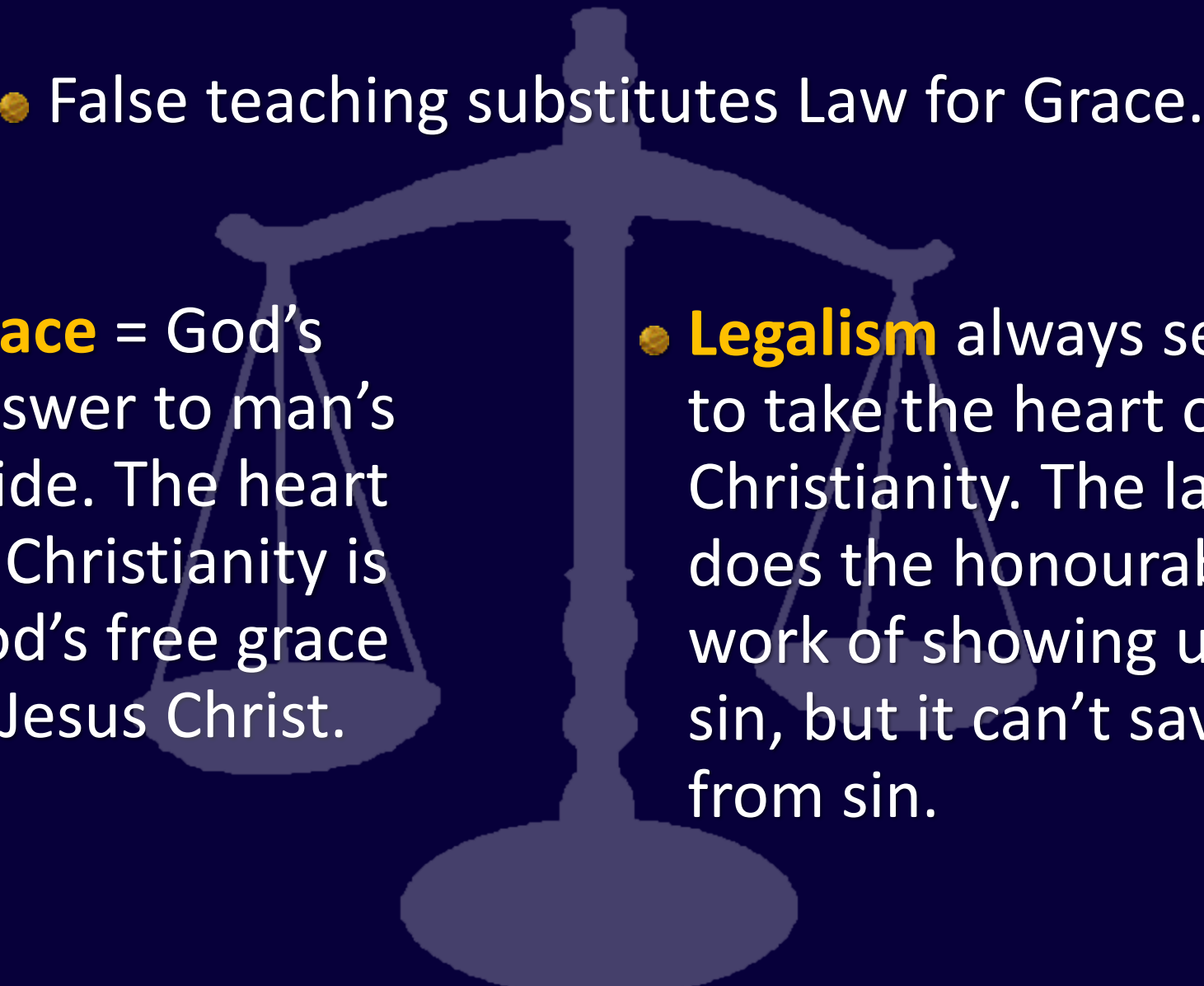
Galatians



Hebrews

# The Battle Against Legalism

- False teaching substitutes Law for Grace.



● **Grace** = God's answer to man's pride. The heart of Christianity is God's free grace in Jesus Christ.

● **Legalism** always seems to take the heart out of Christianity. The law does the honourable work of showing us our sin, but it can't save us from sin.

Romans

Part  
2

SIN

(Romans 1:18-3:20)



RIGHTEOUSNESS DEMANDED

