

# Romans

Longing to Go to Rome ([Romans 1:8-15](#))

**Read: Longing to Go to Rome (Romans 1:8-15)**

**Explain: Longing to Go to Rome (Romans 1:8-15)**

In Romans, Paul writes his longest salutation (introduction) of any of his letters.

Picking up in [Romans 1:8](#), Paul is still in his introduction but transitions from a biographical part to drawing a personal connection to the Christians in Rome.

**8 First, I thank** [In all of Paul's writings he uses a form of \_\_\_\_\_ 49 times. Where in the order of actions did Paul put giving thanks? \_\_\_\_\_: coming before all others in time or order, foremost in position, rank, or importance. Thank: express gratitude, appreciation, or acknowledgment. One of the greatest assets for a Christian is the ability to boldly give thanks to God.] **my God through** [through: moving in one side and out of the other side, continuing in time toward completion of a process. How do we go to God? \_\_\_\_\_ .] **Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world** [Michelle Erickson sent [John MacArthur: Some churches are famous because of their pastor, their architecture, their stained glass windows, or their size or wealth. The church in Rome was famous because of its faith.](#)].

**9 For God is my witness** [witness: one who has personal knowledge of something], **whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son** [Paul reminds them he is a servant], **that without ceasing I mention you 10 always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. 11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— 12 that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine** [Paul knew the importance of \_\_\_\_\_. Don't fight this battle alone. He also shows us the \_\_\_\_\_]. **13 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.** [Paul repeats himself in sort. [Romans 1:10, 11, 12, and 13](#) all have similar meaning. Perhaps to reinforce to the readers in Rome that he's been trying to come. Also, he reinforces his desire to serve alongside them. The terminology also points to the church being mixed with both Jews and non-Jews. He uses the terms brothers and later states among you only to specify as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. [Chris Arnold: Romans strongly identified with and emulated the ideals of Greece. They even stole the Greek gods and gave them Roman names. So it appears that Paul was](#)

mindful of his audience and their collective history.] **14 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.** [Who would want to say they are a barbarian? Paul is basically referring to people that would not be members of the developed world (as it was known in 56 AD). So in other words the \_\_\_\_\_ is for you, them, us, \_\_\_\_\_. **Chris Arnold: Paul blew down cultural and social walls and put up a new sign that said, "ALL ARE WELCOME."** **15 So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.** [Jim Fleming: I love how Paul doesn't see the preaching of the gospel as something that only unbelievers need. Believers need the gospel to be preached to them as well. God help us if we get too big for the gospel. We always need it and can scarcely get enough of it.]

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. Giving thanks is \_\_\_\_\_ and not simply a \_\_\_\_\_
2. Active faith is \_\_\_\_\_
  - it impacts nonbelievers
  - it encourages believers

Jessica Norris sent **Woodrow Kroll's** comment:

### 7 characteristics of Paul's prayers:

1. Prayer should be thankful
2. Prayer should be personal
3. Prayer should be continual
4. Prayer should be sincere
5. Prayer should be flexible
6. Prayer should be submissive
7. Prayer should be specific

## Personalize (What do we do with that?)

1. What is our first priority in conversation to God?
2. What is our reputation among other believers and among nonbelievers?
3. Is our faith encouraging to others?

## Next week: The Righteous Shall Live by Faith (1:16-17)

**16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."**