

## What is it?

Augustine's life was changed by it.

Martin Luther marks his conversion to it saying, "Night and day I pondered until...I grasped the truth that the righteousness of God is that righteousness whereby, though grace and sheer mercy, he justifies us by faith."

John Wesley's own testimony is that after many years in ministry, he listened to a reading of Luther's preface to it and then Wesley said, "about a quarter before nine, while the speaker was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust Christ, Christ alone for salvation..."

William Tyndale called it the principal and most excellent part of the NT and the most pure declaration of the Gospel.

John Calvin wrote, "If we have gained an understanding of it, we have an open door to all the most profound treasures of Scripture."

John Stott said it is a kind of Christian manifesto. It is the fullest, plainest, and grandest statement of the gospel in the NT.

**Have you guessed what "it" is?** Of course! "It" is the biblical book known as **the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans.**

Over the next few weeks, I'd like to give you an overview of this "pure," "profound" and "grand" statement of the good news of Jesus Christ.

We'll start at the beginning and each blog will examine a new part of the letter. I'll try to keep the entries short but will give you additional resources to allow for deeper study.

Along the way, through the book of Romans, we will consider the following questions and more:

- Don't all religions lead to God?
- Why do bad things happen to good people?
- What happens after I die? Are there a hell and a heaven?
- What do you need to believe to be a Christian?
- What is so good about the "good news" of Jesus?
- If belonging to God is all of grace, does it really matter what I do?
- Who is the Holy Spirit and why does he matter?

I'd like for you to join me in this study of the book of ROMANS.