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Romans 1 - 7 For You



Synopsis

Join Dr. Timothy Keller as he opens up the first half of the book of Romans, helping you to get to grips with its meaning and showing how it transforms our hearts and lives today. Written for people of every age and stage, from inquirers to new believers to pastors and teachers, this flexible resource is for you to: **READ:** as a guide to this wonderful letter, helping you appreciate the great gift of righteousness with God **FEED:** as a daily devotional to help you grow in Christ as you listen to and meditate on this portion of God's word **LEAD:** as notes to aid you in explaining, illustrating, and applying Romans 1 - 7 as you preach or lead a Bible study Whoever you are, and however you use it, this is...Romans 1-7 for You.

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Customer Reviews

Romans: it's one of the most intimidating, confusing, and powerful books in the entirety of Scripture. In its 16 chapters, the apostle Paul casts a sweeping vision God's redemptive purposes—how God in the gospel makes sinners righteous, but also how this most precious gift of God is enjoyed in our lives,—writes Tim Keller in Romans 1-7 For You, how it produces deep and massive changes in our behavior and even in our character. In his typical irenic fashion, Keller unpacks the message of the first seven chapters of Romans, helping us see the beauty of the gospel and our desperate need for it. One of the most challenging issues we face reading Romans—and indeed, all of Scripture—is Paul's emphatic decree that all of humanity is lost in when confronted by the justice of God. That we are all, without excuse, with no hope to be

found in moralism or pleas of ignorance. “For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” Paul wrote in Romans 3:22-23 (Open in Logos Bible Software (if available)). But he doesn’t leave us without hope. For while all have sinned and continually fall short of the glory of God, all who are saved “are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 3:24 (Open in Logos Bible Software (if available))). Moralism doesn’t justify, nor does ignorance. Instead, it is only God’s grace, the gift of redemption found in Jesus. And this is such good news for all of us: God does not set his justice aside; he turns it onto himself. The cross does not represent a compromise between God’s wrath and his love; it does not satisfy each halfway. Rather, it satisfies each fully and in the very same action.

Is it possible to overstate the importance and significance of Paul’s Epistle to the Romans? I don’t believe so. Not that one book in sacred Scripture is “more” inspired than any other, but there is something about Romans that sets it apart as the pinnacle of Paul’s writings. Maybe it is Paul’s logical progression or his clear presentation of the Gospel as the universal prescription for what ails us or his soul-piercing precision; and quite frankly, it is probably all of the above, but Romans is different—both in content and in impact. With that said, are new and seasoned Christians alike, afraid to taste the waters? Do we put Romans 8:28 on a refrigerator magnet while willfully turning a blind-eye to chapters 9-11? Is Paul’s example of homosexuality as an example of our lust-gone-wild too radical for society’s current whims of “if it works for you”? With certainty, Romans is polarizing. It is a game-changer. And for my money it should be read, studied, analyzed, understood, and applied. And that is exactly what pastor and teacher Tim Keller has provided for all that would come to this fountain. His book, *Romans (1-7) For You*, is a fantastic resource of a seasoned Christian attempting to walk with the reader through one of the most significant additions to sacred Scripture. Like Phillip accompanying the Ethiopian eunuch, who was lost in the confusion of Isaiah, Pastor Keller sits down with the reader and in a very palatable way, offering his insight and explanation. It is not a commentary on Romans, it is not even a devotional on Romans, it is in fact a pastoral guide through a very important section of Scripture so that the reader can be both enlightened and compelled to heed the Gospel’s call.

The Book of Romans has a long and storied tradition in the history of the Church. Augustine read Romans and was pierced to the heart and soundly saved. Luther, Calvin and many others have read Romans with great profit to their lives in Christ and ministries for Christ. Well-known Pastor Tim Keller has written a very helpful commentary *Romans For You* that covers chapters 1-7 of the book

of Romans. This book on Romans combines Keller's extensive biblical knowledge with cultural and practical insights into God's Word. One of the more outstanding features of this book is after he walks his readers through the passage; he then explains the theological importance for each particular section of Scripture. This is a feature even among pastoral commentaries that is rare and greatly appreciated to this reviewer. One of the main concerns that many people have with commentaries is that they are dry and boring. While technical commentaries major on every point of the passage including the various views, Keller does that but with a view to help guide the lay reader of the Word of God into a deeper understanding of what the text of Scriptures say. In addition to this helpful feature, Keller also seeks to show the importance of Romans to everyday life. The Book of Romans has a long and proud tradition in the history of the Church; especially in the Reformed world. As I read this commentary I was encouraged by the explanation of Romans 1-3 with its emphasis on the sinfulness of man. Keller's work on Romans 4-5 rightly helps the reader understand justification and his work on Romans 6-7 helps the reader understand definitive sanctification and the law.

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