



PART 1: *PREACHING TO THE CHOIR*

Reading Romans is like the experience of a man groping in a dark church tower who reaches out to grab whatever he can – and grasps the rope that rings the bell that wakes up the entire community.

~ Karl Barth

Romans can never be read or pondered too much, and the more it is dealt with the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes.

~ Martin Luther

I found my heart strangely warmed.

~ Charles Wesley, (About his reaction to reading a commentary on Romans)

Romans is one of the most interesting and engaging books in the Bible – precisely because it shapes the way we think about so much of the universe we inhabit.

~ Douglass Moo

From start to finish, Paul proclaims that God has acted to set the world right and to rescue us from slavery to human religious programs.

~ Richard B. Hays

According to Paul, faith is not passive assent to a list of beliefs, but actively staking one's life on the claims of God. It is a certainty sufficient to affect one's lifestyle.

~ Craig S. Keener

For Paul, "the gospel" is not a system of salvation. It is simply an announcement about Jesus as Messiah and Lord. It is not a new religious option, but simply the call to follow Jesus.

~ N. T. Wright

I am not ashamed of the gospel.

~ The Apostle Paul