

Class Handout -- The Theme of Romans (Rom. 1:16,17)

1. The gospel versus the law is the one theme of which Paul never loses sight in the elaboration of the details of Romans.

2. There are five antitheses of which Paul never loses sight in developing this theme:
 1. When it is said that the gospel is "the power of God unto salvation," we have a hint as to the weakness of the law in reference to the great end here mentioned.

 2. Next, it is said that the saving power of the gospel is altogether divine - it is "the power of God."

 3. Next comes an antithesis which points to a difference in results - the gospel is the "power of God unto salvation."

 4. The gospel is "the power of God unto salvation to every one who believes." We might infer from the very nature of the system of grace that its offer to the needy sons of men would be universal.

 5. In the light of these and other passages we find the conditionality of the gospel, as well as universality.