

Welcome to The Romans Course

I'm excited to journey with you through this amazing letter. From Saint Augustine to David Suchet, the Letter to the Romans has transformed many lives. That's right, the distinguished Hercule Poirot actor became a Christian while reading Romans. Who knows what will happen as we explore it together?

That said, Romans can be challenging. Some verses are hard to understand, and other bits seem controversial in our cultural context. But as we unpack the letter in its original setting, we will see the relevance of the overall message for today.

Filmed against the stunning backdrop of Rome, as well as in a studio, the ten sessions of *The Romans Course* include video teaching. This participants' guide provides further notes and suggested questions for discussion and, at the end of each session, there are Bible passages to read before the next time. Follow the reading plan and you will have read the entire letter to the Romans by the end of the course. Alongside these core resources, there's also a book I have written – *Romans: A Letter That Makes Sense of Life* (Hodder, 2023) – to help you dig a bit deeper.

Every great adventure has challenging moments. That's what makes the whole thing so rewarding in the end. Romans may be the Mount Everest of the Bible but trust me, the view will be worth it! Let's get going ...



Andrew Ollerton

Getting started

This is a chance to find out how well you know Romans. At the other end, you can do the quiz again and see your progress. So, without searching online, give it a try!

ROMANS QUIZ:

- Who wrote Romans?
- When was it written (roughly): AD 27, AD 57, AD 87?
- How many chapters does it contain?
- In which chapter is the phrase: 'For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love ...'?
- Who delivered the letter to the churches in Rome?
- Why was the letter written?
 - to provide a systematic theology
 - to defend Christian belief against Roman critics
 - to unite Jews and Gentiles in a shared mission
- In which chapter is the phrase: 'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God' (NIV)?
- How long to the nearest hour would it take the average reader to finish Romans?
- Fill in the blank from this sentence in Romans: 'I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the _____ that brings salvation to everyone who believes ...' (NIV)
- Name a famous Christian who was transformed through Romans?

Don't worry about your score at this stage. The more answers you get wrong, the greater the opportunity to grow!