THE ARGUMENT OF ROMANS 1-4

1. Introduction — Romans 1:1-13 — Sermon 2

The gospel that Paul serves calls us to respond in faith by trusting in God.

2. Central thesis — Romans 1:14-17 — Sermon 3

Paul is not ashamed of this message, for God powerfully uses it to save people and give them His righteousness by faith.

3. The need for God's righteousness becomes clear as we consider the world around us. — Romans 1:18-3:20

- Sermon 4: God's punishment is already happening. He gives the pagan world over to their wrong ways, which come from their wrong ideas about God.
- Sermon 5: The Jewish nation also face this punishment, as they received God's law but refused to obey it.
- Sermon 6: So everyone – Jews and Gentiles – stand condemned by God. We cannot be pronounced righteous based on any work we perform.

4. But now in Christ, a means of being declared righteous by the grace of God has been revealed.

- Romans 3:21-26 — Sermon 7: But good news: God has provided a solution to this problem through Jesus! Through Jesus' sacrifice, atonement is made for sinners and sin is justly punished. Those who trust in Jesus are declared righteous through His merits.
- Romans 3:27-4:25 — Sermon 8: This is exactly how it was intended from the beginning. Being declared righteous through faith was how Abraham began his relationship with God as an uncircumcised Gentile, guaranteeing justification by faith for both Jews and Gentiles.