

Romans

Introduction to the Book

- Historical Background
 - The Jewish Community in Rome
 - A Jewish community was known to exist in Rome as early as the 2nd century B.C.
 - This community was significantly added to as a result of Pompey's conquest of Judea in 63 B.C.
 - Many Jewish prisoners of war were brought back to Rome when Pompey returned in 61 B.C.
 - These Jews were subsequently granted freedom.
 - In 59 B.C. Cicero wrote about the substantial size of the Jewish population along with the existence of multiple synagogues in Rome.
 - Under the rule of Augustus, these Jews enjoyed great freedom of worship and were permitted to engage in customary Jewish practices.
 - This all changed in 19 A.D. under the rule of Tiberius who expelled the roughly 4,000 Jews from Rome for participating in their "superstition".
 - Just a few years later, however, the Jews had returned to Rome and the population was even greater than before the expulsion.
 - The Founding of the Church
 - We do not know exactly how Christianity came to be established in Rome.
 - We know that there were some visitors from Rome (Jews and Gentiles) at Pentecost [Acts 2:10].
 - It is quite likely that these people were instrumental in spreading the gospel in Rome.
 - As the Jews and Gentiles responded to the gospel in Rome, the growing number of believers would eventually have formed a house church.
 - One thing we know from the writings of the Church Fathers is that Peter was not in Rome prior to the writing of this letter, so he did not found the church.
- The Letter to the Romans
 - Authorship
 - The letter itself attributes the authorship to the Apostle Paul [1:1].
 - Unlike other Pauline epistles, almost no one denies that Paul is the author of Romans, including the radical German "higher" critics who dispute many other truths of Scripture.
 - Passages in Romans support Paul's authorship...
 - He claimed to be of the tribe of Benjamin [11:1] which is consistent with Philippians [Phil 3:5].
 - He sends greetings to Priscilla and Aquila [16:3] whom he had met in Corinth [Acts 18:2-3] and left behind in Ephesus [Acts 18:18-19].
 - He referred to his journey to Jerusalem with the gift from Macedonia and Achaia [15:25-27] which is supported by the Book of Acts and the letters to the Corinthians [Acts 19:21; 21:15-19; 1 Cor 16:1-5; 2 Cor 8:1-12; 9:1-5].

- Date of Writing
 - Paul wrote this letter from Cenchræa, the eastern harbor of Corinth [16:1].
 - That would coincide with the end of his third missionary journey when he spent three months in Greece [Acts 20:2-3].
 - That puts the date of writing around A.D. 57.
- Occasion and Purpose
 - Paul wrote Romans at this time because Phoebe was going to be travelling to Rome [16:1-2].
 - Paul wanted to let the believers in Rome know that he planned to visit them [15:24, 28-29].
 - He had wanted to go to Rome for quite some time [1:9-13] and wanted them to pray that he might finally be able to do so [15:30-32].
 - In this letter Paul also addressed some issues that had cropped up within the church.
 - Paul wanted to make sure the believers in Rome understood the gospel clearly [1:15].
 - The church had experienced tension between Jews and Gentiles, so Paul addresses both audiences with the hope of unifying them [3:29-30].
 - Because of its purposes, this letter has a general theme of explaining the true grace gospel.
 - Paul explains how sinful mankind can be justified in God's sight by grace through faith when God imputes His righteousness to us [3:21-24].
 - Paul explains how the believer is to live under grace once he has been saved by grace [6:12-16].

○ Outline

- Greeting [1:1-7]
 - Author [1:1]
 - The Gospel Concerning the Son [1:2-6]
 - Audience [1:7]
- Always on His Mind [1:8-10]
 - In Thanksgiving [1:8]
 - In Prayer [1:9-10]
- Desire to Visit Rome [1:11-15]
 - Longing for Encouragement [1:11-12]
 - Obstacles and Obligations [1:13-14]
 - Eager to Preach the Gospel [1:15]
- Theme: The Gospel [1:16-17]
 - The Power of God for Salvation [1:16]
 - Faith and the Righteousness of God [1:17]
- The Depravity of Man [1:18-3:20]
 - Immoral Depravity [1:18-32]
 - Moral Depravity [2:1-16]
 - Religious Depravity [2:17-3:20]
- The Solution: Faith [3:21-31]
 - The Righteousness of God through Faith [3:21-26]
 - Faith Apart from Works [3:27-31]
- Abraham Justified by Faith [4:1-25]
 - Faith Credited as Righteousness [4:1-5]
 - David's Assertion [4:6-8]
 - Faith while Uncircumcised [4:9-12]
 - Faith in God's Promise [4:13-22]
 - Faith Credited Today [4:23-25]
- Justification Explained [5:1-21]
 - Justification Results in Hope [5:1-5]
 - Christ Died for the Ungodly [5:6-8]
 - Justified and Reconciled [5:9-11]
 - In Adam vs. In Christ [5:12-19]
 - Grace Overcomes Sin [5:20-21]
- Sanctification Basics [6:1-23]
 - Dead to Sin, Alive to God [6:1-11]
 - Present Yourself to God [6:12-13]
 - Under Grace, Not Law [6:14-15]
 - Become Slaves of Righteousness [6:16-20]
 - The Benefit: Eternal Life [6:21-23]
- Sanctification Issues [7:1-25]
 - Not Bound to the Law [7:1-6]
 - The Law and Sin [7:7-13]
 - Conflict of the Two Natures [7:14-25]

- No Condemnation, No Separation [8:1-39]
 - The Law Fulfilled in Us [8:1-4]
 - The Mind Set on the Spirit [8:5-8]
 - Living by the Indwelling Spirit [8:9-14]
 - Living as Children of God [8:15-17]
 - Waiting for Glorification [8:18-25]
 - Intercession of the Spirit [8:26-27]
 - Certainty of Glorification [8:28-39]
- Discussion about Israel [9:1-11:36]
 - Sorrow for Israel [9:1-5]
 - Israel: Children of the Promise [9:6-13]
 - God is Just in Choosing Israel [9:14-21]
 - True Sons: The Remnant [9:22-29]
 - Israel Stumbled [9:30-10:4]
 - Salvation for Israel [10:5-13]
 - Israel Heard, But Did Not Believe [10:14-21]
 - Israel Hardened, Not Rejected [11:1-10]
 - Gentiles Grafted In [11:11-24]
 - All Israel Will Be Saved [11:25-32]
 - Glory Be to God [11:33-36]
- Discussion about the Church [12:1-15:14]
 - Living and Holy Sacrifices [12:1-2]
 - Function of Members [12:3-8]
 - Overcome Evil with Good [12:9-21]
 - Respect Authority [13:1-7]
 - Love Fulfills the Law [13:8-10]
 - The Day is Near [13:11-13]
 - Put on Christ [13:14]
 - Let the Lord Judge [14:1-12]
 - Do Not Cause Stumbling [14:13-23]
 - Accept One Another [15:1-12]
 - Abound in Hope and Goodness [15:13-14]
- Concluding Remarks [15:15-16:27]
 - Minister to the Gentiles [15:15-21]
 - Desire to Visit Rome [15:22-33]
 - Phoebe the Deaconess [16:1-2]
 - Greetings [16:3-16]
 - Warning [16:17-18]
 - Encouragement [16:19-20]
 - Further Greetings [16:21-24]
 - Doxology [16:25-27]