

The Book of Romans

Paul The Apostle

Student Notes:

- **Why Paul wrote the Romans:**

1. To impart to them some spiritual gift: Romans 1:11-12

“I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— 12 that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.”

2. Paul wanted to evangelize in Rome:

In verse 15 he writes, "I want also to preach the gospel to those that are at Rome." His desire was not only to strengthen the Church there, but to reach others with the gospel.

3. Paul wanted to enlist their help in reaching the people of Spain:

In Romans 15:28 we read: “So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this fruit, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way.”

- **What made Paul great?** John MacArthur suggests four things:

1. He Had A Biblical Mind.

He was absolutely saturated in the Word of God. He had a great intellect and was deeply knowledgeable in the Old Testament.

2. He Had A Resolute Will.

To say Paul was determined is an understatement. He had a determined will. A biblical mind and a determined will; you couldn't put the man off his track. =

3. A Loving Heart:

Paul had a great sense of God's love. Romans 5:5: He said, "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts." In Romans 8 he says, "What shall separate us from the love of God?" In Romans 15:30 he says, "I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake and for the love of the Spirit."

He understood God's love and he loved God in return. He also had a great love for Israel. He had a great love for the Church.

4. Paul Lived To Glorify God.

In Romans 11:36 he says, "For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen." In chapter 15 verse 6, we read, "That you may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." 15:9: "That the Gentiles might glorify God."

At the end of Romans he says, "To God only wise be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen."

Overview of Paul's Letter to the Romans

- **Author**

While some debate exists as to the authorship of some New Testament books, Romans is clearly written by the apostle Paul). Unlike some other books, none of the early church fathers ever expressed any other opinions.

Further, the letter contains a number of historical references that agree with the known facts of Paul's life. In addition, the doctrinal content of Romans is typical of other letters Paul wrote.

- **Date and Place of Writing**

No exact date, probably around the early spring of 57 A.D. The timing of the letter

is likely while Paul was on his third missionary journey. See Romans 15:25-27.

1. Paul had already received contributions from the churches of Macedonia and Achaia, so he either was at Corinth or had already been there.

2. Paul had not yet been at Corinth on his third missionary journey when he wrote 1 Corinthians. See 1 Corinthians 16:1–5.

3. The collection issue had still not been resolved when he wrote 2 Corinthians. See 2 Corinthians 8:6-7

4. Paul probably wrote Romans after 1 & 2 Corinthians – which are dated at 55 A.D.

From where did Paul write Romans? (Corinth or Cenchrea?)

1. Paul was about to set out for Jerusalem. He considers himself to have completed his missionary work among the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire. See Romans 15:19, 23.

2. Paul desired to go to Rome (1:10-13), but had been prevented (1:13; 15:22); now he hopes to go there on his way to Spain (15:23-28), but first he is going to Jerusalem with the offering for the poor from the Gentile churches (15:25-27).

Other indications that Paul wrote from Corinth are:

1) Paul commends Phoebe as a servant of the church in Cenchrea, Corinth's eastern seaport (who probably carried the letter to the Romans) 16:1-2

2) Paul sends greetings from Gaius in whose house he was staying. This may be the same Gaius mentioned in 1 Corinthians 1:14 as the one whom Paul baptized in Corinth (16:23).

3) The greeting from Erastus the city treasurer -- may have been the Erastus who stayed in Corinth (cf. Acts 19:22; also 2 Tim. 4:20).