

Romans – Introduction

Authorship.

This book was written by Apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit (Ro. 1:1)

Recipients (Ro. 1:7)

Paul simply addressed it to all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints.” He did not address it to “the church in Rome.” There were numerous house churches. Were these believers in Rome Jews or Gentiles in ethnic background? The answer is both.

How was the church founded?

On the day of Pentecost, those from Rome who were converted at Jerusalem carried their “new faith” back home. (Acts 2:10)

Location of the writing of this letter

He wrote this letter from Corinth AD 57, on the third missionary journey.

Purpose

First. The most obvious was to announce his plans to visit Rome after his return to Jerusalem (15:24, 28-29; 19:21)

Second purpose Paul had for writing this letter was to present complete and detailed statement of the gospel message he proclaimed. “to preach the gospel also to you the who are at Rome” (1:15). He wanted to present to the Romans a full and logical presentation of the Triune Godhead’s plan of salvation from SIN, Salvation, Sanctification, Glorification with Christ in heaven.

Third. On the one hand he emphasized the historical and chronological priority of the Jews -“first for the Jew, then for the Gentile” (Rom. 1:16, 2:9 -10). He also stressed the “advantage in being a Jew ” (3:1-2; 9:4-5). On the other hand he pointed out that “since there is only one God” (3:30), He is the God of the Gentiles as well as the God of Jews (3:29). Furthermore, in order to bring believing Gentiles into His program, God temporarily halted his specific program for Israel as a chosen nation, since that nation through its official leaders and as a whole had rejected in unbelief God’s Son as the Messiah. But, God will ultimately refocus His attention back on Israel and give them a new heart by taking away ungodliness. (Chapter 9-11)

Theme Verse

Ro 1:16, 17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

It is first the Righteousness God Himself possesses and manifests in all His actions; and second, it the righteousness that God gives to human beings by grace through faith. This involves an imputed righteous standing before God (justification) and an imparted righteous practice and a progressively transformed lifestyle, the latter due to the regenerating and indwelling Holy Spirit of God (regeneration and sanctification)

Summary

So, for the first time, and for the only time in all the epistles of the New Testament, the great doctrines, the system of Christianity, are set forth in logical discourse. There is order all the way through.