



Lesson 1: Introduction

the book of
Romans

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I. The Establishment of the Church in Rome

- A. There is no biblical record of the establishment of the church in Rome.
- B. By Paul's writing of the epistle the church had existed many years. (**Romans 1:8; 15:23; 16:19**)
- C. The return to Rome of Jews converted to Christ on the first Pentecost after Christ's resurrection (A.D. 33) may mark the beginning of the church in Rome. (**Acts 2:10**)

I. The Establishment of the Church in Rome

D. The Roman Expulsion of Jews (A.D. 52) (**Acts 18:2**)

- a. “[Claudius] expelled the Jews from Rome, because of the continuing tumult at the influence of Chrestos (Christ).” (Claudius, 25) (pg. 5)
- b. Aquila and Priscilla were some who were forced to leave Rome (**Acts 18:2; Romans 16:3-5**)

II. Roman Catholic Claims

- A. Claim: Peter and Paul founded and organized the church in Rome.
- B. However, a church existed before Paul came to them (**Romans 1:9-13; 15:22-24**).
- C. There is no indication Peter left Jerusalem by this time (**Acts 15:2-7**).
- D. There is no mention of Peter in the epistle.

III. Date and Place the Epistle was Written

- A. Written approximately A.D. 57
- B. Likely written during Paul's stay in Achaia (Corinth). (**Acts 20:3;**
Romans 16:1, 23)
- C. Written before the persecution under Nero began in A.D. 64-68.

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IV. Focus of the Book

A. The problem of sin (**1:18-3:31**).

B. The problem of the Law (**7:1-8:39**).

C. The problem of Israel's rejection of Jesus (**9:1-11:36**).



the book of
Romans **V. Purpose**

A. Missionary (Romans 15:16, 20, 22-24; 1:13)

B. Apologetic (cf. 1 Peter 3:15) (Romans 3:5-8; 1:16-17)

C. Exhortative (Romans 2:1; 3:9; 11:13, 18-21; 12:1-2; 14:1-15:13;
16:1-24)

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VI. Theme

- A. The Gospel is God's Power to Salvation (**Romans 1:16-17**)(cf. **Habakkuk 2:4**)
- B. The Gospel Unites Jew and Gentile in Christ (**Romans 1:16; 3:22-23; 4:11-12; 11; 12:3-8; 14; 16:17-20**)

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Outline of the Book of Romans (Cox)

- I. Introduction – Paul’s Apostleship and the Gospel of Christ
(1:1-17)
 - A. The Gospel to Which Paul is Separated (1:1-7)
 - B. The Commitment of Paul to Preach the Gospel (1:8-17)

Outline of the Book of Romans (Cox)

- II. The Need for the Gospel – The Universality of Sin (1:18-3:20)
 - A. The Wrath of God Revealed Against Sin (Gentiles) (1:18-32)
 - B. The Righteous Judgment of God (2:1-16)
 - C. The Guilt of the Jews (2:17-29)
 - D. The Defense of God’s Judgment (3:1-8)
 - E. The Universality of Sin – Jews and Gentiles (3:9-20)

III. The Solution of the Gospel – The Righteousness of God

(3:21-5:21)

A. The Righteousness of God Apart from, yet Witnessed by the Law (3:21-31)

B. The Case of Abraham for the Righteousness of God by Faith (4:1-25)

C. The Blessings of the Righteousness of God by Faith (5:1-21)

IV. The Freedom in the Gospel – The Dominion of Sin and Deliverance in Christ (6:1-8:39)

- A. The Relationship Between Grace and Sin – Freedom from Sin (6:1-23)
- B. The Relationship Between the Law and Sin – Dominion of Sin (7:1-25)
- C. The Relationship Between Flesh and Spirit – Death or Life and Peace (8:1-39)

Outline of the Book of Romans (Cox)

V. The Rejection of the Gospel – The Israelites and the Israel of God (9:1-11:36)

A. The Sovereign Choice of God (9:1-33)

B. The Gospel Preached and Rejected (10:1-21)

C. The Remnant According to the Election of Grace (11:1-36)

VI. The Exhortation of the Gospel – The Living Sacrifice (12:1-15:13)

- A. The Living Sacrifice (12:1-2)
- B. The Unity of the Body (12:3-8)
- C. The Behavior of the Transformed (12:9-21)
- D. The Responsibility to Civil Authorities (13:1-7)
- E. The Debt of Love Owed to All (13:8-14)
- F. The Regulation of Love Among Brethren in Exercising Liberties (14:1-15:13)

Outline of the Book of Romans (Cox)

VII. Conclusion – Paul’s Ministry and Final Greetings (15:14-16:24)

- A. The Aim of Paul’s Ministry (15:14-21)
- B. The Plans of Paul to Visit Rome (15:22-33)
- C. The Commendation of Phoebe (16:1-2)
- D. The Greetings from Paul (16:3-16)
- E. The Exhortation to Avoid Divisive People (16:17-20)
- F. The Greetings from Paul’s Companions (16:21-24)

VIII. Doxology (16:25-27)

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- V. The Rejection of the Gospel – The Israelites and the Israel of God (**9:1-11:36**)
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- VIII. Doxology (**16:25-27**)