

Paul Writes Romans



When: On 3rd journey [*The winter of A.D. 57*]
From Where: Corinth (Acts 20:2b-3)

Synopsis

- Another of the “major” N.T. epistles of Paul (*along with the 2 letters to the Corinthian Christians*)
- We strongly believe Paul wrote this letter from Corinth
 - After passing through Macedonia, he came to Greece (*i.e. Achaia*) (Acts 20:2)
 - Corinth, not Athens, was the principal city of that region
 - He spent three months there (the winter) before sailing to Syria (Acts 20:3)
 - He had written the Corinthians of his hopes to winter with them (1 Cor. 16:5-6)
 - He commends Phoebe to the Roman Christians (16:1)
 - She was a “servant of the church” in Cenchrea, the harbor or seaport of Corinth
 - Some think it is possible she may have also helped in delivering this letter
 - His “host” where he stayed while writing this epistle was Gaius (16:23)
 - This could be the same “Gaius” he baptized while in Corinth (1 Cor. 1:14)
 - We learn in Paul’s closing remarks that Priscilla & Aquila are back in Rome (16:3-5a)
 - After being expelled from Rome, they came to Corinth & met Paul (Acts 18:1-3)
 - They left Corinth with Paul and stayed behind in Ephesus (Acts 18:18-19, 26)
- The collection for the needy saints was in the process of being gathered (15:25-27)
 - A “work” Paul performed on his 3rd journey
 - Paul had finished his work in Achaia and was on his way back to Jerusalem
 - Following this, he wanted to stop in Rome on his way to Spain
- This particular letter is not like any of the other epistles Paul wrote to a church or group of saints
 - Paul had never been to Rome
 - He had tried to come to them, but had been hindered (1:11-13; 15:22-23)
 - He still planned to see Rome (Acts 19:21)
 - He would later be told by the Lord he would in fact go there (Acts 23:11)
- This letter is viewed by many Bible students as the grandest of all of Paul’s letters
 - Perhaps no other work of Paul contains more O.T. quotations than **Romans**
 - **Romans** touches on many important Biblical themes...
 - A complete presentation of sin & its effects upon all mankind (*Jew or Gentile*)
 - Justification by grace through faith, not by works of a law system
 - Practical instruction on how to live as a “justified” person

The Two Treatises

Lesson 50

Outline

Paul sends his opening greetings and makes his “thematic statement” (1:1-17)

- Greetings to the Romans who have been called by the gospel of the resurrected Christ (vv. 1-7)
- Thankfulness for them and how he had planned for some time to come to them (vv. 8-15)
- **THEME**: The gospel is God’s power to save...man will be justified by his faith (vv. 16-17)

Paul indicts all men of sin & provides the only remedy...faith in Jesus Christ (1:18 – 5:21)

- Indictment # 1 → all Gentiles are guilty of sin (1:18-32)
- Indictment # 2 → all Jews are guilty of sin (2:1-29)
- Indictment # 3 → all men (*whether Gentile or Jew*) are guilty of sin (3:1-23)
- God’s remedy for man’s sin problem → justification by God’s grace & man’s faith (3:24 – 5:21)
 - Salvation is for all through faith, not through “commandment keeping” (3:24-31)
 - Paul offers a “case study” for proof...Abraham (4:1-22)
 - We must follow Abraham’s example (4:23 – 5:11)
 - Illustration of God’s power to overcome our sins (5:12-21)

Paul anticipates & answers questions about justification by grace through faith (6:1 – 11:36)

- Questions and objections primarily from a Jewish perspective, not Gentile
- Question # 1 → “*Shall we continue in sin that grace might increase?*” (6:1-14)
- Question # 2 → “*Shall we sin because we are not under law, but under grace?*” (6:15 – 7:6)
- Question # 3 → “*Is the law sin?*” (7:7-23)
- Question # 4 → “*Who will set me free from this body of death?*” (7:24 – 8:30)
- Question # 5 → “*If God is for us, who can be against us?*” (8:31-39)
- Question # 6 → “*Is there unrighteousness with God?*” (9:1 – 10:21)
- Question # 7 → “*Has God cast away His people?*” (11:1-36)

Paul instructs on how those justified by grace through faith should live (12:1 – 15:13)

- Application # 1 → Refusing to conform to the world around us (12:1-2)
- Application # 2 → Serving brethren with humility (12:3-16)
- Application # 3 → No personal vengeance on those who mistreat us (12:17-21)
- Application # 4 → Living obediently before civil law (13:1-7)
- Application # 5 → Loving & serving others diligently in the cause of Christ (13:8-14)
- Application # 6 → Getting along with brethren when there is disagreement (14:1 – 15:13)

Paul gives his final exhortations as well as personal plans & closing remarks (15:14 – 16:27)

The Two Treatises

Lesson 50

Review Questions

- 1) Given Paul's use of Abraham in **Rom. 4**, what is the idea of his faith "reckoned" as righteousness?
BONUS QUESTION: Explain the "apparent contradiction" between **Rom. 4:1-5** & **Jas. 2:21-24**.
- 2) How does the Calvinist misunderstand and misuse **Rom. 5:12-19**?
- 3) What practical ways can disciples apply **Rom. 12:1-2**?
- 4) How has **Rom. 14** been "butchered" and misapplied?