

Romans 1

Introduction

Date of writing: Spring of 58 A.D., shortly before Pentecost (*Acts 20.3, 16*)

Location of writing: Corinth, Greece (*Acts 20.3*), on the Third Missionary Journey, on Paul's way to Jerusalem (*Romans 15.22*)

People to whom written: *Acts 2.10* – Strangers from Rome on the Day of Pentecost

-Generally it was a Gentile church (many Greek names in *Romans 16*), and the Jews in Rome rejected the gospel in *Acts 28*)

General theme: *Romans 1.16-17* – Since no apostle had ever visited the church in Rome, there were probably some misunderstandings concerning the gospel, so Paul was going to give a good explanation of the gospel to the Christians in Rome

Romans 1.1-7

V1 – Why did Paul take seven verses for the introduction? He had never seen the Christians in Rome

-**What were the qualifications for an apostle?** *Acts 1.21-22* – Had to have been with Jesus from the baptism of John until the ascension

-**How would Paul be considered an apostle then?** He was “called” and “set apart”

-He was questioned on this later – See *1 Corinthians 9.1* and *Gal. 3.15*

V2 – Where was the gospel of God promised beforehand in Old Testament? *Isaiah 53*, etc.

-**Any examples in the Old Testament of prophecies about Christ?** *Genesis 3.15, Isaiah 7.14*, etc.

V3 – Seed of David

-**What tribe was Jesus a member of?** Judah (not Levi) – *Matthew 1.6*

-**Why “according to flesh”?** No fleshly father

V4 – What was the major event that declared that Jesus was the Christ the Son of God?

His resurrection from the dead

-**Other times he was declared to be the Son of God?** At his baptism (*Matthew 3.17*), on the Mount of Transfiguration (*Matthew 17.5*), by the centurion at the cross (*Matthew 27.54*)

V5 – Explain “obedience of faith”: To believe is to obey

-See *Hebrews 5.7-9* – Salvation to those who obey him

V7 – Saints – we are all saints, not those canonized by Catholic Church

-Essence of gospel in v 1-7:

-Jesus is the Son of God (v 3)

-He became flesh (v 3)

- He was raised from the dead (v 4)
- He requires obedience of faith (v 5)
- Very succinct and to the point

Romans 1.8-15

V 8 – This could have referred to the civilized world or to the Roman Empire or literally to all the earth

- See *Col. 1.23* – We know that the apostle Thomas went to India and Sri Lanka, and we know that Peter went to modern day Iraq (Babylon)
- Paul went all over the Mediterranean area
- Where did the other apostles go?** We don't know

V 9-10 – **How did Paul help the church at Rome before he ever arrived there?** With his prayers for them

V 11 – **What was one of his goals in visiting Rome?** Imparting spiritual gifts to them
 -These gifts were necessary in the years before the New Testament was completed
 -See *1 Cor. 13.10*

V 12 – Mutual benefit from the faith of other Christians

V 13 – **What hindered him (why was he so anxious to get to Jerusalem)?** To deliver money for the poor saints there
 -Gentiles were the main people in Rome

V 14 – **Where did Paul use the term “barbarians” last?** On Melita (*Acts 28.2* – see footnote in NASB)

V 15 – “To preach the gospel” – one word in Greek
 -**What was Paul's attitude toward preaching the gospel in Rome?** He was looking forward to it

Romans 1.16-17

V 16 – “*I am not ashamed*”

- Of Paul's six major speeches in Acts, which audience sneered at him and insulted him?** The philosophers at Athens (*Acts 17.32*)
- But he was still not ashamed of the gospel
- Why?** *1 Corinthians 1.25* – The foolishness of God was greater than the wisdom of men, and according to *Acts 4.12* there is no other name under heaven by which people can be saved
- The U.S. Library of Congress has over 35 million books – **How many of them offer eternal salvation?** Only one: the Bible

- **Is this power give freely to everyone?** No, belief is necessary
- **Why were Jews given the gospel first?** Jews had greatest background in worship of God, so if they had accepted Christ, they would have made fantastic missionaries
- Theme of *Romans* – The gospel is the power of God to save all people

V 17 – “Faith unto faith” – **Any interpretations?** From Old Testament faith to the New Testament faith

Romans 1.18-23

V 18 – **How does God express himself to wickedness?** With his anger

- **What type of person is God especially angered by?** Those who suppress the truth
- **How do ungodly people sometimes suppress the truth?** Spanish Inquisition, persecution of Christians, oppression from other major world religions, censorship of Christian material, etc.

V 19 – **Is it normal for a human being to believe in a god?** Yes

- **If we did not have the Bible, what other things could be used to find out about God?**
- The order in nature – **Read Psalm 8**

V 20 – **Explain "His invisible attributes":** Those not perceived outwardly by the senses

- For example, God’s eternal power in the universe
- But they are perceived in the mind, so that there is no excuse not to believe in God

V 21 – **Does the world at large give thanks?** No - It is rare when people in the world give thanks for their food

- They are futile in their speculations
- **Examples of that?** Life in outer space, the Big Bang theory, all other theories that omit God

V 22 – What a statement: They were trying to appear wise, but they ended up looking foolish

- Remember the story "Emperor’s New Clothes"

V 23 – **Examples?**

- Images of birds and animals in astrology
- Most countries have animals for symbols
- Most sports teams are named after animals
- There are animals on some of our paper money (example: eagle)
- People worship cows in India
- We frequently name cars after animals

Romans 1.24-27

V 24 – God gave up on them – no more hope

-Sin “dishonors” bodies

-**How can sin ruin our bodies?** Cirrhosis of liver, car accidents, the mental anguish of adultery, sexually transmitted diseases

-**Other examples?**

V 25 – **What was the lie in the Garden of Eden?** “You will not die”

-That was partially correct, but God was referring to spiritual death (separation from God), not physical death

-**What other lie in the garden was also partially true?** You will know good from evil (yes, but they would not be able to resist evil)

-**Do some people worship the creature rather than Creator?** All the time

-**Can a person worship himself more than God?** Yes, by working to maintain his “creature comforts”

V 26-27 – This seems to say that homosexuality is worse than adultery

-Homosexuality is the ultimate level of degeneracy

-But there is a general acceptance of homosexuals today

-More and more states are legalizing homosexual marriage

Romans 1.28-32

V 28 – They didn’t think that it was worthwhile even to think about God

V 29-31 –Paul was writing from Corinth, an extremely wicked place

-**Of sins listed here, which are most prevalent today?**

V 32 – The worst sin is not committing an immoral act, but in encouraging others to do so also

-*Ephesians 5.11-13* – We should expose all sin

Summary of Paul's comments – **Read Hosea 8.7** – They have sown the wind and they shall reap the whirlwind

Revised 2013-02-03