

To the Church in Rome

Paul Writes His Letter

Romans 1:1-13

February 9, 2025

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Introduction:

- In Acts, we answered questions like:
 - *When did the church begin?*
 - *What is the purpose of the church?*
 - *How does a person become part of it?*
 - *What are the Terms of Pardon as laid out by the Holy Spirit through the Apostles?*
 - *What is my obligation as part of the Body of Believers?*
- Rome was founded in 753 B.C. as a City-State ... But it soon became an Empire that encompassed over two-million miles of land.
- The city of Rome was the capital of the whole Empire.
- The church in Rome was not yet familiar with the teachings of Apostles since Pentecost.
- They were not even aware of the letter sent out by the Apostles in **Acts 15**.
- Around 49-50 A.D. Emperor Claudius forced all Jews out of the city of Rome.
- When he died in 54 A.D. the edict expired, and many Jews went back to Rome.
- In the church at Rome there is tension between the Jewish Christians and the Gentile Christians.
- Remember – All these Christians have already responded to the Terms of Pardon – **Acts 2:38**
- Greek – **Metanoeo** ... English – **Repent** ... *“To change one’s way of life as the result of a complete change of thought and attitude with regard to sin and righteousness.”*
- Greek – **Baptizo** ... English – **Baptize** ... *“To be plunged under water, to completely cover ... to be immersed ... to bury.”*
- Let there be no mistake – a person cannot be saved in Christ and yet think they do not have to change their life.
- What are the Terms of Pardon?
 - Faith – **Romans 10:17**
 - Belief – **John 3:16**
 - Repentance – **Luke 13:3**
 - Confession – **Matthew 10:32-33**
 - Baptism – **Mark 16:16**
 - Faithfulness – **James 1:12**
- NOW ... The Terms of Pardon do not change. They are the same today as they were in 33 A.D. No one has the authority to change what the Holy Spirit has established through His Apostles.

1. Who writes this letter?

- a. **Romans 16:22**
- b. Who is Tertius?
- c. Pheobe hand delivers the letter to the Elders in Rome.
- d. **Romans 1:1-7**
- e. Greek – **Doulos** ... English – **Servant** ... “*One who is enslaved and the property of their owner.*”
- f. **Romans 12:1-1**
- g. **1st Corinthians 6:19-20**
- h. When Paul calls himself a “Slave of God” he is in good company:
 - i. **Deuteronomy 34:5** – Moses
 - ii. **Joshua 24:29** – Joshua
 - iii. **2nd Samuel 3:18** – David
 - iv. **James 1:1** – James
 - v. **2nd Peter 1:1** – Peter
 - vi. **Jude 1:1** – Jude

2. Why write the letter?

- a. No apostle had been to the Roman church since it began.
- b. Judaizers were telling the Gentile Christians that they needed to convert to Judaism, practice the Law of Moses, then they could become a Christian.
- c. They were telling all Gentile men to be circumcised before they could be saved in Christ.
- d. In many cases, the Jews were still seeing themselves as less sinful, after all, they were not Gentiles.
- e. This was causing tension and frustration in the Body of Believers.
- f. Paul wants all people to know that they are called to the Gospel Message, because we all need to be forgiven.
- g. When we see it this way, we see that we are all ONE in Christ – this builds unity.
- h. How do we protect Unity?
 - i. We love one another Biblically.
 - ii. We do not gossip or take part in gossiping or divisiveness.
 - iii. We study to examine ourselves according to the Word of God.
 - iv. We follow the leaders that God has put in our life.
- i. **Psalms 133:1**
- j. **John 17:22**
- k. **1st Corinthians 1:10**
- l. **Ephesians 4:3**
- m. **Romans 1:14-17**

3. The Power of God:

- a. **Romans 1:16-17**
- b. **Romans 1:3**
- c. Greek – **Ginomai** (*Gen-O-My*) ... English – “Was a descendant of David” ... “*To come to existence.*”
- d. But what does that mean as far as the Power of who Jesus is? – **Ginomai** – Does not mean “Born, or was Chosen” ... **It means**, “stepped into our existence. In other words, He who already was, has come to us.”
- e. **Genesis 1:26**
- f. **Matthew 1:23**
- g. **1st Corinthians 15:3-8**
- h. **Romans 1:14-17**