

INTRODUCTION

There were seven churches to whom Paul the Apostle addressed his nine letters.

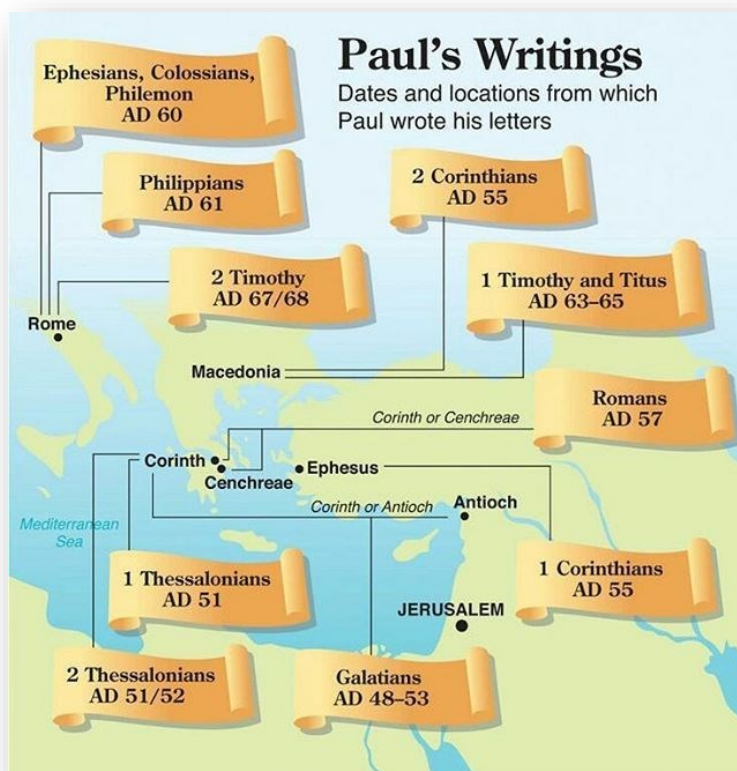
Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Thessalonians.
(2 Letters to Corinthians, 2 Letters to Thessalonians).

Although it is believed that Paul wrote Thessalonians along with Galatians first, it appears last, because it's emphasis is the consummation (climax) of the Church as the Body of Christ.

The Roman church, unlike the other churches, was not started by Paul but consisted of believing Jews and Gentiles. Perhaps this is the reason why Paul, in his Roman Epistle, introduces himself differently as he does his other letters. The Book of Romans theme is salvation (justification).

Paul did not have 21st Century Christians in mind when he dictated to his secretary, Tertius - **Romans 16:22** "I, Tertius, who wrote down this letter, greet you in the Lord." Paul wrote in response to the need of the 1st Century believers in Rome. Although he was not in the least thinking of us, the Holy Spirit who inspired Paul intended that the letter occupy universal history for successive generations of Christians.

The truth contained in Romans is the same truth today. Truth is eternal and unchanging. What was taught then remains the truth today. May the Holy Spirit lead and teach you to follow and embrace the sacred truth of this letter.



STATISTICS

Author	:	Paul the Apostle.
His Secretary	:	Tertius
Place of Writing	:	Corinth, in Greece.
Date	:	A.D. 52 (Some 20 years after Paul's conversion).
Theme	:	Salvation Gospel
Emphasis	:	The Cross of Christ
Result	:	Confession of Christ as Saviour. (Rom 10:9)
Purpose	:	To establish believers in Rome.

4 SECTIONS

The letter is carefully constructed into 4 divisions:

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|-------------------|--|
| 1. Chapter 1-8 | Righteousness – A right relationship with God. |
| 2. Chapters 9-11 | Rejection – A Jewish tragedy. |
| 3. Chapters 12-15 | Responsibility – A must in living the Christian life. |
| 4. Chapter 16. | Recommendation – A greeting & introduction of Phebe (A Deaconess and most likely the courier of the letter). |

Some manuscripts of Romans omitted the two final chapters. The explanation for this is that the final chapters contained more personal greetings, and the church at Rome wanted other churches to also benefit from its teachings. Nevertheless, we can be satisfied that the Textus Receptus or “received text”, among others, includes these chapters.

ROMANS CHAPTER 1:1-15

CREDENTIALS AND CALLING.

Lord or Master (Kurios), slave or servant (Doulos) are opposites.

- Paul presents himself as a slave to the master Jesus Christ. By employing the word “doulos”.
- Paul associated himself with the Old Testament prophets like Moses and Joshua who also called themselves slaves. (**Joshua 1:2**).
- Paul also refers to his calling associating himself with the Old Testament patriarch Abraham who was called of God. (**Gen 12:1-3**).
- Paul did not aspire to greatness. His objective was effectiveness. He was set apart and singled out for the task as God's servant. An apostle to the Gentiles. (Non-Jews).

Romans Lesson 1 continued

- Paul had been a Pharisee. (**Phil 3:5**). A Pharisee was one who separated himself from ordinary folk. The Pharisees saw Gentiles as fuel to feed the fires of hell.
- Paul therefore significantly saw himself as separated by God from the life of an ordinary Jew to reach the Gentiles. He stated the Gospel was “for all”, obviously to the Jew and Gentile.

COURTESY AND COMPLIMENTS

Paul at the time of writing had never been to Rome and therefore constructs a bridge between himself and his readers. He acknowledges the effectiveness of their Christian witness, yet, he longs to share with them the grace and gift God has given to him in terms of the role of the Cross as the foundation of faith. Why was Paul so determined to go to Rome and preach to the believers? They had already accepted Jesus as Messiah and Saviour.

JEW AND GENTILE UNDER CONDEMNATION

Paul obviously believed that the revelation and commission God gave to him as the Apostle to the Gentiles needed to be more fully taught so that the fruit of his teaching of grace would also be evident in Rome the political capital of the then known world. Most of these Roman believers were Gentiles, but no doubt Hebrew believers, although in the minority also fellowshipped in the church at Rome. The Gentiles came from a background of decadence and corruption. They fell short of God’s righteousness. The Jews felt superior because they believed that by meticulous obedience to the Old Testament law, they would attain righteousness. Paul points out that “all” of them were sinners, both Jews and Gentiles and all have fallen short of God’s glory, His righteousness - **Romans 3:23** *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

QUESTIONS:

What does the word righteousness mean?

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What is meant by the Word Gospel?

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Of what Jewish King was Jesus a direct descendent?

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Read Romans 1:16, commit this verse to memory.

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What makes the Bible relevant in our lives today?

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SCRIPTURE

For I am not
ashamed of the
gospel, because it is
the power of God
that brings
salvation to
everyone who
believes: first to the
Jew, then to the
Gentile.

Romans 1:16 NIV