

"TO ALL THAT BE IN ROME"  
Romans 1:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. This begins our study of the book of Romans
  - 1) It was written by Paul
  - 2) He wrote it from Corinth at the close of his third missionary journey between 55 and 58 A.D.
  - 3) It is said to be the greatest statement on Christianity ever written.
  - 4) It has dramatically affected the lives of those who have thoroughly studied it, Augustine and Luther are well-known examples.
  
- B. It was written to a congregation
  - 1) "To all that be in Rome"
  - 2) "beloved of God"
  - 3) "called saints" (leave out "to be")
  - 4) We know it was not a Catholic church for apostasy had not gone that far, nor Lutheran, nor Presbyterian, nor Methodist, nor Mormon, nor Pentecostal.
  
- C. What is it's main purpose?
  - 1) It addresses itself to many truths
  - 2) Jew and Gentile before God
  - 3) Faith as God's plan of salvation and service
  - 4) God's eternal purpose
  - 5) Church and state
  - 6) How to live daily as a Christian
  - 7) Paul purposes to reveal truth to those who love truth so as to place them in a place of acceptable service.
  
- I. The Author of the Book vs. 1
  - A. Paul identifies himself
    - 1) "Paul" = His Roman name
    - 2) "a servant of Jesus Christ" = doulos = slave = "one who has a master", "one who is at the control of another"
    - 3) "called to be an apostle" = kletos = "called", "not invited, but appointed" Paul continues to defend his Apostleship.
    - 4) "separated unto the gospel of God" = aphorizo = "to mark off", "to separate by a boundary" The gospel would be the boundaries of Paul's work.
  
  - B. Paul identifies, "which gospel" vs. 2-4
    - 1) It was the Promised gospel = Proepaggelle = "to Promise before or in advance"
    - 2) It was the "scripture" gospel = graphe = "writing" This is "holy" writing!

- 3) It was a Jesus gospel "concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord" = peri = "around", "chiefly as the object of thought, emotion, knowledge, discourse, etc."
- 4) It was the ancient gospel "which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh" He is a descendent of King David, in the flesh.
- 5) It was the "proven" gospel. "declared" = horizo = "to mark out definitely" How did God "mark out definitely" Jesus? What were the boundaries? God did it with "power" = dunamis = "inherent power", "ability to perform" Jesus lived a holy life, a life according to the spirit of holiness. How holy was his life? It was proven by the act of his resurrection. He was perfectly holy within Himself. He could not be killed. He could not die. He could not decay. He must be raised up!

II. Paul's Mission in This World vs. 5-6

- A. Paul has been equipped
  - 1) He has received grace
  - 2) He has been appointed
- B. His mission
  - 1) "obedience" = hupakon = "a hearing attentively", hence, obedience as the result of attentive hearing.
  - 2) "to urge" upon all men obedience inspired by faith.
  - 3) Paul had received God's grace. He had been appointed by the Lord to go into all nations and urge men to obey God, based upon their faith in Him.
- C. These were the fruit of such work vs. 6
  - 1) Paul had not won them
  - 2) Peter had not won them
  - 3) God had won them! They are a part of these from "all nations" whom God would call.

III. The Church at Rome vs. 7

- A. "To all that be in Rome"
  - 1) Everyone in the church
- B. "beloved of God"
  - 1) each is God's beloved
- C. "called to be saints"
  - 1) They are already saints
- D. Paul's desire for them
  - 1) "Grace to you"
  - 2) "and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"

IV. What About the Church at Rome?

A. We never really know much about it

- 1) Only a few names are used
- 2) Titles are used

B. We are really studying the letter and not the church

- 1) The letter reveals the body

C. What would it be like to attend one of it's services?

To be a member?

- 1) We consider it embryonic
- 2) It is incomplete, infantile
- 3) We would be more impressed by its present day apostate revision.

