

## INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS

### I. The human author.

- A. We know that all scripture is given by inspiration of God.
- B. However, all scripture needed a human penman.
  - 1. In the case of Romans, this was, without question, the apostle Paul.
  - 2. This is so stated by him at the very beginning of the letter (1:1).
- C. The fact is, no one with any credibility whatsoever has questioned the fact of Paul being the human penman.
  - 1. All the early church historians that quoted from Romans in their writings attributed it to Paul.
  - 2. There may be no other book that has as much external evidence to show who the author is than Romans.
- D. There is also a great deal of internal evidence that shows Paul as the author.
  - 1. Paul claims it as was mentioned and also the writer called himself the apostle to the Gentiles later in the book, which is what we know Paul to have been (11:13).
  - 2. There are a great deal of comparisons that can be made between what happened in Paul's life recorded in Acts that are spoken of in Romans.
    - a. Paul collected funds for the needy saints in Judea (Acts 24:17; Romans 15:25-26).
    - b. Both books proclaim the purpose for Paul wanting to visit Rome (Acts 19:21; Romans 1:13; 15:23-24).
    - c. Both talk of his apprehension about going to Jerusalem (Acts 20:22-23; Romans 15:30-31).
- E. We could go to a great number of other traits that Romans has with other works by Paul to show him as the penman but these evidences thoroughly prove the fact that he was such.

### II. The church in Rome.

- A. It was the saints in Rome to whom this letter was addressed (1:7).
- B. We do not know how the church was established in Rome.
- C. There are two ideas that are Bible based as to how the church was established in Rome:
  - 1. The first idea is that there were those among the 3,000 converted on Pentecost who were from Rome.
    - a. We know there were devout Jews out of every nation present that day (Acts 2:5) and even strangers from Rome (2:10).
    - b. It is very possible that some from Rome were converted and went back home and spread the gospel message.
    - c. The first we read of Christians from Rome is in Acts 18 when we meet Aquila and Priscilla (18:1-2).
    - d. They were out of Rome because Claudias had ordered all Jews removed from Rome which was in the late 40's.

2. The second idea is that some of those who were scattered abroad after the stoning of Stephen went to Rome and preached the gospel there (Acts 8:4).
- D. The fact is the church in Rome was well known by the time Paul wrote this letter (Romans 1:8).
1. There is no evidence of any apostle ever going to Rome before Paul went there in the early 60's.
  2. In fact, Paul generally did not go where other apostles had been (Romans 15:20; 2 Corinthians 10:14-16).
- E. The church in Rome seemed to have several congregations that met in the homes of certain members (Romans 16:5, 14-15).
- F. It had a mixed make up of Jews and Gentiles, being predominately Gentile.
- G. Paul had wanted to go to Rome for a number of years but had not been allowed to as yet.
- H. We know he would end up going there imprisoned by Rome but allowed to have guests and to teach and preach (Acts 28).

### III. **Place and time of writing.**

- A. It is widely believed and accepted that Paul wrote this letter during a three month stay in Corinth.
1. Paul was going to Jerusalem to deliver the relief funds he had collected for them.
  2. Paul was in Corinth for three months just before going to Jerusalem (Acts 20:3; 24:17).
  3. The context of Romans indicates that the collection had been completed.
- B. Paul was in Corinth in late 57, early 58 AD so this nails down the date of writing.
- C. Paul had long wanted to go to Rome but had not been allowed to do so.
1. Because of this, Paul was inspired to write about the doctrine of justification because there was much confusion about it because of false teaching from Judaizing teachers.
  2. Previous to writing Romans, Paul was inspired to write Galatians, which was about the same topic, and to an area that had been affected by these false teachers.

### IV. **Great doctrines in Romans.**

- A. Paul teaches a great deal about righteousness.
1. This word is found 33 times in the book.
  2. He stresses being righteous before God in heart and life.
- B. Paul talks about justification.
1. This word is found three times and justified is found 19 times.
  2. This is the idea of being free from guilt before God.
- C. Paul wrote about election which is God's choice of those who are in Christ to be saved.
- D. Paul also talked of sanctification which is the separation of the one in Christ from the world by obedience to the gospel.

**V. Some key things in Romans.**

- A. The key word is righteousness which, as mentioned, is found 33 times in the book.
- B. The key phrase is found in 1:5 and a similar one in 16:26.
- C. The key chapter is 12 because it is about exhorting Christians to a life of faithfulness.