

Romans (*Introduction*)

During Paul's **2nd Missionary Journey**, he spent time in Corinth with Aquila & Priscilla. They had been exiled from Rome. They built up the church in Corinth.

During Paul's **3rd Missionary Journey**, he re-visited Corinth. Paul wrote the letter to the Romans during this visit. By this time Aquila & Priscilla had gone back to Rome. In Romans 16:3 Paul greeted them. Paul had gathered money & resources from the churches in Macedonia & Achaia. (*Corinth is in Achaia*). He hoped that this offering from the Gentile Christians in these areas would soften Jewish Christian feelings toward their Gentile brethren. His plans were to carry the resources to Jerusalem then make a visit to the Romans. He hoped that they would give him financial support to conduct a campaign into Spain.

Unfortunately, Paul's plans would be delayed. When he reached Jerusalem he was arrested and spent two years in jail! He was then transferred to Rome as a prisoner. He spent another two years in jail there.

We believe Paul was released from prison and eventually made his visit to Spain.

Paul was a Jew and he was the apostle to the Gentiles. The Roman church was composed of both Jews and Gentiles. This gave him the opportunity, the authority, *and the necessity* to write about the role of Israel in the church of Christ. There was a great amount of tension between Jewish and Gentile Christians. Paul wanted to help unite these two cultures. He realized that Jesus was the ONLY way for ALL men to be saved. Paul needed to help his nation of Israel (The Jews) understand that God had opened the door of salvation to the Gentiles through Jesus Christ! However, he had to be careful because of the deep beliefs of Israel. They had enjoyed the distinction of being God's "*chosen people*"! They did not want to believe that God had no further plans for them. Paul assured them that God did love them and still has plans for them.

Walking the "*tightrope*" of tension between Jews & Gentiles was not easy. However, Paul was speaking through inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The letter to the Romans is a MASTERPIECE! It speaks the truth in love! This is what we ALL should strive to do!

Romans (Outline)

I. We are ALL Sinners

- Chapter 1 The GENTILES are SINNERS
- Chapter 2 The JEWS are SINNERS
- Chapter 3 “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (3:23)
“There is NONE righteous, no, not one” (3:10)

II. How Are We Saved From Sin?

- Chapter 4 We are JUSTIFIED BY FAITH
- Chapter 5 Jesus DIED for our salvation ... Our faith in this fact justifies us, therefore we REJOICE; We are PATIENT in our tribulations; and we have HOPE!
- Chapter 6 We are FREE from SIN therefore we should STOP SINNING!
“The Wages of Sin is DEATH” (6:23)
Since we have been “buried with him by baptism” (6:4) in the likeness of his death we should also in the likeness of his resurrection rise to walk a NEW LIFE!

III. What About The Law? (and Law Keeping?)

- Chapter 7 We are FREE from the LAW!
- Chapter 8 We have “NO CONDEMNATION in CHRIST JESUS” (8:1)
“We know All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose” (8:28)
“We are more than conquerors through him that loved us” (8:37)
NOTHING “shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our LORD” (8:39)
- Chapter 9 Explains the JEWS’ (and the Church’s) relationship to God “they are not all Israel, which are of Israel” (9:6)
“the children of the promise are COUNTED for the seed” (9:8)
God can do as he will with a nation for “he is the potter” (9:21)
- Chapter 10 “My heart’s desire and prayer for Israel is that they may be saved” (10:1) “There is NO DIFFERENCE between Jew and Gentile for WHOSOEVER shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (10:12&13)
- Chapter 11 God has not “Cast Away” Israel (11:2) so the Gentiles are warned not to “boast” against them! (11:18)

IV. Living Right Is The Sign Of The TRUE Christian Life

- Chapter 12 & 13 Practical Christian Living ... a call to “Do Good” and Be Good”
- Chapter 14 Don’t JUDGE one another! God will do that!
- Chapter 15 A call to be UNIFIED!

V. Paul’s Personal Greetings And Plans

- Chapter 16 Personal greetings and a plan to visit them.