

writes, *Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures...and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures.*

In Romans 1:3-5 Paul begins his theme of the gospel and it's identification with Jesus Christ, and Christ's humanity.

2. How does Romans 1:3 describe the humanity of Jesus Christ? _____

PAUL'S INTEREST IN THE ROMAN CHURCH (Romans 1:8-15)

1. What is Paul doing in Romans 1:8-10? (Romans 1:10) _____

Since Paul had never been to Rome and had no part in the founding of the Roman Church, he feels he must disarm their suspicions. Before he can do anything else he must "get alongside them so that the barriers of strangeness and suspicion may be broken down."¹

He expresses his long-awaited desire to visit them, and the grounds of his desire.

2. What is his first complement toward them in Romans 1:8? _____

3. What is the main purpose Paul gives for his coming to them in Romans 1:11? _____

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Volume 8, p. 35.

INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS

The Book of Romans was written by Paul on his third missionary journey. Paul was in Greece at the time, and spent three months there (Acts 20:3); and he recommends Phebe (Romans 16:1), the deaconess from Cenchrea (eastern seaport of Corinth): who probably carried the letter to Rome, which makes it very likely that the letter was written from Corinth. But it is possible that another Grecian city, such as Philippi, was the place. The dates for this epistle have ranged from A.D. 53 to A.D. 58. The years of which seem to be the most likely dates for the letter are the years A. D. 55 or A. D. 56.

Gathering a collection from the Gentile churches to be presented to the poor saints at Jerusalem, the apostle planned to leave Greece and go to Palestine with representatives from the Gentile churches. He felt that this gesture by the Gentiles would show their love for their Christian brother's in Palestine and demonstrate unity of the church. Next, he intended to go to Rome, and from Rome, he wanted to go to Spain.

Before Paul turned his back for a time on his westerly goals, he penned this mighty letter to the Romans and sent it westward.¹

This Book of Romans is a letter to a group (or groups) of believers in Rome. Paul had prayed for

1. The Open Bible, Romans.

the readers unceasingly (1:9,10) and longed to have fellowship with them (1:11). He wanted them to pray for him because of the dangers that threatened (15:30-32). ¹

Romans is a letter of instruction touching upon those main truths of the Gospel that Paul felt were needed by those in Rome. Since the needs of the Gentiles were similar whether they were in Rome or Colosse, there is a universal note in the teaching.

¹

As we study the Letter to the Romans, we will cover as much as we can to get the fullest meaning of Paul's writings. We will not attempt to cover the verse-by-verse account in every Chapter, but we will know what the Holy Spirit is trying to get across to every believer and potential believer. As you do your personal study, though, please read every verse and allow it to become a part of you.

FIRST STUDY

OPENING AFFIRMATIONS

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING (Romans 1:1-7)

Paul, unfolding his thoughts, sets in motion with some beginning comments to prepare the reader for all that he proposes to write (Romans 1:1-17).

1. Paul identifies himself in Romans 1:1. How does he introduce himself?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

Paul was an apostle in a broader acceptance of the term, but in referring to himself as *kletos apostolos* he is stressing the fact that he is not merely an apostle by virtue of possessing the qualifications described in Acts 1:21,22, but through a personal encounter with the risen Christ (cf. I Cor. 15:8; Galatians 1:1, 15-16). "His summons to be an apostle, a special commissioner of Christ, came directly, he claims, from 'Jesus Christ, and God the Father' (Gal. 1:1), who laid on him the responsibility of proclaiming the gospel to the Gentile world (Gal. 1:16)" ¹

In Romans 1:2, Paul declares the good news... *had been...promised afore by his (God's) prophets in the holy scriptures*. Again, in I Corinthians 15:3,4, Paul

1. Nelson Open Bible, Romans.

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Volume 8, p. 28.