

Romans

AUTHOR AND DATE: Written by Paul in A.D. 57-58 on Paul's 3rd missionary journey, from Corinth (Rom. 16:23; 1 Cor. 1:14). At the time of writing Paul had never been to Rome. He reached Rome three years after he wrote this letter.

POSTMASTER: Phoebe, she lived in a suburb of Corinth and was going to Rome (Rom. 16:1-2).

RECIPIENTS OF LETTER: A mixed congregation of Jews and Gentiles. The church was probably formed as a result of the feast of Pentecost (Acts 2:10). Twenty-eight years has past since the forming of this church, it is now a large congregation with many of Paul's own friends and converts who had migrated there (Rom. 16).

PAUL'S MARTYRDOM: History says that Paul's martyrdom took place in Rome (by beheading) about eight years after this letter was written.

What was the purpose of this letter? The Roman church had no New Testament because the Gospels were not yet being circulated in their final written form. Thus this letter may well have been the first piece of Christian literature the Roman believers had seen. Written to both Jewish and Gentile Christians, the letter to the Romans is a systematic presentation of the Christian faith (Life Application Bible, p. 2025).

Multi-Translation Handout Sheet

Romans Chapter 1

Read paragraph Romans 1:1-5.

RO 1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, [2] (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) [3] Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; [4] And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: [5] By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: (King James Version)

Greetings from Paul

1 This letter is from Paul, Jesus Christ's slave, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News. ²This Good News was promised long ago by God through his prophets in the holy Scriptures. ³It is the Good News about his Son, Jesus, who came as a man, born into King David's royal family line. ⁴And Jesus Christ our Lord was shown to be the Son of God when God powerfully raised him from the dead by means of the Holy Spirit. ⁵Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.¹

¹*Holy Bible, New Living Translation,* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.

RO 1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

This letter is from Paul, Jesus Christ's slave, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News. (KJV-NLT)

1. (Rom. 1:1) What 3 ways does Paul identify himself to the church at Rome?
2. (Rom. 1:1) What does the word "servant" imply? Does this apply to all Christians or just Paul? Mt. 6:24 (NCV; NASV – note, *personified as an object of worship.*)
3. (Rom. 1:1) What is an apostle? How many apostles are in the New Testament?

Apo, "from," stello, "to send." "One who is sent" with a message from Divine authority. There were 12 apostles of the Lamb (Rev. 21:14), their qualifications included being taught directly by the Lord and a witness to His resurrection (Acts 1:21-22), they set church policy in the early church (Acts 15:1-2,6-11). Although there were only 12 apostles of the Lamb, there are many apostles mention in the N.T. who are not the 12 (Acts 14:14; Gal. 1:19 etc.). The Greek word for "apostle" is used around 80 times in the NT. Christ continued to give apostles to His church even after His death and resurrection (Eph. 4:8-11 (NirV); 1 Cor. 12:28). Paul was the only apostle after Jesus death and resurrection that was equal to the twelve and met the qualifications of the twelve (1 Cor. 9:1; Acts 26:15-16; Gal. 2:8). The apostle's message was confirmed by signs and wonders (2 Cor. 12:12; Matt. 10:1-10; Peter – Acts 9:36-42; Paul – Acts 28:1-10; Jesus – Heb. 3:1)

4. (Rom. 1:1) What does the phrase "separated unto the gospel of God" mean?

Rom. 1:[2] (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)² This Good News was promised long ago by God through his prophets in the holy Scriptures. (KJV – NLT)

1. (Rom. 1:2) Notice that in the KJV verse 2 is in parenthesis. What is Paul trying to amplify in verse 2?

Rom. 1:[3] Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

³ It is the Good News about his Son, Jesus, who came as a man, born into King David's royal family line. (KJV – NLT)

1. (Rom. 1:3) What is the good news, the gospel about? Also Rom. 1:16 KJV.
2. (Rom. 1:3) Concerning Jesus Christ's human nature, He was a descendant of whom? Why is this significant?

Rom. 1:[4] And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:⁴ And Jesus Christ our Lord was shown to be the Son of God when God powerfully raised him from the dead by means of the Holy Spirit. (KJV – NLT)

1. (Rom. 1:4) Who was Jesus Christ, according to Romans 1:4? Isa. 9:6-7; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 16:13-17; Jn. 5:16-18; Lk.1:31-35 (movie, "Young Messiah" – Joseph is not your father!; Jn. 10:30-33 cp. Lev. 24:16 (NIV); Heb. 2:9 cp. Jn. 5:25, 28-29 (NIV), 1 Cor. 15:54 (NLT). 1 Tim. 3:16 (CWB); Acts 8:5-8,12; Acts 8:26-39; Jn. 20:24-31.

Rom. 1:[5] By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

⁵ Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name. (KJV – NLT)

1. (Rom. 1:5) God granted Paul grace and apostleship for what purpose?