



A Walk Through Romans

Romans 1:1 - Introduction

Vertical Life Church

Background for Romans

- Written to an existing church of believers in Rome
- Tradition that it was founded by Peter (and Paul) is most likely incorrect
- Most likely founded by believers returning from Jerusalem after Pentecost
- Letter written from Corinth around 56 AD
- Carried to Rome by Phoebe (Rom 16:1-2)

Background for Romans

- Not written to correct any bad behavior or misconceptions
- Rather it is a systematic description of the Gospel, its need, its content, its ramifications, and its results.
- Outline
 - I. Introduction (Rom 1:1-17)
 - II. Need for the Gospel (1:18-3:20)
 - III. Justification through the Gospel (3:21-5:21)
 - IV. Sanctification through the Gospel (6:1-8:39)
 - V. Jews Relationship to the Gospel (9:1-11:36)
 - VI. The Application of the Gospel (12:1-15:13)

The Greeting – Establishing Perspective

- Bond Servant of Jesus
 - *doulos* means slave
 - Hebrew equivalent would be *ebed* which means bond-servant
 - Paul was proud of his Roman citizenship and used it to advantage
 - In the Law, a bond-servant would be set free after 6 years
 - If the slave chose to remain with his/her master, they would be permanently made a bond-servant (Exo 21:5-6)

The Greeting – Establishing Perspective

- Bond Servant of Jesus
- Called as an Apostle
 - Called by God (Act 9:15; Gal 1:1)
 - Apostle means *one who is sent* (e.g. Phil 2:25, 2 Cor 8:23, John 13:16)
 - Apostle took on meaning of one given special authority
 - 2 requirements: Had seen the risen Lord (Acts 1:22) & had been called an apostle by Jesus (Acts 1:2-3) (also 1 Cor 9:1-2; 1 Cor 15:7-9; Gal 1:1)
 - Apostles spoke in place of the O.T. prophets (2 Pet 3:1-2)
 - Peter validates that Paul's writings are scripture (2 Pet 3:16)

The Greeting – Establishing Perspective

- Bond Servant of Jesus
- Called as an Apostle
- Separated Unto the Gospel of God
 - Greek word *aphoridzo* which means set apart, separated, excluded
 - Paul had been separated and excluded from his considerable bona fides (Phil 3:4-8)

Our Approach to Romans

- Have we become bond-servants of God? (Luk 9:59-62)
- Are we true to our calling?
- Have we been separated for the Gospel of God?