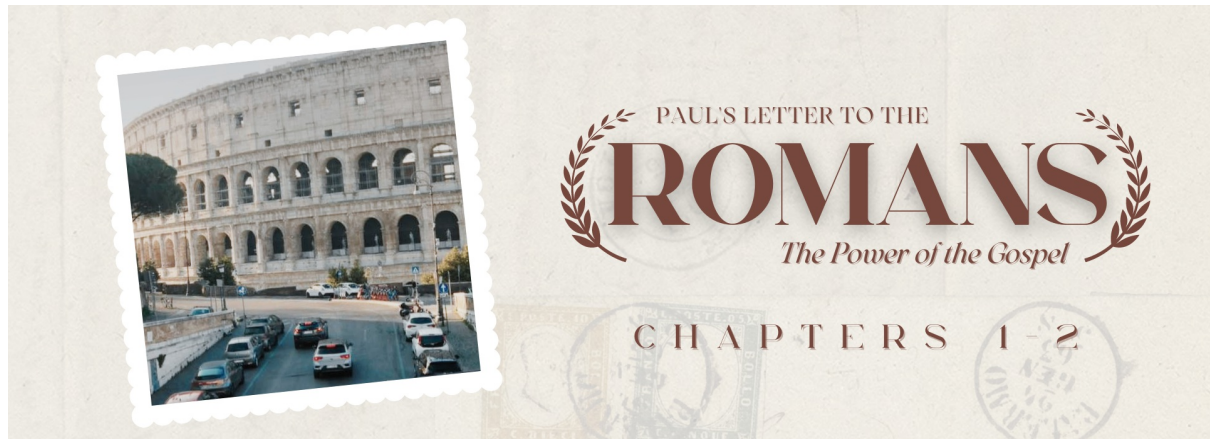


# An Introduction to Paul's Letter to the Romans

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Part of Paul's Letter to the Romans Chapters 1-2

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## Christian Leaders Impacted by Romans:

- **Augustine** (AD 354-430)

*Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*

—Romans 13:13-14 (ESV)

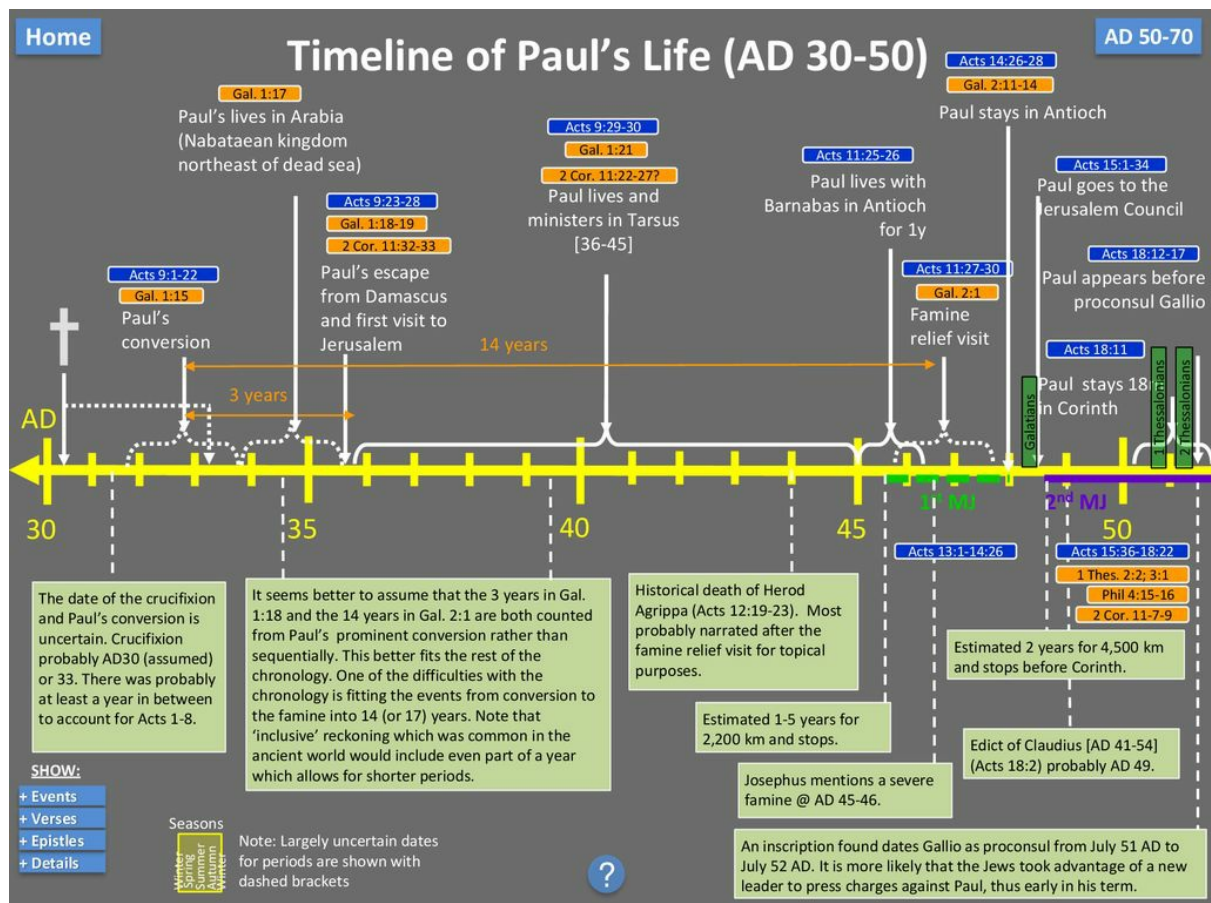
- **Martin Luther** (October 31, 1517)
- **John Wesley** (May 24, 1738)

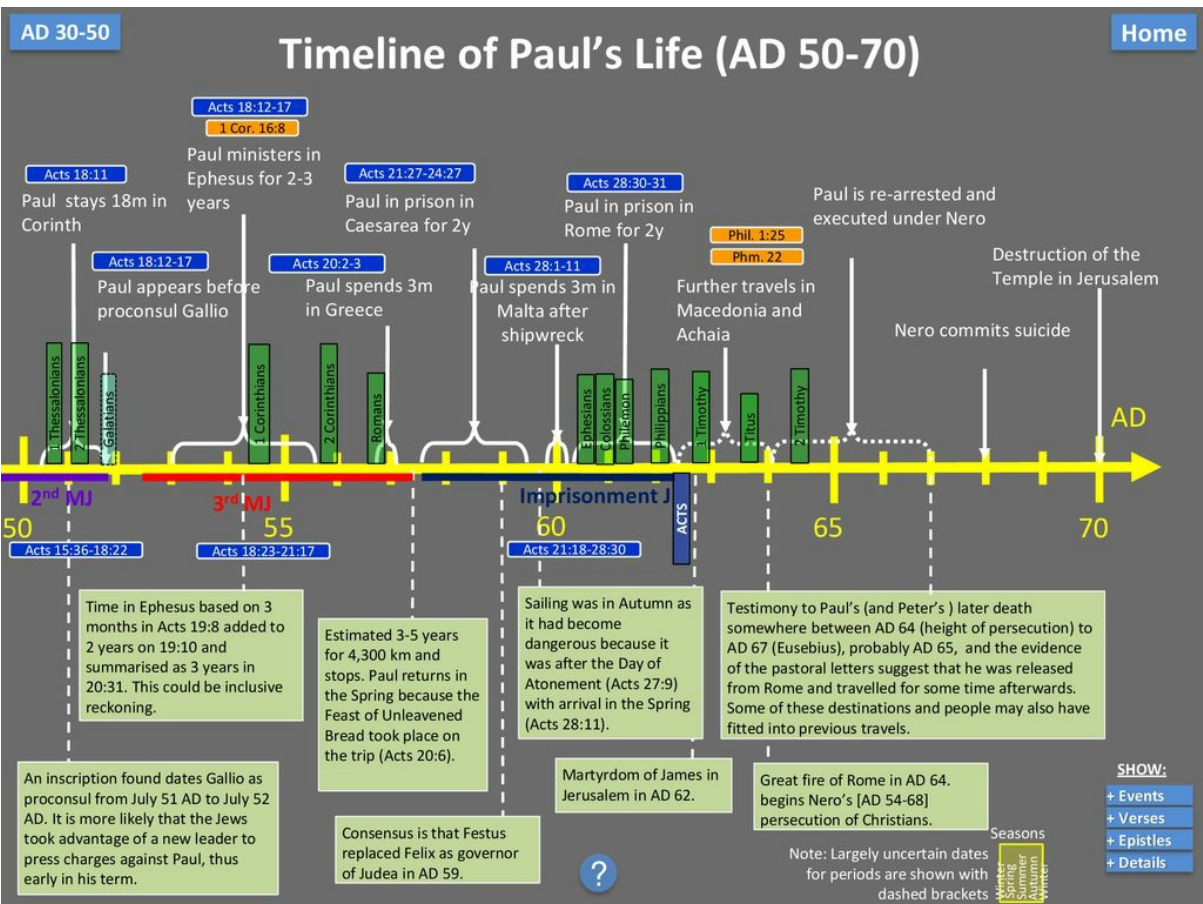
*In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading [Martin] Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ*

*alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.*

—John Wesley

**God has used this amazing letter from the Apostle Paul to the church at Rome to help millions come to faith in Christ and understand the value and power of that faith for the daily living of their lives.**





Acts 2:10 tells us that on the day of Pentecost, with the coming of the Holy Spirit, there were "visitors from Rome" in Jerusalem.

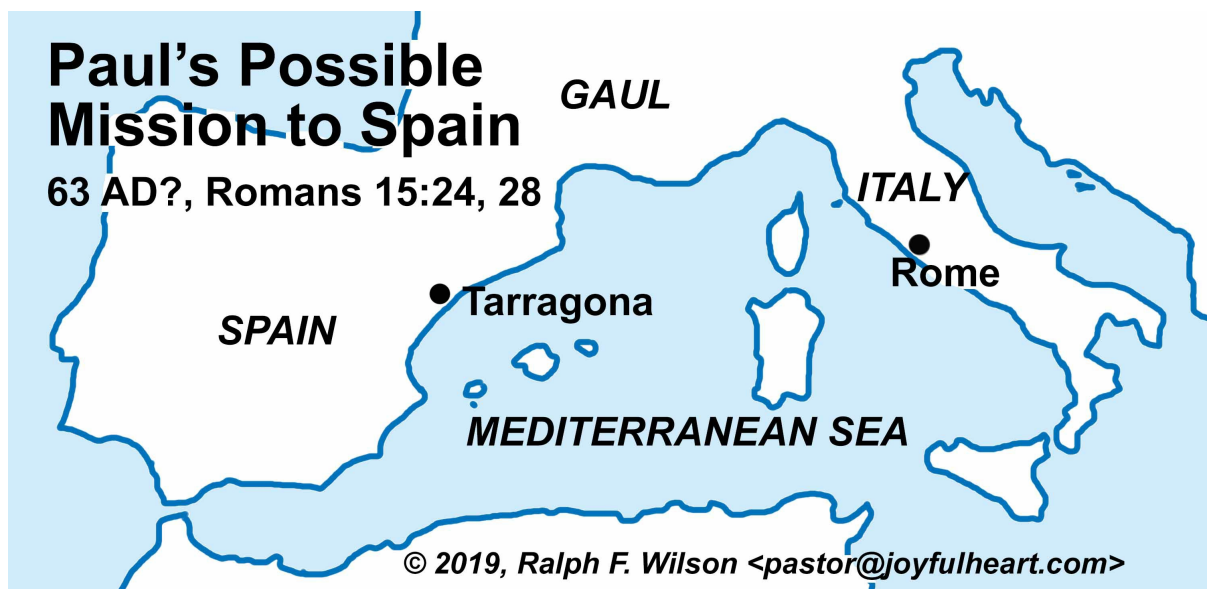
In 49 AD Emperor Claudius expelled the Jews and Jewish

Christians and blamed it on turmoil around a Chrestus, which may have been a reference to Christ.

There seems to have developed at least some friction among the Jewish and Gentile Christian house churches meeting in Rome.

Paul wrote his letter to the church at Rome around 57 AD, probably while he was in Corinth on his third missionary journey.

It appears that Paul wanted to head out on a new missionary journey, traveling to Gaul (Spain), because he wanted to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who've never heard it before.



**Reasons Paul may have written his letter to the church at Rome:**

- to seek their missions' support as he headed farther west.
- because they didn't know him personally - he hadn't started this church - and he wanted to help them understand he was an apostle.
- his concern about the tensions and conflicts within the church at Rome.

**Paul's letter focuses on two primary themes that both point to reconciliation:**

- The “justification of guilty sinners by God’s grace alone in Christ alone through faith alone, irrespective of either status or works.” (John R. W. Stott)
- A complete redefinition of what it means to be the people of God.

**Romans Theme Verses:**

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’*

—Romans 1:16-17 (ESV)

**“gospel” = *euaggelion* (Greek) = “good news” (evangelism)**

**Paul’s not ashamed because he knows the “power” of what this “gospel” can do - the very power of God Himself - having experienced this power firsthand in his own life, and having seen thousands transformed by it, too.**

**“salvation” = *sōtēria* (Greek) = “soundness” or “wholeness.”**

**“Salvation” includes the idea of forgiveness of our sins, but it means much more, because it points to the restoration in us of all that sin has marred or destroyed.**

**Salvation is dependent on actual belief, “everyone who believes,” because each person must individually receive this message and believe its truth for their lives.**

*God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.*

—Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)

**We all receive salvation the same way - by God's "grace," as "a gift from God," leveling the ground between the Jews and everyone else.**

**Three Main Ideas Captured In The Phrase "righteousness of God":**

**1. a divine attribute**

*Righteousness describes God's own character and the actions he carries out consistent with that character.*

**2. a divine activity**

*[Righteousness] is essentially the covenant faithfulness, the covenant justice, of the God who made promises to Abraham, promises of a worldwide family characterized by faith, in and through whom the evil of the world would be undone.*

—N.T. Wright

**3. a divine achievement**

*For our sake [God] made [Christ] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

*2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)*

*God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit... Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.*

*1 Corinthians 1:30 (NLT)*

*It seems right to affirm, therefore, that the "righteousness of God" is God's righteous initiative in putting sinners right with himself, by bestowing on them a righteousness which is not their own but his. 'The righteousness of God*

*is God's just justification of the unjust, his righteous way of pronouncing the unrighteous righteous, in which he both demonstrates his righteousness and gives righteousness to us. He has done it through Christ, the righteous one, who died for the unrighteous, as Paul will explain later. And he does it by faith when we put our trust in him, and cry to him for mercy.*

—John Stott

**“revealed from faith for faith” - It is only by faith that we recognize this truth, and as we recognize this and experience this faith, it enables us to continue growing in faith itself, so that we increasingly become more faithful and more like Jesus.**

*The LORD: ... the righteous shall live by his faith.*

—Habakkuk 2:4 (ESV)

**The Gospel truly is Good News for everyone - God set it up so that no one had to be left out, which no other faith offers - and Paul tells us he's therefore not ashamed to share this good news!**

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**Next Week:** *Romans 1:1-14*

## **Resources for Romans**

- [RightNow Media](#) (Don't have an account? [Sign up](#) for Right Now Media - it's FREE!)
  - [RightNow Media Scripture Series](#)
  - [Book of Romans Summary \(Part 1\)](#)
  - [Book of Romans Summary \(Part 2\)](#)
- [The Bible Project](#)
  - [Book of Romans Summary \(Part 1\)](#)
  - [Book of Romans Summary \(Part 2\)](#)