

The book of **ROMANS**

FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

SESSION 1 | ROMANS 1:1-4

AN INTRODUCTION

- Why is Romans first?
 - It is foundational to the doctrine expressed in each of the other books.
 - Chronologically, there were circumstances that caused Paul to write the other books prior to Romans.
 - The Bible is not *chronological*, it is *theological*.
- Paul: the ideal candidate for authorship.
 - He was the first to be saved completely outside the teaching and leadership of the Apostles.
 - He was steeped in Judaism so he understood Jewish thinking.
 - He had education and intelligence far beyond most contemporaries.
 - He was a citizen of Rome and fully aware of gentile culture.
 - He is the Apostle to the gentiles. –who else should write the book on faith in the age of grace?
 - Romans 1:5 – this epistle is for the **nations**
 - Romans 16:26 – the Gospel is given to the **nations**
 - The 12 Apostles only ministered to the Jews (Gal 2:9)
- Who started the church at Rome?
 - The Roman Catholic doctrine is that the church at Rome was started by the Apostle Peter, but there is not a shred of Biblical evidence upon which to support such a claim.
 - Evidence against Peter as founder:
 - Paul lists 27 people in Rome who are influential in the church, and Peter’s name is not mentioned (Rom 16).
 - Paul said that his desire was to go where he would not “build on another’s foundation” (Rom. 15:20).
 - Peter never mentions going to Rome.
 - It is stated that the Apostles were not scattered during the persecution of Jewish Christians (Acts 8:1)
 - Luke the historian never writes about Peter in Rome.
 - It is time for the Protestant church to reject any connection of the Roman church with the Apostle Peter.
 - Who started it, then?
 - Possibly began with Jewish believers from Rome who were in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:10).
 - Aquila and Priscilla lived in Rome, perhaps they were influential in teaching the Gospel of Grace (as they had done with Apollos in Ephesus) (Rom 16:3-4).
 - Since Aquila and Priscilla had a church meeting in their home, it seems that the “church” at Rome was actually “churches” in Rome.
- When was the book written?
 - The book of Romans was written by the Apostle Paul, in about 57AD.
 - Seven books have a fairly certain date of writing-
 - 1 Thessalonians – (50)
 - Galatians (c. 53)
 - First Corinthians (c. 53–54)

- Philippians (c. 55)
- Philemon (c. 55)
- Second Corinthians (c. 55–56)
- Romans (57)

ROMANS 1:1-4 | PAUL AND HIS GOSPEL

VERSE 1

- **Called** - Do not mistake **called** for either a mystical calling nor a predestination calling. The word is very basic, and is the equivalent of, "she called me a coward."
- **an apostle** –
 - One of 14 apostles. Judas had died and was replaced by Matthias, and Paul was appointed as an apostle "out of due time" (1 Cor 15:8).
 - The first 13 were directly appointed by Jesus or by the casting of lots (done according to the Law) under the will of God. In the selection of Matthias, there were only two candidates for apostleship. How then could Paul become an apostle? Paul was unqualified to take the place of Judas. It is essential to recognize that Paul's apostleship was wholly different from that of the others. The book of Acts explains the turn of events that brought about this new dispensation under Paul.
- **separated unto the gospel of God** –
 - The word ἀφορίζω [aphorizo] is from *apo* (from) and *horizo* (boundary).
 - We get the English word *horizon* from *horizo*. Thus, God set the boundaries on Paul, and those boundaries were "**the gospel of God....concerning his Son Jesus...**" (v. 1,3).
 - One of the biggest temptations of preachers is to fail to separate his expertise and preaching to the things **concerning his Son Jesus Christ**.

VERSES 2-4

- **Promised before** –
 - How does this reconcile with Ephesians 3:2-5?
 - Either the Gospel was **in other ages not made known unto the sons of men** (Eph 3:5) or it was **promised afore by his prophets** (Rom. 1:2).
- There was *always* a **gospel of God**, from Genesis 3:15 onward. But "Paul's gospel," the gospel of Grace, was **in other ages not made known**, but was kept a mystery until revealed to Paul.
- The **gospel of God** spoken of by the prophets:
 - Spoke of the non-Hebrew nations being blessed (Gen. 12:3 and many others)
 - Spoke of the Messiah, who would be **made of the seed of David according to the flesh** (v. 4) and **declared to be the Son of God...by the resurrection** (v. 5), was all prophesied in the Hebrew Scriptures.
 - Rom 16:25-26 shows that the gospel of Paul ("**my gospel**") was **kept secret since the world began** but at the same time **is made manifest...by the scriptures of the prophets**. That is, the gospel of Paul is senseless without the foundation of the prophets.
- Does the Old Testament preach the same Gospel as Paul?
 - If so, was obedience to the Law a necessity?
 - What is a child was disobedient to parents? -Lv. 20:9
 - What if a man committed adultery? -Lv. 20:10
 - If so, were the sacrifices of the Old Testament meaningless?
 - Rom. 3:21: **but now** - are those words meaningless? Why is the Law compared to faith in v. 22?