

Paul's Letter to the Church in Rome – Part 1 (Winter 54/55)

Romans 1:1–17

Introduction and Greeting

1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called *as* an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,
 2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,
 3 concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh,
 4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,
 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,
 6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;
 7 to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called *as* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Occasion—Paul's Burden for Rome

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.
 9 For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the *preaching of the* gospel of His Son, is my witness *as to* how unceasingly I make mention of you,
 10 always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.
 11 For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;
 12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you *while* among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.
 13 I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.
 14 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.
 15 So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

Theme Statement

16 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.
 17 For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH." [[Hab 2:4](#)]

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Chronological Notes

- 1) Luke tells us that Paul spent three months in Greece before beginning his homeward journey (Acts 20:2b–3a). We surmise that during his stay in Greece (most likely at Corinth, see 2 Cor 13:1, 10), Paul wrote his letter to the Romans. This is suggested by the fact that Paul commends to the Romans a woman, Phoebe, from Cenchrea, a seaport adjacent to Corinth (Rom 16:1–2). Moreover, the Gaius with whom Paul is apparently staying (Rom 16:23) is probably the same Gaius whom Paul baptized at Corinth (1 Cor 1:14). It is also likely (while by no means certain) that "Erastus the city treasurer" (*polis oikonomos*) is the same Erastus who is identified in an inscription as an *aedile* [city commissioner] at Corinth (Rom 16:23).¹

¹ Douglas J. Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans*, NICOT (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996): pp. 2–3.