

# Romans: Welcome To Rome

(Scripture Here)

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## Introduction:

1. The Epistle to the Romans is considered by many to be Paul's "Magnus Opus."
  1. It is deeply theological and perhaps one of the more challenging of Paul's letters.
  2. (2 Peter 3:15-16)
2. Rome is a cultural and political hotbed.
  1. In the 50's, Rome is estimated to have had 400,000 people.
    1. 30% Slaves
    2. 30% Freed men and Women
    3. 40% Free born
    4. 10% of the population is estimated to have been Jewish.

## I. Timeline of Events:

- A. ~30-33AD — Church Begins
- B. ??? — Roman Church Begins
  1. Unlike the majority of churches in the NT, we do not know how this church was founded.
    - a) Corinth (Acts 18), Ephesus (Acts 19), etc.
    - b) Jews from Acts 2:10 seems most likely.
- C. 49 AD — Edict of Claudius
  1. (Acts 18:2)
  2. Seutonius writes, "since the Jews constantly made disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, he [Claudius] expelled them from Rome." (De Vita Claudii 25.4)
- D. 54 AD — Claudius Dies
  1. When an emperor would die, many of his edicts would die with him.
- E. 56 AD — Letter to the Romans is written
  1. Issues pertaining all people of Faith:
    - a) Salvation, sin, Justification, Christian unity
  2. Challenges for Jewish Christians
    - a) God's election (chapter 9)
  3. Challenges for Gentiles Christians
    - a) Emphasis on righteousness

## II. Greetings and Prayer:

- A. Paul's Prayer for the churches:
  1. His own churches that he helped to establish.
  2. But also the work of other churches, whom he does not know personally.
- B. Imparting Spiritual Gifts
  1. (Romans 1:12-13)
    - a) Did Rome lack spiritual gifts because they were not founded by the Apostles?

### III. The Righteous Shall Live By Faith

A. (Romans 1:16-17)

B. Define Important Terms:

1. Righteousness

a) Also translated as “Just, fair, correctness, uprightness.”

b) This is a state one is in. To be righteous is to be in good standing.

2. Faith:

a) Trust, Belief, Obedience

(1) “The Faith” Faith is system of trust and obedience — (Galatians 3:26)

b) Paul does not distinguish between faith and obedience. Faith is something of an umbrella term.

C. Not Ashamed of The Gospel

1. Is The gospel something that might cause one to incur shame?

a) (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

2. It is difficult to practice boldness.

a) Appreciation for the power of the Gospel ought to give us confidence and motivation.

D. Righteousness from Faith for Faith

1. Righteousness:

a) What is the “righteousness of God?”

(1) Is this the righteousness God Posses?

(2) Is this the righteousness that comes from God and is bestowed upon others?

(3) Most likely a “Both And.”

2. Revealed from faith for faith.

a) Greek idiom — “Beginning and ending with Faith,” or “Faith through and through”

E. The Righteous Shall live by Faith

1. Paul quotes from Habakkuk 2:4

2. Paul does not distinguish between “life” and “salvation.”

a) Life is salvation and salvation is life.

(1) The one who is righteous lives by means of faith.

(2) The one who is righteous is saved by means of faith.

Conclusion:

1. Romans can be a difficult book to understand, but it contains a great deal of theological riches.

2. Let’s endeavor to remain unashamed of the gospel that is saving us through faith.