

# Romans

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes”

– Romans 1:16

# Author, Date, and Place of Writing

- **The Apostle Paul** – Rom 1:1 w. 9:1ff, 11:13, 15:22f, 16:1-27
  - By means of Tertius, his amanuensis (16:22)
- **Place of Writing** – Corinth
  - Paul was staying with Gaius (16:23 w. I Cor 1:14)
  - Erastus was also a Corinthian (16:23 w. II Tim 4:20; Acts 19:21f)
  - Phoebe was of Cenchrea, a part of Corinth (16:1)
- **Date** – fits well into the chronology of Paul's travels:
  - Paul was on his way to Jerusalem (15:25), but ready to leave that part of the world behind (15:19,23): his journey took him through Corinth (Acts 20:1-3 w. I Cor 16, II Cor 8-9)
  - As for the exact date, that is more difficult: probably 55-59 AD
  - See Hamilton (*lxii-lxiii*) and Reese (*ix*)

# External Attestation to Canonicity

- Quoted between 6-12 times in extant writings by Clement of Rome, Ignatius, Polycarp and Justin Martyr (all prior to 150 AD – see Reese vii)
- Quoted by Marcion (140 AD) and attributed to the apostle Paul
- Counted as canonical by:
  - Irenaeus (c. 130-202) and Clement of Alexandria (c. 155-220 AD)
  - the Muratorian fragment (c. 190 AD)
  - Tertullian (c. 160-220 AD) and Hippolytus (c. 170-235 AD)
  - Origen (c. 185-253 AD), Eusebius (c. 265-339) and Athanasius (c. 29-373 AD)
- Universal acceptance in East and West (see Wegner 140-147)
- Abundant textual evidence (see Gamble, Harry Y. *The textual history of the letter to the Romans*. Eerdmans, 1977.)

# First Recipients of the Letter

- All the Christians in Rome (1:7), both Jews and Gentiles
  - The called of Jesus Christ (1:6)
  - Whose faith was spoken of throughout the world (1:8)
- Paul knew of but had never met these Christians:
  - Longed to meet them and edify them (1:9-10)
  - Remembered them in prayer constantly (1:9)
  - Ready to preach the gospel among them without fear (1:14-15)
  - So far, his plans to travel to Rome were hindered (15:22-33)
  - Planning to travel through Rome and on to Spain, after traveling with the gift to Jerusalem (15:25,28)
- These people must have been Christians for some time (15:23, etc.), but we do not know how a church came to be in Rome

# Theme

- **Romans 1:16 – The gospel is God’s power bringing salvation to man**
  - The gospel is *sufficient* in itself to bring salvation to all people
  - *All people* are equally enslaved under sin without Christ
  - Salvation comes through the gospel by “obedience to the *faith*”
  - Salvation is displayed in the *transformed lives* of those who have faith from God’s word

# Basic Outline of Romans

- Introduction (1:1-17)
- All under sin: all need faith (1:18-3:20)
- Justification by faith (3:21-4:25)
- Freedom through salvation:
  - From the wrath of judgment (5:1-21)
  - From the bondage of sin (6:1-23)
  - From the yoke of the Old Law (7:1-25)
  - From the fear and sting of death (8:1-39)
- Salvation to all who believe (9:1-11:36)
- Transformation of the lives of the faithful (12:1-15:13)
- Conclusion and final remarks (15:14-16:27)

# Bibliography

- Hamilton, Clinton. *Truth Commentaries: Romans*. Bowling Green: Guardian of Truth, 1998.
- Reese, Gareth L. *New Testament Epistles: Romans*. Moberly: Scripture Exposition Books, 1996.
- Copeland, Mark A. *Romans: Study Guide*. <http://executableoutlines.com/ro.htm>. Last accessed on 6/25/11.
- Gamble, Harry Y. *The textual history of the letter to the Romans*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977.