



Lecture #14 Part 1

INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS

I. OPENING STATEMENTS

- A. Romans is the most systematic and logical doctrinal book of the Apostle Paul. It was affected by circumstances in Rome, therefore, it is an **“occasional”** document. Something occurred that caused Paul to write the letter. However it is the most neutral of Paul’s writings, in that Paul’s way of dealing with the problem (possibly the jealousy between believing Jewish and Gentile leadership) was a clear presentation of the gospel and its implications for daily life.
- B. Paul’s presentation of the gospel in Romans has impacted the church’s life in every age:
 - 1. Augustine was converted in A.D. 386 reading [Romans 13:13–14](#).
 - 2. Martin Luther’s understanding of salvation was radically changed in A.D. 1513 as he compared [Psalm 31:1](#) to [Romans 1:17](#) (cf. [Habakkuk 2:4](#)).
 - 3. John Wesley was converted in A.D. 1738 by hearing Luther’s sermon on the introduction to Romans.
- C. To know Romans is to know Christianity! The letter shapes the life and teachings of Jesus into bedrock truths for the Church of all ages.

II. AUTHOR

Paul was definitely the author. His typical greeting is found in [Romans 1:1](#). It is generally agreed that Paul’s **“thorn in the flesh”** was bad eyesight, therefore, he did not write this letter himself, but he used a scribe, **Tertius** ([Romans 16:22](#)).

III. DATE

The probable date for the authorship of Romans is A.D. 56–58. This is one of the few New Testament books which can be dated fairly accurately. This is done by comparing [Acts 20:2](#) with [Romans 15:17](#). Romans was probably written at Corinth toward the end of Paul’s third missionary journey, just before he left for Jerusalem.

IV. RECIPIENTS

The letter states its destination as Rome. We do not know who founded the church at Rome:

- A. It may have been some of the people who were visiting Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost and were converted and returned home to start a church (cf. [Acts 2:10](#));
- B. It could have been disciples who fled the persecution in Jerusalem after the death of Stephen (cf. [Acts 8:4](#)); or



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C. It could have been converts from Paul's missionary journeys who traveled to Rome. Paul had never visited this church, but he longed to (cf. [Acts 19:21](#)). He had many friends there (cf. [Romans 16](#)).

Apparently his plan was to visit Rome on his way to Spain (cf. [Romans 15:28](#)) after his trip to Jerusalem with the "love gift." Paul felt his ministry in the eastern Mediterranean was finished. He sought new fields (cf. [Romans 16:20–23](#)). The bearer of the letter from Paul in Greece to Rome seems to have been Phoebe, a deaconess, who was traveling in that direction (cf. [Romans 16:1](#)).