

Romans 1-8

I. Introduction

A. Importance of the book of Romans

1. The book of Romans is considered by many to be Paul's most important letter. It explains the basic theological framework for the _____ and practices of the church, the body of Christ.
2. Chapters 1 through 8 of Romans address _____, grace, law, works, sin and the fleshly nature. Sanctification, identification with Christ and the ministry of the Holy Spirit are also explained.
3. Chapters 9 through 16 highlight _____ in relation to God's plan and address spiritual gifts and godly love. These chapters also outline how Christians should view ministry and the government, as well as describing other privileges and responsibilities believers have.
4. The fact that the book of Romans covers virtually all the _____ doctrines of the Church Age may be why the early church leaders who organized the New Testament placed Romans right after the book of Acts.

B. The city of Rome

1. When the book of Romans was written, Rome was the _____ of the Roman Empire and the most influential city on earth. In fact, Rome governed the entire known world at the time, and this wide spread domination provided for a period of peace known historically as the Pax Romana (Latin for Roman Peace).
2. It is estimated that at the time of Christ, Rome had a population of some 1,000,000 residents, with between 15-30 percent of the population being _____. Besides slaves, there were at least two other classes of people, including a working class and the aristocracy.
3. Not only did the Roman Empire build extensive waterways and _____, it also promoted Greek as a unifying language. Galatians 4:4
4. The city was well known for its grand public buildings, fine music and entertainment. It was also known for its immoral gladiator contests and brutal animal fights where both men and animals were often forced to _____ to the death.
5. Rome boasted a prestigious military unit called the Praetorian Guard. The Praetorian Guard was an _____ unit of soldiers that later served as bodyguards for the emperor. Eventually however, it became a treacherous institution, even overthrowing emperors and naming successors.
6. Although Claudius had expelled all non-citizen _____ from Rome in AD 50, there were many Jews with Roman citizenship who continued to live in the city. Acts 18:2

C. Author and location and date of writing

1. Author: It is commonly accepted that _____ was the author of the book of Romans.
 - a. In Romans 1:1, Paul clearly signed his _____ as the author of the book.
 - b. In Romans 11:1, the author claimed to be from the tribe of Benjamin. We know Paul was from the _____ of Benjamin. Philippians 3:5
 - c. Paul's travel and ministry plans described in Acts match the _____ expressed in Romans. Acts 19:21; Romans 1:10-13, 15; 15:22-32
2. Location: Paul likely wrote this book from the _____ of Corinth.
 - a. Although Paul did not specifically mention Corinth in Romans, he did mention a woman named Phoebe who transported Paul's _____ to Rome. Phoebe was from the church of Cenchrea, a small port city near Corinth. Romans 16:1
 - b. In Romans 16:23, Paul mentioned Gaius as one of his companions in the _____ of Romans. 1 Corinthians 1:14 shows that Gaius was from Corinth.
 - c. Paul also mentioned Erastus, the city treasurer. In recent times, a pavement _____ dating to that time and bearing Erastus' name was discovered in Corinth. It is believed to be the same person.
3. Date: Paul likely wrote this book in the winter or early spring of AD 57, near the end of his third missionary _____. This would have been just prior to his trip back to Jerusalem, in which he took an offering from the churches of Macedonia and Achaia to the poor Christians of Jerusalem. 1 Corinthians 16:1-8, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
 - a. In Acts 20:16 we read about Paul's plan to get to Jerusalem by the _____ of Pentecost. Many Bible scholars believe this trip happened in AD 57. Acts 20:3, 6, 16; Romans 15:26
 - b. If the book of Romans was written in AD 57, it would have been penned during the early part of the reign of _____, who was Caesar from AD 54-68.

D. Paul's purpose for writing Romans

1. Even though he was a Roman citizen, Paul had never yet visited the Roman church, therefore he wrote to prepare them for a possible _____. Romans 1:8-13, Acts 19:21
 - a. Romans 1:9-10 – A trip to visit the Roman church had been on Paul's _____ and in his prayers for a long time.
 - b. Romans 1:11 – Paul wanted to visit in order *to impart some spiritual* _____ to them.
 - c. Romans 1:13 – Paul wanted to _____ *some harvest* in Rome. In other words, he wanted to share the gospel in Rome. Acts 28:17-31, 1 Corinthians 9:15-18
 - d. Romans 1:14-17 – Paul also wanted to give the Roman church clear teaching on the _____ he preached. Jude 3
2. From the text of Romans, we perceive that Paul wrote to help _____ a cultural divide between Jewish and Gentile believers. Romans 1:18-3:20; Romans 9, 10, 11

3. Romans 15:22-29 shows Paul wrote in hopes of gaining financial and prayer support from the Roman church. Paul clearly wanted to _____ his upcoming missionary outreach into Spain from Rome.
4. Paul also wrote to enlist the _____ support of the Roman believers for his personal and physical protection. Romans 15:30-32
5. Interestingly, at the end of the book of Acts, Paul is under house arrest in the city of _____. So he did finally get to go to Rome, but not in the way he might have wished. Acts 28:16

E. The recipients of the book

1. In Romans 1:7, Paul addressed the book *to all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints*. There were likely believers from many _____ churches in Rome, similar to the one that met in the home of Aquila and Priscilla. Romans 16:5, 10, 11, 15
2. The churches in Rome consisted of both Jewish and _____ believers (Rom. 16:7, 11). Even though Rome was a Gentile city and the capital of a vast empire, it boasted a large Jewish population of Roman citizens. Acts 28:17-29; Romans 1:5, 13; 11:13
3. At the end of the book, Paul specifically greeted 28 individuals by _____, along with several groups of people.

F. Theme and outline for the book of Romans

1. The _____ of the book of Romans is God's righteousness. Romans 1:16-17
2. In chapters 1 through 8 of Romans, we learn about the righteousness required to enter _____ and the grace God provided for humanity in the person of Jesus Christ.
 - a. Justification: This is God's provision of a righteous _____ before Him to all who believe. In Paul's writings, to be justified means to be declared legally right with God, the supreme Judge of heaven. Romans 3:21-5:11
 - b. Sanctification: This is the progressive work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life, making him or her more and more righteous in _____ conduct. Romans 5:12-8:17
 - c. Glorification: This is the completion of God's work in the believer's life. This will happen at the rapture when the believer is made _____ righteous. Roman 8:18-39, 1 Corinthians 15:50-57, Philippians 1:6
3. In Romans chapters 9-11, God's righteousness is seen in His faithfulness to His people _____. These three chapters explain Israel's past, present and future state.
4. In Romans chapters 12-16, God's righteousness is lived out by God's people through numerous _____ relationships.