

## Romans 1:1-17 – I am not ashamed

**Date:** Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Place:** Faith EBC

### Introduction

Who wrote the book of Romans? Paul, which is his Gentile name or Saul which is his Hebrew name.

#### I. Who is Paul? Acts 8:1; 9 (AD 34-35)

**Born:** Tarsus, Cilicia - see Acts 9:11; 21:39; **22:3**

Paul was also a native Roman citizen, cp. Acts 22:25-26.

He was born to a Hebrew family, from the tribe of Benjamin and named Saul, possibly after King Saul, cp. Phil. 3:5-6; Gal. 1:14.

He was a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee, Acts 23:6.

He was taught Greek, but likely spoke Aramaic at home, cp. Acts 21:40; 26:14.

He was trained under Gamaliel, a leading Pharisee of his day, Acts 22:3.

**Confronted by the Lord Jesus** - Saul and was confronted by the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus for his part in persecuting the church, Acts 9.

**Time in Damascus** – Acts 9:19b-25, AD 35-37

**First visit to Jerusalem** - Acts 9:26-28, AD 37

**Time in Tarsus** – Acts 9:30, AD 37-43

**Time in Antioch** – Acts 11:19-30, 12:25, AD 43-48

**Second visit to Jerusalem** – Gal 2:1-10, AD 47

**The Commissioning of Paul and Barnabas** – Acts 13:1-3, AD 48

**The First Missionary Journey** – Acts 13:4—14:25, AD 48

**Third visit to Jerusalem - Council** – Acts 15, AD 49

**The Second Missionary Journey** – Acts 15:36-18:21, AD 50-52

**The Third Missionary Journey** – Acts 18:23-21:16, AD 54-57

**Fourth visit to Jerusalem** – arrest – Acts 21:17-26:32, AD 58-59

### Key Passages

Relating to Paul –

1. Confronted by the Lord Jesus, Acts 9 (AD 34-35)
2. Paul is a Pharisee, cp. Phil. 3:4-6

Relating to the book of Romans –

1. When was it written? Somewhere between AD 56-57 from Corinth, see Acts 18:1-2; Romans 15:25-26 – at the end of his third missionary journey, prior to Paul's period of imprisonment (which spanned from about AD 58-68). The letter was likely sent to the Roman house churches via Phoebe who lived in Cenchrea, as per Hodges, p. 18.
2. To Whom was it written? It was written to both Jewish and Gentile believers, who fellowshipped in house churches.
3. What was the situation in Rome? In AD 49 Claudius had the Jews expelled from Rome, see Acts 18. They were able to return, but the church in Rome was Gentile and respect between believers needed to be re-established.
4. What are the reasons/purposes for writing Romans?

- a. To bridge the divide between Jewish and Gentile Christians – horizontal relationship – mutual respect
  - b. To ensure a healthy understanding of God’s grace and our response to that grace – vertical relationship - gratitude
  - c. To inform them of his plans. – Romans 15:14-33
    - i. Going from Corinth to deliver a gift to the saints in Judea, famine relief.
    - ii. Plan to travel to Rome and hoping that the churches in Rome would help him.
    - iii. Plans to travel to Spain with aid from Rome
5. What is the theme of Romans? There are several themes
- a. Power of the Gospel, which is rooted in the OT - to all who believe – Gospel as a noun is used 59 of 76x by Paul – used 8x in Romans – the idea referred to 6x in Romans 1
    - i. The Gospel is focused on the Son of God
  - b. The person of Christ, 66x in Romans, Jesus, 36x in Romans
  - c. Justification, Romans 3-5
  - d. Salvation from wrath, Romans 1:16-17, Romans 6-8

John Niemela writes as follows:

“Unfortunately, this passage has been widely misinterpreted as if it discussed how one can be saved from the lake of fire. But the Roman believers already possessed everlasting life, and were guaranteed never to go to the lake of fire. As a book written to believers, Romans aims to present the truth that believers need to live appropriately before the Lord.

As the commentary argues, Rom 1:16–17 speaks of a temporal salvation, one that makes God’s power available to believers in order to deliver them from *temporal wrath*. True, this presentation of deliverance builds on the foundation of Christ’s work on the cross, and how the atonement resolved man’s sin and death problem. But most treatments of Romans fail to distinguish the theme of Romans (temporal deliverance) from the foundation for the theme (everlasting life). This creates a whole host of interpretive problems.”<sup>1</sup>

- e. Obedience and faith, Romans 1:5
  - f. Relationship between Jewish believers and Gentile believers, Romans 9-11; 14-15
6. Brief Outline of Romans
- a. Introduction, Romans 1:1-15
  - b. Theme, Romans 1:16-17
  - c. Body, Romans 1:18-15:13
  - d. Conclusion, Romans 15:14-16:20

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<sup>1</sup> John H. Niemelä, [“Introduction,”](#) in *Romans: Deliverance from Wrath*, ed. Robert N. Wilkin (Corinth, TX: Grace Evangelical Society, 2013), 17.