

PAUL'S LETTER  
TO THE ROMANS

**By Frank Jamerson**

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*Spiritual "equipment" for the contest of life.*

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**Lesson 1**  
**Romans 1:1-15**

A. Chronology of the life of Paul (dates are approximate in A.D.):

Birth in Tarsus.....	3
Sent to Gamaliel for teaching.....	16
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Persecution of church in Jerusalem by Paul.....	34/35
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(**Truth Commentary**, Clinton Hamilton, pp. xxiv, xxv;  
published by Guardian of Truth Foundation.)

B. Authorship:

1. Internal evidence: the writer calls himself Paul, 1:1. He described himself as an apostle to the Gentiles, 11:13; 15:15-20. Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles, Galatians 2:7, 8.
2. External evidence: “Among scholars, there is no serious doubt or question about Paul’s authorship of the book of Romans” (Hamilton, p. xxii).
3. It was dictated to Tertius, who wrote it, 16:22.

C. Time of writing:

1. Second Corinthians was written from Macedonia (2 Corinthians 2:12;

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7:5), just before Paul went to Achaia, Acts 20:1-3; 2 Corinthians 13:1.

In that letter Paul encouraged Achaia to give to the needy saints in Jerusalem, 2 Corinthians 8, 9. This is dated about 55 or 56 A.D.

2. According to Romans 15:26, Paul had the collections, so the epistle should be dated between 56 and 58 A.D.<sup>3</sup>. It is fairly certain that it was written from Corinth. Certain names in the salutation point to this conclusion. Phoebe, of Cenchrea, was commended to the Romans, 16:1, 2. Gaius, in whose house Paul lodged (16:23), is probably the person mentioned as a member of the Corinthian church, 1 Corinthians 1:14. Erastus, called the treasurer of the city (Romans 16:23), is elsewhere mentioned in connection with Corinth, 2 Timothy 4:20; Acts 19:22. It was probably written on the third missionary journey.

### D. To whom written:

1. It is addressed to saints in Rome, 1:7.
2. The origin of the church is unknown. The most plausible theory is that some of the "visitors from Rome" (Acts 2:10) returned home and planted the seed.
3. The majority of the audience was probably Gentiles. Paul placed the audience among the nations (1:5-7), addressed them as Gentiles (11:33) and said he was their minister, 15:14-18.

### E. Purpose of writing:

1. It is evident that the letter was sent, instead of an intended, but deferred, visit to Rome, 1:11-13.
2. He wanted to evangelize the city (1:13-15) and strengthen the church, especially against Judaizing teachers, 1:11-13.
3. The epistle is a profound discussion of the grounds of justification.

### F. Salutation, 1:1-7:

1. The gospel was preached (in promise) through the prophets (1:1, 2), but justification did not come through the law, 3:20; Galatians 3:11.
2. Jesus was the seed of David, Isaiah 9:7; Matthew 1:1; Luke 1:32, 33; Galatians 4:4.
3. He was also the Son of God:
  - a. The resurrection may refer to His own resurrection, 1:4; 4:24; 8:11; John 2:18-22; 10:18. (Numerous commentaries take this position, including R.L. Whiteside, Robert Turner, and Bryan Vinson.)

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- b. The resurrection may refer to Christ's raising the dead, Mark 5:22-24; Luke 7:12-14; John 11:40-45; 20:30, 31. (Moses E. Lard and Clinton Hamilton take this position.) Hamilton commented concerning the raising of Lazarus: "This resurrection, therefore, was proof, manifestation, or demonstration that the Christ was the Son of God, and he powerfully showed this by raising Lazarus from the dead. This is exactly what Paul says in Romans 1:4...The flesh, *sarka*, and the spirit, *pneuma*, are in the same person, not one in Christ and the other in the Holy Spirit. Rather they refer to the same person who is Jesus Christ the Son of God. Christ was demonstrated or manifested to be the Son of God, divine, with power as exhibited in his raising dead people" (p. 22, 23).

### G. Personal thanksgivings, 1:8-15:

1. Paul commended them for their faith and desired to see them in order to "impart some spiritual gift."
  - a. It could have been a miraculous gift - given by the laying on of apostolic hands, Acts 8:14-19; 19:1-7.
  - b. It may have been spiritual gifts received through instruction, 12:6-8; 15:27.
2. Note that the gospel was to be preached to saints in Rome, 1:7, 11, 12, 15. It was also preached to unbelievers, Mark 16:15, 16.

### **STUDY QUESTIONS:**

1. Give the internal evidence that Paul authored this epistle.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Who actually wrote the letter?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What is the probable origin of the church in Rome?



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12. Give two kinds of spiritual gifts and how they were imparted?

13. Prove that the gospel may be preached to believers.

14. Why was Paul a debtor to Greeks and barbarians and how does that apply to us?