

Unique Messenger of the Unique Messiah to a Unique City (Rom 1:1-7)

Dr. John H. Niemelä

Water of Life Bible Class

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Introduction to Romans

Author: Paul = a called apostle, a bondservant of Jesus Christ & Uniquely Commissioned (1:1)

Paul identifies himself as the writer

He calls himself a *bondservant of Jesus Christ*

He also calls himself a *called apostle*

He also says that he was separated to the good proclamation of God

Why render *gospel* as good proclamation (not *good news*)?

1. The connotation of *good news* is that it means something _____
2. News cannot become a verb
3. Christendom assumes that gospel (or good news) always means

Place of Writing: Corinth (per Romans 16:1)

Paul visited Corinth twice: March 51 to September 52 (Acts 18:1-18)

November 56 to February 57 (Acts 20:2)

Did he write in 51-52 or 56-57?

In Acts 18, (in Corinth) he met Priscilla and Aquila for the first time.

When he wrote Romans, Priscilla and Aquila were in Rome (Rom 16:3)

Romans 16:4 says that Priscilla and Aquila had risked their lives for Paul

Thus, Paul wrote Romans during his _____ visit to Corinth 5____-5____

Destination of the Epistle: Believers in Rome (Rom 1:7)

Everyone acknowledges that the destination was Rome (1:7)

Many willfully ignore the fact that the readers were believers (1:7-8, 12, etc.)

The letter to the Romans addressed at least 15 believing congregations in Rome

Evidence from Roman history:

Caesar Claudius expelled Christian leaders in synagogues from Rome in AD 49.

Subordinates (not Caesars dealt with little problems). Acts 18:2 says Priscilla and

Aquila were expelled from Rome by that edict of Claudius. **Roman Christianity was substantial in AD 49.**

Then Nero killed a huge number of Christians in AD 64 (after the Roman fire)

Constantine made Christianity the official religion of Rome in AD 313

A large number of Christians were in Rome when Romans was written (56-57)

Consider 5% compounded growth as a basis for this assertion

The letter to the Romans addressed at least 15 believing congregations in Rome (continued)

Evidence from the book of Romans:

Paul had never been to Rome (Rom 15:22-23).

Even so, he gave personal greetings to many of those he mentioned in Rom 16:3-15.

He met Priscilla & Aquila in Corinth after their eviction from Rome (Acts 18:2)

Epaenetus was an early believer of Achaia (Corinth is Achaia's #1 city) (Rom 16:5)

See personal notes in Rom 16:6-9, 13)

The readers were to greet Prisca, Aquila, and their house church (16:3-5)

The readers were to greet each of the other groups (e.g., tenement assemblies)
A few words about the tenement assemblies

A Proposed Early History of Christianity in the City of Rome

Summary of Introductory Evidence (focusing on Rom 1:1 and 1:7)

Overview of the Outline of Romans (largely drawn from Zane Hodges).

After we work through the book, I will offer my own outline (developed from my developing exegetical outline).

- I. Personal Introduction: Paul Connects with the Roman Believers (1:1-15)
- II. Thematic Statement: The Good Proclamation Contains God's Power for Delivering Believers from Wrath (1:16-17)
- III. Body: Spiritual Deliverance Arises from the +R God Grants to Faith (1:18–15:13)
 - a. God's Displeasure with Humanity is Manifest (1:18–3:20)
 - b. The Unrighteous Can Obtain Righteousness through Jesus Christ (3:21–5:11)
 - c. Those Who Are Righteous by Faith Can Live Victoriously (5:12–8:39)
 - d. Parenthesis: God's Faithfulness Will Bring Deliverance to Israel (9:1–11:36)
 - e. God's Will Worked Out in the Lives of the Delivered (12:1–15:13)
- IV. Conclusion: Final Remarks to the Roman Christians (15:14–16:20)
- V. Postscript and Benediction (16:21-24)

Conclusion