

I. Introduction:

A. Significance of the Epistle:

1. Theme : Justification by Faith Alone
 - a. Justification - *dikaiosis* - acquittal (for Christ's sake):--justification. - Ro 4:25; 5:16,18
 - b. Justify/ Justifier - *dikaioo* - to render (i.e. show or regard as) just or innocent:--free, justify(-ier), be righteous. - Ro 3:26, 30
2. Quotes the OT 57 times, more than any other NT letter
3. Use of Key words
 - a. God—154 times
 - b. Law - 77 times
 - c. Christ - 66 times
 - d. Sin - 45 times
 - e. Lord - 44 times
 - f. Faith 40 times
4. Answers many significant questions concerning Man and God
 - a. What is the Good news of God? b. What is God like?
 - c. How can God send people to hell? d. Why do men reject God and His Son?
 - e. Why are there false religions and idols? f. What is man's biggest sin?
 - g. Why are there sex perversions, hatred, crime, dishonesty, and all other evils in the world and why are they so pervasive and rampant?
 - h. What is the standard by which God condemns people?
 - i. How can a person who has never heard the Gospel be held spiritually responsible? j. Do Jews have a greater responsibility to believe than Gentiles?
 - k. Who is a true Jew? l. Is there any spiritual advantage to being Jewish?
 - m. How good or bad is man in himself? n. Can a person keep God's law?
 - o. How can God forgive sin and justify sinners? p. How is one born again?
 - q. How is the believer related to Abraham? r. What is grace and what does it do?
 - s. What is Christians 's relation to sin? t. How important is obedience?
 - u. Why is living the Christian life such a struggle? What does the Holy Spirit do?
 - w. How intimate in the believer's relationship with God?
 - x. How to pray properly y. Why have Gentiles been chosen by God?
 - z. How do believers deal with issues that are neither right or wrong in themselves?

B. Author:

1. Paul (originally Saul)
 - a. probably named after King Saul
 - b. like King Saul, was from the tribe of Benjamin - Phil 3:5
 - c. Born in Tarsus - Ac 9:11, the center of Greek culture and learning

- d. Was trained under the Rabbi, Gamaliel - Ac 22:3; he would have learned to interpret scripture according to rabbinical tradition
- e. Was a follower of the Mosaic Law - circumcised the eighth day - Phil 3:5
- f. Was born into Roman citizenry - Ac 22:28
- g. learned the trade of his father - Ac 18:3
- h. was a zealous legalist - “Hebrew of Hebrews” - Phil 3:5-6
 - i. never met Christ , but had heard of the sect that He led, would have been highly offended at the claim of Christ to messiahship and was dedicated to stamping out this heresy
 - ii. The stoning of Stephen hardened his heart more
 - iii. in that zealousness, he traveled outside of Israel to persecute the Church - Ac 8:3; 9:1-2; 26:11
- i. His on the road to Damascus event - Ac 9
 - i. “hard to kick against the goads” - common Greek phrase referring to being in opposition to deity - vs 5
 - ii. He was broken by the idea that he had been persecuting rather than serving God - vs 5-6
 - iii. Received orders for his next steps - vs 6-9
- j. Being saved, he began to preach in the synagogues in Damascus - vs 20
 - i. through enlightenment, was able to prove that Jesus was the Christ - vs 22
 - ii. He was so successful, they tried to kill him - vs 24-25
- k. went to Arabia and studied for 3 years - Ga 1:17-18, most likely receiving direct revelation from the Lord - Ga 1:11-12
- l. met with the Apostles in Jerusalem - Ac 9:26-19 and went home to Tarsus - Ac 9:29-30 for 14 years until he returned to Jerusalem w/ Barnabas - Ga 2:1
- m. became a missionary by appointment of the Holy Spirit w/ Barnabas in Ac 13:1-3

C. Place and Time of Writing:

1. From Corinth; around 58 A.D., early spring, so that he could arrive in Jerusalem by Pentecost - Ac 20:16
2. On his third missionary journey, while picking up the gift for the saint in Jerusalem - Ro 15:25-27

D. Purpose:

1. He wanted to visit the Church - Ro 1:13
 - a. wanted to impart some spiritual gift to help establish them in the faith - 1:11
 - b. didn't want to build on another's foundation - 15:20
 - i. the Church most likely started by Jewish believers reached during Pentecost - Ac 2:10
 - ii. w/o apostolic leadership, Paul wanted to fill that void w/ a period of instruction
2. Paul wanted to do some evangelistic work - 1:15
3. For self encouragement - 1:12

- a. so he could pray for the - 15:30,32
- b. so they might participate in his work - 15:28
- 4. He arrives in Rome at the expense of Rome to be tried by Caesar on trumped up charges by Jerusalem - Ac 25:2,11
 - a. while in Prison , has opportunity to write, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon
 - b. sends greetings from Caesar's household - Phil 4:22

E. Paul's Character:

1. Physically, not attractive - 2 Co 10:10; Ga 4:14
2. Personal characteristics making him useable of God
 - a. a bible trained mind
 - i. speaks fluently about Abraham
 - ii. Understood the relationship between Law and Grace, flesh and Spirit
 - iii. Draws from Moses, Hosea, Isaiah, David, etc.
 - iv. When speaking from the Law, familiar w/ Ge, Ex, Lev, and Deut
 - v. Quotes Jer, Mal, Joel, Nahum, alludes to Dan, refers to 1Sam, 1Kgs, and Ezek
 - vi. Continually refers to teachings of Isaiah
 - b. Biblical mind w/ determination and resolute sense of mission
 - i. Not sidetracked by persecution
 - ii. When beaten, returned to minister - Ac 14:19-20
 - iii. When imprisoned, hold evangelistic meeting - Ac 16:22-25
 - iv. People fall asleep when he preaches, they die and he raises them up and starts preaching again - Ac 20:9-12
 - v. heard through prophecies that he would be arrested - , continued in his ministry - Ac 20:23-24