

A Tour Through the Divine Library
(The Letter to the Romans)

I. General Introduction to Romans

-Title: "To the Romans" (1:7, 15)

-Author: the apostle Paul (1:1; 16:22); multiple endings (14:23 with 16:25-27; 15:33; 16:24)

-Date: ~ AD 54-59 (15:19, 25, 26; 16:1, 2; see also Acts 20:2, 3; 1 Cor. 16:3; 2 Cor. 8 and 9; Rom. 16:23 with 1 Cor. 1:14)

-Purpose: 1) To inform them of His intended visit (15:24); 2) To acquaint them with the gospel he preached (1:15); 3) To address some specific problems they faced (chs. 12-15, esp. chs. 14, 15); 4) To secure their support for his planned mission to Spain (15:24); see also 15:19, 20

-Structure:

- I. Introduction (ch. 1): Gospel Revealed in Christ (Salutation) / Greeting / Visit
- II. Exposition and Application of the Gospel (chs. 1-15)
 - A. Essential Content of the Gospel (chs. 1-8)
 - B. Dual Response to the Gospel (chs. 9-11)
 - C. Ethical Demands of the Gospel (chs. 12-15)
- III. Conclusion (chs. 15, 16): Visit / Greetings / Gospel Revealed in Christ (Doxology)

II. General Overview of Romans

III. Prominent Themes in Romans

-Propitiation (3:25); Justification by Faith (5:1); Representative Sin (5:12-14); Union with Christ (chs. 6, 7); Remaining Sin (ch. 7); The Holy Spirit (ch. 8); The Sovereignty of God (ch. 9); God's Plan for Jews and Gentiles (chs. 9-11); Christian Liberty (chs. 14, 15)

IV. Christ in Romans

V. Practical Lessons in Romans

- 1) The letter to the Romans displays the remarkable unity of the Bible.
- 2) The letter to the Romans reminds us of our deep and desperate need of the righteousness of Christ.
- 3) The letter to the Romans shows that the gospel makes a difference in how one lives.