

BIBLE READING FOR 2023

WEEK #23

ROMANS

06-04-23

Monday - Romans 1-3

Wednesday - Romans 7-9

Friday - Romans 14-16

Tuesday - Romans 4-6

Thursday - Romans 10-13

Romans is the first in a section of New Testament books referred to as epistles or letters. This group of writings ends with the book of Jude and includes several authors addressing a variety of individuals and local churches. Even though these letters had special meaning for the ones to whom they were first addressed, they were expected to be shared by all who would benefit from their spiritual instruction and encouragement. That is exactly what we are able to do with this personal correspondence by an inspired writer to the church in the city of Rome.

We do not know who established the church in Rome. It is very possible that some of the very first converts in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost were from Rome and formed the congregation when they returned home. Others think some of those that Paul taught could have traveled to Rome taking the gospel message with them. These and other believable suggestions have been put forward but we are not given the details of how this congregation came about. However, it is very logical that a group of Christians would be found in Rome since, as historians tell us, it was the largest city in the world during the first century with a population of two to four million people. As the capital of the empire that was named after it, it was the seat of political power and a center of trade and commerce. Even though a large number of its citizens had sunk to the lowest depths of sin there were those that listened to and obeyed the gospel and became part of the body of Christ.

The author identifies himself as the apostle Paul in the first verse of chapter one. This is one of at least thirteen letters that Paul wrote and some believe he also wrote Hebrews.

The date of writing was approximately A.D. 57 to 58 from the city of Corinth, while Paul was on his third missionary journey.

The purpose of the book is threefold:

- 1.) To explain why Paul had not yet been to visit the church there in Rome (Romans 1:8-15; 15:22-33).
- 2.) To give doctrinal instruction concerning the Law of Moses and the gospel and to exhort them to live as Christians.
- 3.) To recommend to them a Christian by the name of Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2).

The theme is salvation by faith. It was necessary for this message to be taught by Paul because of the false teaching of some Jewish Christians. They taught that in addition to obeying the gospel, a person had to do certain works of the Law of Moses and would thereby deserve salvation. Paul was denouncing this system of meritorious works that combined the Law of Moses with the gospel of Christ. He taught that man was saved by an obedient faith, which involved actions or works, but that he could not earn his salvation. Regardless of what a man did, his ability to enter into a right relationship with God was

possible only because of God's grace and love. It was necessary for man to believe in Christ and obey Him, in order to have all sins forgiven, but the opportunity to do that was a gift and there was nothing that any man could do to earn or deserve it. This great truth still applies to all of mankind today.

An outline for Romans: 1.) The Law and the gospel 1-11

2.) Exhortations 12-16

Questions for Romans 1-16:

1.) What three things will those who do good receive according to 2:10?

2.) In 4:3, what did Paul say the Scriptures said about Abraham?

3.) How did God demonstrate His love for us in 5:8?

4.) What did Paul say killed him in 7:11?

5.) In 8:18, what does Paul say about the sufferings they were experiencing at that time?

Answers to questions for Week #22 – Second Chronicles 21-36:

1.) He killed all his brothers with the sword and some of the leaders of Israel also.

2.) Joash was seven years old when he began to reign and the name of the priest that gave him good counsel was Jehoida.

3.) He entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense.

4.) He reigned twenty-nine years and he was a good king.

5.) The book of the law of the Lord given by Moses.