PAUL and THE ROMANS

Introduction

Unlike the pastoral letters (Timothy and Titus), Paul’s nine letters to the churches dealt with congregational communication and spoke to issues regarding behavior, faith and Christian morality. The letter to Rome may very well be one of the most quoted among all of Paul’s letters, with many popular sayings sometimes coming from a single chapter (8).

Although the last letter that Paul wrote, Romans is first in chronological format, following the Acts of the Apostles. Perhaps, Rome’s notoriety contributes to this paradox; placement and choice of order is matter for another study. What is important to recognize, however, is that because of his arrests by the Romans and his distant relationship with them, this letter may be better to study first. Here, Paul speaks as a new voice and thus, introduces himself and his Gospel in a measured fashion. This makes his letter more practical for the new Christian and an appropriate choice for initiating a study of Paul’s epistles to the churches.

Terms to Know-

Rome

Jew

Gentile

Slave

Circumcision

Atonement

Justification

Faith

Paul and the Romans

Chapter One

1. The Salutation (1-7)
2. A Prayer of Thanksgiving

1. Gratefulness to God (8-10)
2. Desire to Visit (11-13)
3. Serving the Masses (13-15)
4. Unashamed of the Gospel (16-17)
5. Humankind’s Guilt (18-23)
6. Suppressing the Truth (18-20)
7. No Honor for God (21-23)
8. God’s Response: Do What You Want to Do (24-32)

Discussion Questions:

Why would God leave humans to their own devices? Was Paul happy to preach to Gentiles? What would be an example today of unashamed love for the Gospel.

Study Questions:

What is Paul’s main point in the Salutation? What did he often use the Salutation of his letters to say? Name two sins that the people committed against God.

Notes for Chapter I

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