

The Epistle of Paul to the **ROMANS**

"The Constitution of the Christian Faith"

**** A study in Doctrine****

**** A study in Practice****

Background : This letter , inspired by the Holy Spirit, was written by the Apostle Paul to the "saints" at Rome around 56-58 A.D. , while Paul was in Corinth on his 3rd missionary journey.

Purpose: This letter is written to instruct believers in 3 general area's:

1. The fundamental doctrines of salvation to strengthen against false doctrine.
2. God's faithfulness in His relationship and dealings with Israel.
3. Practical Christian living in relation to society and government.

About Paul : Background : Philippians 3:4-6 (a Pharisee)

Salvation experience - Acts 9:1-22 (Saul=Paul)

Ministry training - Acts 22:1-4 ; 2 Corinthians 12:1-8 ; Galatians 1:15-19

Qualification for apostleship - called by Christ - Acts 9:3-6

Chapter 11 - God's Remnant ; God's Plan ; God's Church:

A. Has God rejected His people Israel?

- v1 1. Of course not!
 - a. Paul is a living example of this truth.
- v2 b. Elijah was troubled about this, but God assured him otherwise.
 - 1 Kings 19:8-18.
- v8 2. God has put Israel in a stupor (made them sleepy).
 - a. Matt 13:10-23
 - b. Isaiah 29:10,11
 - c. John 12:37-50 (Isaiah 6:9,10)
- v5 3. There is still a remnant preserved with the seed of faith, according to the election by grace. (grace = divine influence upon the heart)
- v6 4. In principle, salvation can either be by grace or by works, not some of both.
 - We know, according to Scripture, that it is by grace only. (Eph 2:8,9; Titus 3:5)

B. God's plan includes the Gentiles.

- v11 1. The rejection of the truth by Israel gives way to the reception of the truth by the Gentiles (non Jews).
- 2. Israel suffers God's wrath as the Gentiles enjoy God's blessing.
 - a. In the same way Jesus suffered God's wrath, while all sinners partake of the benefit that resulted.
 - b. Israel suffered God's wrath because of the hardness of their hearts.
 - c. Jesus suffered God's wrath because of the sin of all mankind.
- v14 3. The salvation of the Gentiles will provoke Israel to jealousy (excite to rivalry).
- v17 4. The Gentiles will be "grafted in" to the natural olive tree.
 - a. The olive tree is Abraham, the father of faith. "Abraham believed God and his faith was counted for righteousness". Rom 4:3
 - b. Out of the "root" of Abraham grew the 12 tribes of Israel (the natural branches).

- v18 5. Remember the "root" supports the branches, not the other way.
- v20 a. Do not look down on "faithless" Israel.
- v21 b. If God spared not the "natural" branches, so much the more, will He not spare the "grafted in" branches.
- V22 Severity - rigor, decisiveness. Acts 15:13-18; Amos 9:11,12
- v23 6. God can and will "graft in" again the natural branches (Israel).
 - a. This will happen in part during the church age.
 - b. This will happen more fully during the second half of the tribulation. Daniel 9:20-27; 12:1-3,13 ; Revelation chapters 7:1-8; 21:10-14

C. The Bride of Christ, the Church.

- 1. In the same way Israel has brought the Word of God to the Gentiles, the Church will bring it to the Jews.
- 2. When the "fullness of the Gentiles" comes in, then all Israel will be saved. Isaiah 59:20

D. God ultimate plan for His kingdom is beyond what we can fully understand.

- 1. "His ways are past finding out" (untraceable)
- 2. No one can be on an equal intellectual level with God, or propose to have a better plan with which to advise God.
- 3. No one can offer anything to God for favor or return.
- 4. "Of Him" - God is the source of everything that exists. That is why we can not offer Him anything, because He owns all it to begin with. Genesis 1,2; John 1:3
- 5. "Through Him" - God is the channel through which all blessings come to us. James 1:17
- 6. "To Him" - All things are and were created for God's pleasure and purpose and ultimately will return to Him.

Rev. 4:10-11 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.