

# *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 15**

*"That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God..."*

### **I. The spiritually strong are to carry the load of the weak.**

- v1 A. The strong are to deny self and their personal freedoms and pleasures.
- v2 B. The strong ought (**opheilo**, through the idea of *accruing*; to *owe*; figurative to *be under obligation* (*ought, must, should*); morally to *fail* in duty :- behoove, be bound, (be) debt (-or), (be) due (-ty), be guilty (indebted), (must) need (-s), ought, owe, should. In the present tense - emphasizing continuous action.) to bear with the weakness (in conscience) of others.
- v3 C. Our example is Christ Himself:
  - 1. Psalms 69:9 - Jesus received the insults and abuse because of His association with God. Reproach: **oneidizo**, to *defame*, i.e. *rail at, chide, taunt* :- cast in teeth, (suffer) reproach, revile, upbraid.
  - 2. Matthew 26:36-46 - Jesus tolerated the weakness of His disciples.
  - 3. John 13:1-16 - Jesus showed by example how to have an attitude of humility and servitude.
- v4 D. Our knowledge about these things comes from the Holy Scriptures.
- v5 E. God is the source of our endurance and solace (through His Word).
- v6 F. When the body of Christ is unified in spirit, all with the same purpose (to accomplish God's will and to praise Him), God is glorified.

### **II. Jesus Christ has confirmed (established) the promise of God made to the Patriarchs.**

- A. Receive (accept) each other just like Christ receives us (with all our weaknesses)
- B. The Old Testament foretold God's mercy toward the Gentiles: Luke 24:44
  - 1. 2 Samuel 22:50 Prophet
  - 2. Deuteronomy 32:43 Law
  - 3. Psalms 117:1 Psalms
  - 4. Isaiah 11:1,10 Prophet
- C. According to the Scriptures, and the living example of Christ, the Gentile as well as the Jew, can be filled with joy and peace (no dissension among us) in faith (trusting God for His promise), so that we may have more than sufficient hopeful expectation of what is to come. This understanding and mind of peace takes away all desire to compete with our brother, or to have our own way at his expense.

### III. Paul's purpose in ministry

- A. To encourage and exhort believers in all the churches.
- v14 1. He is confident in their potential and ability to conduct themselves with love toward each other. Rom 13:8
- vv15,16 2. Even though he is confident in their behavior, he wants to stress a few points just as a reminder, because it is his ministry to the Gentiles to teach and build them up.
- v16 3. It is a sweet savor to God as the souls of the Gentiles are offered up and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
- v19 B. Paul preached the gospel (good news) of God throughout the region.
- 1. God validated His message by using miraculous signs and workings through Paul:
  - a. Acts 1:8
  - b. Acts 13:11-12 Striking a sorcerer with blindness.
  - c. Acts 14:3,4 Various miracles
  - d. Acts 14:8-18 Healing the lame.
  - e. Acts 16:16-18 Casting out demons.
  - f. Acts 19:11-12 Healing
  - g. Acts 20:9,10 Raising the dead.
  - h. Acts 28:8,9 Healing
- v20,21 2. Paul brought the Gospel to places where it was unheard. Isaiah 52:15

### IV. Paul's travel plan

- v23 A. He would like to go to Rome to visit this church in person.
- v22 1. He has been hindered up to this point because of his travels to far away places that have not heard the gospel.
  - a. Places like Illyricum (modern day Yugoslavia) hundreds of miles from Jerusalem.
  - b. According to the book of Acts, these are more of the places Paul went to: Seleucia, Cyprus, Pamphylia, Pisidia, Lycaonia, Syria, Cilicia, Phrygia, Galatia, Mysia, Troas, Macedonia, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth, and Ephesus.
- v24 2. Possibly, when en route to Spain, he will visit with them.
- v25 B. Paul is planning to go to Jerusalem next to minister to the church there, and deliver the love gift sent to them by the churches at Macedonia and Achaia.
- v30 C. Paul asks for their prayers for him.
- v31 1. To pray that God would protect him from the hostile unbelievers.
  - \* God did protect him there. Acts 22:24-27; Acts 23:12.
- 2. To pray that the believers would be receptive to his ministry.
- v32 3. To pray that it would be God's will that Paul would come to visit them at Rome, and that together they would all be refreshed.
- v33 D. Amen - This formally ends the teaching and exhortation of the epistle to the Romans.