

August 24th, 2025

Who, What, Where, When, Why  
Romans 1:1-17 (Rom. 16)

To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:  
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus  
Christ. - Romans 1:7

## OVERVIEW

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (who) sent a \_\_\_\_\_ (what) to  
\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ (who) Christians in Rome (where)  
around 57 AD (when) who \_\_\_\_\_ to hear that the  
Gospel \_\_\_\_\_ (why).

## Historical Framework

- The Church in Rome was likely established by “\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_” Christians. Rom. 1:7-14; Acts 2:1-13
- Paul’s name \_\_\_\_\_ changed from Saul. Acts 9:1-16; 13:9
- \_\_\_\_\_ wrote what Paul \_\_\_\_\_. Rom. 16:21-22
- The letter was written from the city of \_\_\_\_\_, which is where Paul had met Jewish Christians who had been expelled \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_. Acts 18:1-2 (cf. Seutonias, The Twelve Caesars [Claudius 25.4])
- After Claudius’ death, the expulsion ended, and Jews returned to something \_\_\_\_\_. Rom. 1:14-17
- \_\_\_\_\_ was commissioned to hand-deliver and read Paul’s words to this \_\_\_\_\_, meeting in \_\_\_\_\_. Rom. 16:1-20

## How can we approach this ancient letter?

With humble conviction that we \_\_\_\_\_ need the Gospel to reframe everything, ironically \_\_\_\_\_.

Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.

What stood out most from this message, and why?

Read Romans 1:16-17. Considering that the recipients of Paul’s letter throughout Rome were already Christians, what does it reveal about how much we still need the Gospel today?

Imagine being a Gentile follower of Jesus in the years following the Jewish expulsion. What might have felt easier or more comfortable about a community without them and all their differences?

Imagine being a Jewish follower of Jesus returning to Rome after Claudius’ expulsion. What fears, frustrations, or disappointments might you have felt when the community you helped start now felt so different?

Whether a Gentile follower or a Jewish follower, how do those historical camps mirror present divisions or hurts you see in the church today?

How does reading Romans through this historical and cultural framework shape what you hope to learn and experience during this series?

Why would humility have been so critical, and yet so challenging, for recipients of this letter? How does that relate to you and us?

Consider the unique roles of Paul, Tertius, and Phoebe. Imagine yourself in each of their positions. What might you be thinking, feeling, and praying for?

Read Romans 16 and pay attention to all the names and greetings. Who might God be inviting you to “greet” or make space for? If your name were in the list, what might Paul say about or want to communicate to you?

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## OVERVIEW

PAUL/SAUL (who) sent a LETTER (what) to  
GENTILE/JEWISH (who) Christians in Rome (where) around  
57 AD (when) who NEEDED to hear that the Gospel  
REFRAMES EVERYTHING (why).

### Historical Framework

- The Church in Rome was likely established by “NO-NAME” Christians. Rom. 1:7-14; Acts 2:1-13
- Paul’s name WASN’T changed from Saul. Acts 9:1-16; 13:9
- TERTIUS wrote what Paul SPOKE. Rom. 16:21-22
- The letter was written from the city of CORINTH, which is where Paul had met Jewish Christians who had been expelled FROM ROME by CLAUDIUS. Acts 18:1-2 (cf. Seutonias, The Twelve Caesars [Claudius 25.4])
- After Claudius’ death, the expulsion ended, and Jews returned to something UNRECOGNIZABLE. Rom. 1:14-17
- PHOEBE was commissioned to hand-deliver and read Paul’s words to this DIVIDED CHURCH, meeting in MULTIPLE LOCATIONS. Rom. 16:1-20

### How can we approach this ancient letter?

With humble conviction that we PRESENTLY need the Gospel to reframe everything, ironically IN THE CHURCH.

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