



THE WORLD'S MOST LIFE-CHANGING LETTER

June 8 & 9, 2024

Romans 1:1-17 (NLT)

This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News. God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures. The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line, and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.

And you are included among those Gentiles who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ. I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are called to be his own holy people. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

Let me say first that I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith in him is being talked about all over the world. God knows how often I pray for you. Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God, whom I serve with all my heart by spreading the Good News about his Son.

One of the things I always pray for is the opportunity, God willing, to come at last to see you. For I long to visit you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord. When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.

I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to visit you, but I was prevented until now. I want to work among you and see spiritual fruit, just as I have seen among other Gentiles. For I have a great sense of obligation to people in both the civilized world and the rest of the world, to the educated and uneducated alike. So I am eager to come to you in Rome, too, to preach the Good News.

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

5 QUESTIONS I MUST ALWAYS ASK BEFORE STUDYING A BOOK OF THE BIBLE:



1

_____ wrote it?
Paul, dictated to his secretary Tertius.

Romans 16:22 (NLT)

I, Tertius, the one writing this letter for Paul, send my greetings, too, as one of the Lord's followers.

Who Was Paul?

- He was a _____ by race and religion.

Philippians 3:4-5 (NLT)

...though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law.

- He was a _____ of Christianity before his conversion.

Acts 9:4 (NLT)

He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?"

- He was a _____ culturally.

Acts 21:39 (NLT)

"No," Paul replied, "I am a Jew and a citizen of Tarsus in Cilicia, which is an important city. Please, let me talk to these people."

- He was a _____ citizen politically.

Acts 16:37-38 (NLT)

But Paul replied, "They have publicly beaten us without a trial and put us in prison—and we are Roman citizens. So now they want us to leave secretly? Certainly not! Let them come themselves to release us!" When the police reported this, the city officials were alarmed to learn that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens.



2

Who was the book _____ to?

Romans 1:7 (NLT)

I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are called to be his own holy people. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

- To the believers in _____.

Romans 1:15 (NLT)

So I am eager to come to you in Rome, too, to preach the Good News.

- To believers _____ for all time.

Romans 1:16 (NLT)

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.



_____ was the book written?

- Between _____.
- On Paul's third missionary journey in _____.

Acts 20:1-3 (NLT)

When the uproar was over, Paul sent for the believers and encouraged them. Then he said good-bye and left for Macedonia. While there, he encouraged the believers in all the towns he passed through. Then he traveled down to Greece, where he stayed for three months. He was preparing to sail back to Syria when he discovered a plot by some Jews against his life, so he decided to return through Macedonia.



Why did Paul write the _____?

3 Reasons

- _____ – To encourage the believers and let them know he was coming.

Romans 1:11-12 (NLT)

For I long to visit you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord. When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.

- _____ – To teach us all the gospel message and the basics of Christian living.

Romans 15:15-16 (NLT)

Even so, I have been bold enough to write about some of these points, knowing that all you need is this reminder. For by God's grace, I am a special messenger from Christ Jesus to you Gentiles. I bring you the Good News so that I might present you as an acceptable offering to God, made holy by the Holy Spirit.

- _____ – this was a fundraising letter.

Romans 15:22-24 (NLT)

In fact, my visit to you has been delayed so long because I have been preaching in these places. But now I have finished my work in these regions, and after all these long years of waiting, I am eager to visit you. I am planning to go to Spain, and when I do, I will stop off in Rome. And after I have enjoyed your fellowship for a little while, you can provide for my journey.

Romans 16:1-2 (NLT)

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a deacon in the church in Cenchrea. Welcome her in the Lord as one who is worthy of honor among God's people. Help her in whatever she needs, for she has been helpful to many, and especially to me.

5

What's the _____?

- To _____ the gospel and let it change lives.

Romans 1:16-17 (NLT)

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

- To _____ us the doctrines of:
 - _____ – Romans 1:18-3:20
 - _____ – Romans 3:21-5:21
 - _____ – Romans 6:1-8:39
 - _____ – Romans 12:1-15:13

How can I get the most out of this book?

- _____ for God to open my eyes, heart, and mind.

Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

- _____ by reading one chapter a week.

Joshua 1:8 (NLT)

Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.

- _____ the weekend services.

Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

- _____ what I have learned.

Philippians 3:9 (NLT)

... I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.



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- He was a **persecutor** of Christianity before his conversion.

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He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?"

- He was a **Greek** culturally.

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- To the believers in **Rome**.

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- To believers everywhere for all time.

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For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.



When was the book written?

- Between 56-58 A.D.
- On Paul's third missionary journey in Greece.

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- Personally – To encourage the believers and let them know he was coming.

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- Educationally – To teach us all the gospel message and the basics of Christian living.

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- Financially – this was a fundraising letter.

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What's the message?

- **To preach the gospel and let it change lives.**

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- **To teach us the doctrines of:**
 - o **Sin** – Romans 1:18-3:20
 - o **Salvation** – Romans 3:21-5:21
 - o **Sanctification** – Romans 6:1-8:39
 - o **Service** – Romans 12:1-15:13

How can I get the most out of this book?

- **Pray for God to open my eyes, heart, and mind.**

Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

- **Prepare by reading one chapter a week.**

Joshua 1:8 (NLT)

Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.

- **Prioritize the weekend services.**

Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

- **Practice what I have learned.**

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