

Romans

Introduction

The Church at Rome: Many Jews in Rome. The Diaspora allowed the Church to spread more easily. They were allowed to worship. Synagogues were built throughout the Empire. They were ready places for assembly. The Jews influenced many people in Rome – “God fearers” or righteous Gentiles. They realized that this was true and their polytheism was not.

Some converts from Asia Minor and Greece went back and forth to Rome. Some Roman Jews had been in Jerusalem at Pentecost and had become believers.

When Paul wrote the epistle, the body of believers was well established. Their faith was spoken of throughout the world. Paul never complained about “Judiazers” there like in some other places.

Probably written in Corinth. Paul was about to make his last trip to Jerusalem to help the Church there with funds collected from Gentiles. Confirmed in Chapter 16. Probably between AD 56 and 58.

Definitely written by Paul. Based on the greeting; author was very well versed in Judaism; writing style. Apostolic style. Fathers of the Church never questioned it.

Systematic unfolding of Paul’s teaching of Law and Grace. Salvation by Grace rather than Law. Has a universal outlook from Adam to the Second Coming and also for all people. About the Supremacy of Christ and faith as the source of salvation.

Consists of 3 parts:

1. Justification outside of the Law
2. Condition of the Jews and Israel
3. Exhortations to the believers