

Introduction to the Study of Romans

You are strongly encouraged to read though the entire epistle. It is helpful to jot down reoccurring words or ideas that are found in the various chapters.

I. Author and Writer.

- A. The Author of the Epistle is the Holy Spirit (II Peter 1:20, 21; II Timothy 3:16).
- B. We know that the human writer is Paul, for he identifies himself in 1:1.
 - 1. Is there other evidence in the epistle that points to Paul as the write – style of writing, content, etc.?
 - 2. Why did God eternally determine that *Paul* (as opposed, say, to Peter or John) would be the human writer of this letter to the Romans? (In other words, how did Paul's character, upbringing, and life prepare him to write this inspired letter?)

II. Recipients - What do we know about the church in Rome?

- A. The book of Acts does not reveal who organized the church in Rome nor when. What are some possibilities?
- B. What was the makeup of the church in Rome? (Jew or Gentile?)

III. The Epistle:

- A. Do we know when was this epistle written? (Date perhaps, and what were the circumstances in Paul's life?)
- B. Can we determine why Paul wrote this epistle? What was his purpose? What was his goal?
- C. Theme of Romans. The well accepted theme is "Justification by faith in Jesus Christ."
 - 1. What does N.T. Wright teach about this?
 - 2. What evidence is there in Romans that Justification by Faith is the theme? [Hint: Reading though the book and taking note of reoccurring words or ideas should give evidence.]
 - 3. Galatians also has the theme "Justification by Faith." How do you think the epistle to the Romans is different from that to the Galatians?