

INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS

There is no book in the New Testament that exceeds and probably only one that equals the doctrinal development that is set forth in the book of Romans. Romans would exceed Ephesians which would be the other one to which I refer if for only the reason of length.

The book of Romans is a letter, an epistle. Paul in writing to the Romans, is writing to a community that he did not plant or start. He writes them for three reasons:

1. The desire to establish a base and the possibility of ministry.
2. To send a calling card to establish a sense of perspective on what it is he teaches in the hopes that he would come and impart something to them.
3. In the event that his life would be taken there would be established a very solid and clear statement of what he believed in.

THE CAREER OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

- Origin:** Tarsus in Cilicia (Acts 22:3)
Tribe of Benjamin (Phil. 3:5)
- Training:** Learned Tentmaking (Acts 18:3)
Studied under Gamaliel (Acts 22:3)
- Early Religion:** Hebrew and Pharisee (Phil. 3:5)
Persecuted Christians (Acts 8:1-3; Phil. 3:6)
- Salvation:** Met the risen Christ on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-8)
Received the infilling of the Holy Spirit on the street called Straight (Acts 9:17)
- Called to Missions:** Church at Antioch was instructed by the Holy Spirit to send out Paul to the work (Acts 13:1-3)
Carried the gospel to the Gentiles (Gal. 2:7-10)
- Roles:** Spoke up for the church at Antioch at the council of Jerusalem (Acts 15:1-35)
Opposed Peter (Gal. 2:11-21)
Disputed with Barnabas about John Mark (Acts 15:36-41)
- Achievements:** Three extended missionary journeys (Acts 13-20)
Founded numerous churches in Asia Minor, Greece and possibly Spain (Rom. 15:24, 28)
Wrote letters to numerous churches and various individuals which make up one-fourth of our New Testament
- End of Life:** Following arrest in Jerusalem, was sent to Rome (Acts 21:27, 28:16-31)
According to Christian tradition, released from prison allowing further missionary work; rearrested, imprisoned again in Rome, and beheaded outside of the city.