Digging Deep - into Romans



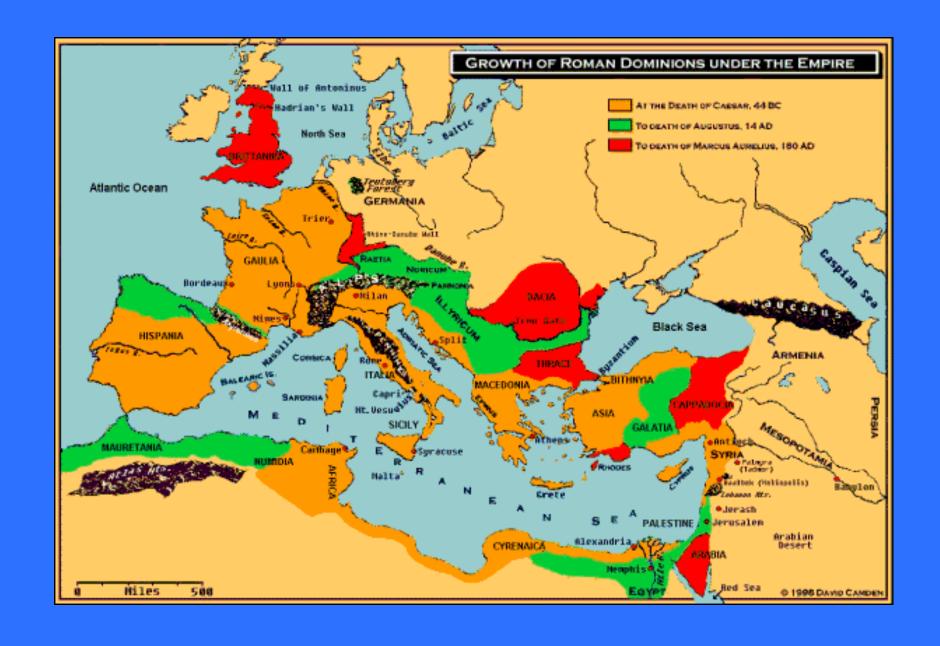
Week 1 - Why did Paul write it - and what's it all about?

Letter

of Paul

to the Church in Rome





Church in Rome

Peter??

Claudius' expulsion of Jews (AD 54) "Chrestus"

Composition of Church

Reason for Writing

Introduce himself

Explain his message

Justification by faith alone

Images of Atonement

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Law Court (substitution) - Romans
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Temple (Sacrifice) - Hebrews
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Slave Market (Ransom) - Mark 10
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Family (Returning Son) - Luke 15

Structure

Chs 1 – 8: What it means to be righteous before God

Chs 9 – 11: How the Jews fit into the picture

Chs 12 – 15: Practical issues of living righteously before God

Postscript: Ch 16: Personal greetings

1, 1-17: Introduction

1, 18 – 32: Analysis of Human Condition

2,1 – 3,8: God's Judgement

3, 9 – 31: Righteousness and Faith

Ch 4: Example of Abraham

Ch 5: The Difference Jesus Makes

Ch 6: Getting sin sorted

Ch 7: Struggling with sin

Ch 8: Life in the Spirit.

"The wrath of God is being revealed ... against the godlessness ... of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness " (1v18)

"Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (8v39)

Introducing himself (vv 1-7)

"Apostle" = "sent" (not one of 12)
"Servant of Jesus the Messiah"

J's authority over against Emperor

"Grace and peace to you from Jesus the Messiah, our King (lord)" (v7)

Key Questions:

How do I demonstrate my total obedience to Jesus, my King?

What areas of my life do I try to keep him out of?

Paul's Plans - vv 8 - 15

Important to encourage people! Paul regularly begins letters with prayer and recognition of strengths.

Paul wants to visit — makes matter of prayer.

Share – give and receive. Mutual encouragement (v12)

Key Questions:

How do we make plans – does it involve deep prayer?

How do we approach people – as givers or as possible recipients? Do we offer encouragement?

Kernel of the Gospel – vv 16 – 17

"Power of God"

"Salvation"

"Righteousness"

"Faith"

Key Questions

Do our family, friends, work colleagues know we are Christians?

How do our words and activities demonstrate this?

Are we ready to enter into conversation?

Have you discovered God's saving power?

