Bible Study 45

# Wednesday, June 22, 2022

 The Letter to the Romans

The Letter to the Romans is the longest Epistle in the New Testament. It was probably written by Paul sometime in the mid fifties , maybe even 56ad. More than likely Paul was living in Corinth at the time. We know that he stayed at the house of Gaius and that he worked with a Deacon named Phoebe who herself was on her way to Rome and could have conveyed the letter for Paul.

We also know that after the letter was completed Paul set sail to return to Jerusalem. The big question to ask is : “What is the reason for the Letter to the Romans?”

First, I have to tell you that this work by Paul is by far his greatest work. It is a detailed intense description of the theology of Christ’s salvation, through the grace won for us sinners by Christ’s death and that through faith we have found justification and righteousness with a loving God who is our father. This is Paul’s ‘Everest’ among the thirteen Epistles that he wrote.

The Letter begins:

“Paul a servant of Christ Jesus called to be an Apostle, set apart to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.”

There is a lot to unpack in that opening sentence. Paul is writing to the Jewish Christians in Rome. Most of them will not know him though some may have heard about him. He claims that he is an ‘APOSTLE’ despite the fact that he was not one of the Twelve nor ever met Christ in the flesh before he died on the cross. His mission: “To proclaim the Gospel.”

Paul unites and identifies himself as a Jew by claiming:

“…..the Gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God; by his resurrection from the dead.”

RESURRECTION is central to Paul’s theology. Jesus proves his divinity through his resurrection on the third day.

“How come I am doing all of this ?” asks Paul.

 ”I am doing it through the grace and apostleship he has given me and commissioned me to go among the Gentiles. I obey through faith. Now you too most know that just like me you have been called by Jesus Christ.”

Then he gives his greeting:

“To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints. Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Read Chapter One