

Next week's assignment: Ephesians

Author: No real dispute that Paul is the author. There is some dispute as to the ending...whether the original letter ended at the end of chapter 15 or at the end of chapter 16.

Date: Again not much dispute that Paul wrote this letter in AD 57 near the end of his Third Missionary Journey, while he was in Corinth. He desired to carry the Gospel West, having completed his Apostolic work in the eastern Mediterranean see Rom 15:19,24.

Occasion: Paul was about to make his way to Jerusalem and desired to be there for Pentecost. He hoped to bring the offering he had been collecting among the Gentile churches of Asia Minor and Macedonia and Achaia to the suffering church in Jerusalem. Then he desired to visit Rome and to have that strategic church serve as the launching pad for an evangelistic push to the West into Spain.

The Emperor Claudius ruled from AD 41-54. He was seen as a reprieve from Caligula who ordered that a statue of himself be placed in the Jerusalem Temple and claimed divine honors. But he installs Herod Agrippa I as king over Galilee and Judea in AD 41 and he begins the first of the Church in AD 44 which leads to the martyrdom of James Zebedee. This leads to the dispersal of the Church and begins in earnest the Movement that sends Paul and Barnabus on their missionary journeys. Because of unrest in Rome

Claudius issues an edict that exiles all Jews, be they Christian or not, from Rome in AD 50. Priscilla and Aquila are among them (see Acts 18:14 and Seutonius chapter 25). Claudius dies in AD 54 and is succeeded by his nephew Nero who was 17 years old at the time of his ascending the throne. Nero ends the ban on Jews in Rome and so the Jewish Christians that had been in leadership in the Roman Church now begin to return to a very different Church than they left and are faced with real dilemmas.

Structure

1:1-7 Introduction and Greeting

1:8-15 Prayer of Thanksgiving or Baracha

1:16-17 Theme: The Righteousness of God

1:18-3:20 The Unrighteousness of All Humankind

3:21-5:21 Justification

3:21-26 Righteousness Through Christ Alone

3:27-4:25 Righteousness Through Faith Alone

5:1-11 Fruits of Righteousness are Peace and Joy

5:12-21 Contrast Death Through Adam, Life Through Christ

6-8 Sanctification

6 Slaves to Sin or Righteousness

7 The Struggle with Sin

8 The Spirit-Empowered Life

9-11 God's Righteousness Vindicated: The Problem of Israel's Rejection: Jew and Gentile in the Plan of God

9:1-29 God's Sovereign Choice

New Testament Survey Class 20

Romans

9:30-10:21 Israel's Unbelief

11 The Remnant and the Engrafted Branches

12:1-15:13 Righteousness Practiced

15:14-16:27 Conclusion

15:14-21 Motive in Writing

15:22-29 Future Plans

15:30-33 Prayer Request for his Jerusalem Trip and Ministry

16:1-16 Personal Greetings and Exhortations

16:17-19 Warnings against False Teachers

16:20-27 Personal Greetings, Benediction, and Doxology

Themes

The Faithfulness of God

The Righteousness of God

How God reconciles sinners

How God transforms sinners

How God's reconciliation transforms the Church

How God's reconciliation transforms the world