

### *Introduction to Romans*

Paul writes this letter to the church at Rome (which he has never as yet visited) while in Corinth on his third missionary journey. He introduces himself and gives a detailed explanation of the gospel. His desire to visit the center of the empire is fulfilled three years later when he arrives as a prisoner (cf. Acts 28:16-31).

#### *Day 1 - Romans 1:1-7*

1. In what way does Paul introduce himself? What does this description reveal about his view of himself?
2. Characterize the recipients of the letter. Imagine how they (as a despised minority) respond to the fact that they are *called* and *beloved*.
3. How do you respond to these facts?
4. Describe the gospel as to its *a*-origin, *b*-content, *c*-power, *d*-proclamation, and *e*-destination.
5. How should these facts affect your attitude toward the Old Testament? Toward missions?
6. What periods in Christ's life does Paul emphasize? How does each show that Christ is the *a*-center of the gospel and *b*-stimulus for proclaiming it?

#### *Day 2 – Romans 1:8-15*

1. Describe Paul's attitude toward the Roman Christians.
2. For what reasons does he want to visit them?
3. What is the content of his prayers about them?
4. What Christian can you pray for in this way?
5. What claims does Paul make? Why should this educated, cultured man consider himself *under obligation* to all men?
6. Contrast or compare his attitude with your present attitude. What types of people do you exclude from these categories?

#### *Day 3 – Romans 1:16-17*

1. List the facts about the gospel (cf. vv. 1-6, 15).
2. What is the significance of *for* in verses 16-17?
3. Relate the first phrase of verse 16 with the situation in Rome.
4. Why is the gospel powerful? How is its power released?
5. How is *faith* related to *salvation* and the *righteousness of God*?
6. What is different about living by *faith* rather than by *a*-sight, *b*-works or *c*-feelings?

#### Day 4 – Romans 1:18-23

1. How are God's *righteousness* (v. 17) and his *wrath* (v. 18) related?
2. What actions of man prompt God's wrath?
3. Characterize man's sin from *a*-what he chooses not to do and *b*-what he does instead.
4. How do these actions affect man's intellectual and spiritual life? In what ways are the actions *foolish*?
5. Why is every man (even those in primitive societies) *without excuse*?
6. To what extent are you honoring God as God and being thankful?
7. What form does idolatry take for you today?

#### Day 5 - Romans 1:24-32

1. How is god's repeated action (vv24, 26, 28) related to the expression of wrath in verse 18?
2. How is being allowed to have your own way a punishment?
3. How does man react to being *given up*?
4. Group the sins in verses 29-31 under *a* – *base mind* and *b*- *improper conduct*. In what ways does this list differ from what today's society considers sins?
5. Why, do you think, are no degrees of sin given?
6. From what do all these sins stem (cf. vv. 21, 25, 28, 32)?
7. How does Paul show that these sins are *a*- calculated and *b*-propagated?