

WEEK 11

## **Romans chapters 1-8 background**

### Timeline

Paul thru Achaia (incl. Corinth), heading toward Jerusalem; wants to go to Rome

58 Romans (prior to first visit to Rome) written from Corinth, sent by Phoebe from  
Cenchreae (suburb of Corinth)

Who wrote it? Paul

### About the epistle

Written prior to Paul's first visit to Rome

Written from Corinth; Paul was collecting money for the poor believers in Judea

Sent by Phoebe from Cenchreae, a suburb of Corinth

Haley's Bible commentary: not sure he'll get out of Jerusalem alive, so leaves in  
Rome a written explanation of the nature of the gospel of Christ.

### About the church

Church probably founded by converts from Pentecost or converts from Paul or the other apostles

Mainly Gentiles

But certain Jewish leaders who were determined that Christianity remain Jewish. (Judaizers)

Common Jewish belief that the Mosaic law was the final expression of the will of God, and that all  
people were obligated to follow it. They insisted that Gentiles must be circumcised and keep the  
Law to be Christians. They said that the promise was to Abraham's seed, so if you weren't  
circumcised and weren't a Jew, you couldn't be heir to the promise.

Some of Paul's teaching was being corrupted, e.g. that when you sin, God's grace is shown  
in an even greater way, so we should sin more and more

Church sometimes met in Aquila and Priscilla's house.

### Other info

Rome—the world was ruled by Rome, in a combination of sophistication and brutality.

What your daily life was like was determined by where you fit in the social order.

Your clothes, food, and home would all depend on what class you were.

Your class was determined by: heredity, wealth, freedom, property, and citizenship.

Freedmen who impersonated someone of an aristocratic class, like the equestrians, would be sold back into slavery.

Women were defined by the status of their father or husband.

A few could advance in this structure by wealth, property, or favor of the Emperor.

It was also a multi-cultural city, since citizens had the freedom to travel there from anywhere in the Empire.

Claudius strongly opposed proselytizing in any religion, possibly leading to his expulsion of Jews from Rome because there was unrest in their community because of Christianity.

Even money had Caesar's inscription on it calling him a son of a god. Most of the disciples will die because they will obey Caesar in almost everything, but won't accept that he's a god

#### Difficult passages

2:17 doing good lead to eternal life? He doesn't say they will receive eternal life BECAUSE of doing good,; he later explains that eternal life is because of their faith in Christ.

These deeds indicate the attitude of the heart of those who will receive salvation, while verse 8 shows the deeds that reflect the heart attitude of those who will receive wrath.

He is talking about the result, not the process. The power to do the good deeds comes from the gospel.

Goodness is evidence of a changed life.

5:15-19 can be confusing – read through it slowly. Trespassing man/one is Adam