

1. The Life of the Apostle (5 BC-64)
 - a. Born in Tarsus (Modern Tarsus in Mersin Province of Turkey)
 - b. Pharisee family, well educated, under Gamliel in Jerusalem, Koine Gk language, but also spoke Aramaic
 - c. Most of his life is taken from Acts (ch 1-12 Peter with John, 13-end Paul)
 - d. Persecutor followed by sudden conversion Acts, ch 9 and 14 years in Arabia (studying?)
 - e. First Missionary Journey: Antioch, Cyprus, Asia Minor, ff by Council of Jerusalem
 - f. Second: Tarsus, Derbe, Lystra, Philippi, Ephesus, 18 months in Corinth
 - g. Third: Phrygia, Achaia, Illyrica, Macedonia, ending in Jerusalem
 - h. Two years in Rome, ends “speaking freely”
 - i. 2 Cor. 12: caught up to Heaven
 - j. Death in Persecution of Nero
2. The World of Paul
 - a. Romans, Jews, Greeks
 - b. The Early Empire and end of Civil War:
 - c. The Provincial System
- 3: Epistles: credited with 14 of 27 NT Books
 - a. The “Big Four” Romans, I-II Corinthians, Galatians
 - b. Shorter: Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, 1-2 Thessalonians
 - c. Debated Issues: Hebrews, Ephesians
 - d. The Pastorals

Romans: The Longest and most theological, and most influential

Augustine, Luther, Wesley, Barth

“Book of Romans opens to anyone an understanding of the whole Scripture”

The only “Western” Epistle

Witnesses: Augustine, Luther, Wesley, Barth, Bunyon

1. Opening: (1:1-7)
 - a. Standard Roman epistolary greetings, but.....note the added stuff.
 - i. Compare Colossians:

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the holy ones and faithful brothers in Christ in Colossae: grace to you and peace from God our Father.
 - ii. Here: “slave” doulos, Servus
 1. Promise of Prophets, (in Scripture)
 2. God in the flesh
 3. Vindicated by the Resurrection in power (dynamis)

4. Designating apostleship (not from human hands)
5. Addressing the people called to be elect, called to be “holy” “happiness”
 - a. Note: Grace to you from bishops (erinis & karis)
2. Thanksgiving, standard Pauline address

Cf. I Corinthians: *I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony* to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus [Christ]. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

 - a. Here: reference to global attention
 - b. Paul’s deep desire to see them (he didn’t found them)
 - c. He has a spiritual gift for them
 - d. Both Jews and Greeks: this is critical, both are part of this
 - e. Paul is under an obligations to go
3. The Premise and theme (I:16-17)
 - a. The Gospel is the power of God
 - b. Everyone: again with the inclusion. Christianity is not a culture; it embraces many cultures
 - c. The Righteousness is God: *dikaiosune* – this is the goal of faith
4. (1:18-23) The punishment for Idolatry –this section is aimed at Gentiles
 - a. This is the original sin for Paul
 - b. They should have known (natural law) note Aquinas definition
 - c. Being apart from God breeds stupidity “their minds were darkened”
 - d. Disgusting images for idolatry, re: Egypt – the land of bondage
 - e. We are totally messed up
5. Here is the proof of how messed up we are – a long list of sins
 - a. Origins of homosexuality: consequence of idolatry the crime is the punishment. Paul sees it as the ultimate example of sterility
 - i. Yet he is not saying gays are bad; as a first century Jew he certainly has strong views on sexual morality but this section is about the consequences of idolatry not sexuality itself
 - ii. A long list of sins: theme of broken relationships
 - iii. Sin = death....more on this yet to come