

Paul had long wished to visit Rome, to preach the gospel in this center of earthly power, to use it as a base for his operations in the regions of the far West. 15:24 (Spain)

Had not been able to do so, so during 3 no. stay in Corinth when he was gathering offering for Judea, he found that Phoebe a member of church at nearby Cenchrea, was about to depart for Rome, he wrote this epistle & sent it by her. *Acts 18:1*

Written in AD 58. It has been called the most profound work in existence. *Coleridge*

? Origin of church - unknown. *Visitors on Pentecost*

Roman church claims Peter established it. No proof that Peter ever there, not likely Paul would have written, given salutations etc. without including Peter if he had been there.

Pilgrims from Pentecost, or those scattered by persecution following death of Stephen, or christians travelling to Rome for business may have founded the church. Filled with many such members, as we see in last chapter of salutations.

By now it was strong, had worldwide fame. Contained many Jews, but mostly Gentile. Written in Greek, altho to Roman church. Greek was language of educated then, and was more likely to be understood by all peoples, in other churches, than Italian. Latin.

*Hebrew name*

V 1- Paul, Roman name. Saul-Hebrew name.  
Servant-bound, tied, or fettered. Sought  
no higher office.

Apostle- One sent forth with orders.

Qualifications: 1. Must have seen the  
Lord after his resurrection.

2. Must have been called & chosen to that  
work by Christ himself.

3. Must have been inspired to qualify  
them for their work. Secured against mis-  
take by guidance of Holy Spirit "Bring  
things to their remembrance, guide to all  
truth, show them things to come". *John 14:26*

4. Have power of miracles.

5. Mission ~~was~~ was universal, not confined  
to any particular church. Settled controv-  
ersias. exercised discipline. 1 Cor. 5:3-6  
These qualifications left them without  
predecessors or successors.

Called by Christ-  
Separated, entirely devoted to work of  
gospel.

V 2- origin of gospel- its antiquity-  
promised all thro Old Test ament, not just  
by word of mouth. *Acts 28:23, 25, 26*

3- Its subject matter-Christ.

7- What was Christ's two-fold nature, & how  
revealed here?

Human-seed of David. Mary & Joseph both  
of house of David.

Divine nature.- declared with power, his  
resurrection. (sign of Jonah, the sign  
of all signs to which Christ pointed  
when Jews asked for a sign) *Isa 11:29, 30*

Even the faith of the apostles themselves  
rested on the resurrection.

V 5- Recd. grace and apostleship- Counts it favor to be apostle, even tho they were made a spectacle to the world, led lives of toil, trouble & danger, were killed all the day long. We should count it great favor to be allowed to work for God, tho dangers & difficulties be encountered.

Purpose for Paul's separation to gospel- to bring people to "obedience of faith". Christianity is an obedience. To obey the faith is to yield to its demands, commands

Among all <sup>Gentiles</sup> nations- contrast with other apostles.

To all in Rome- Romans, Jews, Greeks. High, low, bond, free, learned, ignorant - Called to be saints- set apart to service of God.

V8- How does Paul manifest his interest in the Christians at Rome? *3 ways*

1. By gratitude to God for faithfulness.

"Thank my God through Jesus Christ".

Christ is mediator, prayers & thanks offered thro him. "Col 3:17, Eph. 5:20 John 14:13,14; John 15:16, 15:23.

Thankful that their faith was spoken of through whole world. Why mention it? To encourage them to live up to their reputation.

*AD-54 AD.*  
Claudius had banished all Jews from Rome, the Jewish Christians had scattered, & had now returned to Rome, leaving good reputation wherever they'd gone. *FOR FAITHFULNESS*

2. Manifests interest by prayers for them. Prominent position occupied by church & its opportunities to spread gospel influ-

ence for good or evil, made them worthy objects of his prayers. Shows what weight Paul attached to prayers.

One of the greatest kindnesses we can do for our friends, and sometimes the ONLY one, is to pray for them.

*Mrs. Garner*

Shows Paul's constancy in prayer-unceasing. He followed the admonitions he gave to others.

V 10  
#3- Showed interest by great desire to visit them.

Wanted to visit them by any means.

How accomplished? *when? Acts 27, 28*

Could not be called "prosperous" journey from human standpoint.

V 11- Longed to see them to impart spiritual gift. *only bestowed by apostles Acts 8:15-17*  
Object of spiritual gifts, to establish more firmly, more deeply rooted.

*Testimony that Peter had not been to Rome*

V 12- They would be comfort to Paul, he acknowledged good among them. Tho inspired he needed encouragements of others.

*God had prevented? Acts 16:6,7 or had been hindered*

V 13- Would come to Rome to have fruit in that place also. Hardly likely any apostle had been to Rome. Desired to give them benefit of highest spiritual gifts.

*debtor - obligated to Greeks & Barbarians*

V 14- God had redeemed Paul- he was under obligation to proclaim it. Had been entrusted with great talents, & he must use them for Master's service.

We must remember when we covet great things that the more we receive, the more in debt we are to God, to use what we have for His glory. We are only stewards of Lord's

goods. 1 Cor. 9:16,17

V 16- <sup>one of best known verses?</sup> Gospel brought disgrace, persecution, suffering to Paul, but not ashamed of it. *why?*

He might be tempted to be ashamed bec. subject of it hanged on tree, doctrine plain, not scholarly, professors of it mean & despised, spoken against.

He was deprived of place among honored of that day by his adherence to truth, but his name has lived thro' 19 centuries as no other man's.

Should teach all that faithfulness & suffering for right is only way to lasting honor and renown on earth & eternal glory in heaven.

*the* Power of God- Thro provisions of gospel reaches heart, turns man from sin, forgive washes away sins, brings him into Christ, transforms him into being fit to live with him forever.

To those that believe- Medicine will not cure if patient will not take it.

Disbelief will condemn. Not belief only, but obedience of faith. acts 11:21 - acts 8:12 (2:41) 1631-33

V 17- Revealed righteousness of God, to listinguish it from righteousness of law.

This plan is by faith, & benefits extended to all that have faith. *not a dead faith*

Righteous live by faith put into practice  
Faith apart from works is barren. Jas 2:20

Abraham - father of faithful - Gen 22:12

V 18- Wrath of God revealed- Whoever violates law of nature experience wrath of God connected with such violation.

Violation of moral & divine laws carry just penalties.

Ungodliness-sin against God himself

Unrighteousness-sin against God's laws.  
*of morality*

Speaking of Gentiles here, <sup>V13</sup> and "truth" was not O.T. but truths handed down from patriarchal days!

*Ps. 19:1-3*

V 19- nature a V 20 no excuse?  
V 21- "Knowing God"- God once revealed himself to all alike- to Ad am, thru angels, inspired men. Some had it in revelation, some in tradition. Only knowledge world had of God until gospel.

*foolish hearts darkened.*

? Glorify as God. Regard with reverence, worship as maker of universe. Not willing to do this, which restrains men from sin, they were given over to vain & wicked desires. *Infidels have no restraint from sin.*

22- Professing themselves to be wise.

Thought they could live without God.

BECAME FOOLS- *atheists today*

23- Started out worshiping God thro Aaron these images, thinking the image would help mind. *Catholics* Soon came to view it as God. God does not need man to invent aids he has not ordained. *Lies* "no graven image"

24- Worship of idols leads to unclean & vile practices.

God did not cause impurity, but he abandoned them to their lusts. Without God, they had nothing to control their fleshly lusts.

25- Lie- deceptive reasonings of own hearts. *Idols sometimes called lies-*

*Act 4:20; Jer. 10:14; 13:25*

26- Shows need of heathen world for gospel. *Lesbians*  
God gave them up bec. they loved the lie rather than truth, and worshiped idol rather than creator.

Sins mentioned most degrading that can be charged to man. *Homosexuality worse than fornication*

Perversion of women, form not known. *1D: 13-15*

Moses gave law against such in Lev. 18: *11*

22, 23. *Homosexuality; bestiality*

27- Lusts of men- examples of Sodom. *Gen 19, 154-10*

*Results of such are to be expected*  
*DAIDS - VENEREAL DISEASE*

Men who thus sinned rec'd recompense of error due them.

Such depravity is worse than that of brute

Men are created with faculties which if rightly used will raise them far above brutes; if perverted will drag them down as far below the brute as the right use would raise them up above.

These were particularly used in worship of Venus.

These vices still so prevalent among heathen that modern missionaries have been accused of forging these descriptions, they cannot believe such an accurate description could have been written of them so long ago. *We know from the news it happens today.*

28- Refused to have God in their knowledge bec. he condemns their course. *turns over to reprobate mind (corrupt, depraved)*

Reprobate mind- lost to virtue, wholly given up to sin, lost to all sense of duty.

- Unrighteousness- iniquity in general.
- Wickedness- produces injury to others.
- Covetousness- unlawful desire, or undue desire to own, esp. another's.
- maliciousness- hatred which takes pleasure in doing injury to others.
- Envy- Selfish ill will toward another bec. of his endowments, possessions, success grudging of another's enjoyments.  
Enjoys misery in others.
- murder-
- Strife- Angry contention, conflict, disposition to be quarrelsome, not for truth but for its own sake.
- deceit- attempt to deceive or lead into error, anything which causes one to believe that which is false.
- malignity- state of mind which causes its possessor to put worst construction on every action. *vicious ill will*
- whisperers- slyly blacken name of another, or cause suspicion to be raised.
- backbiters- speak ill behind back of person hateful to God.-polluted with sin.
- insolent- offensive, disrespectful, do what they like regardless of rights, feelings, property of others. *despiteful*
- haughty-proud, conceited about own beauty, wealth, accomplishments. Look with contempt on others.
- boastful-Ready to proclaim own merits
- inventors of evil things.- Thinking up new ways of gratification of lusts.
- disobedient to parents- Held in great disrepute by God, compared to these awful sins. *parents duties*
- without understanding- No perception of spiritual or moral values.
- covenant breakers- violate obligations



imposed by contracts.

without natural affection- parents for  
children, husband for families, wives,  
etc.

Not only refers to lack of feeling in  
family circle, but to those who  
flocked to circus to see fights of  
gladiators, applauding the shedding of  
human blood, gloating over agonies  
of dying

unmerciful- no mercy to poor, infirm,  
helpless, or to enemy even.

This picture is man without God and his  
word.

As man wandered from God, he degenerated

Gay Bradley

without natural affection - parents for  
 children, husbands for families, wives  
 etc.  
 Not only refers to lack of feeling in  
 family circle, but to those who  
 looked to circus to see fights of  
 gladiators, explaining the shedding  
 human blood, floating over agonies  
 of dying  
 unmerciful - no mercy to poor, infirm,  
 helpless, or to enemy even.

This picture is man without God and his  
 word.  
 As man wandered from God, he degenerated

*Round figures*

- 4000 BC Adam
- 1500 BC Law to Jews
- 2000 A.D. Present

*God*