

“WE ARE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH IN CHRIST”

The Letter to The Romans

Who wrote The Letter to the Romans?

The Letter to the Romans was written by the Apostle Paul probably from Corinth in Greece.

How did The Letter to the Romans get its name and/or what does that name mean?

The Letter to the Romans is the first of 21 New Testament Letters that, along with The Book of Revelation, form the remainder of the New Testament.

When did these events take place?

The Letter to the Romans was probably written between 56 A.D. and 58 A.D.

For more about The Letter to The Romans:

See page 1208 in the Fireside Catholic Youth Bible.

Every great coach has attributes that allow him or her to get the most out of their players. Patience, vision, empathy, encouragement and drive are just a few that come to mind. But before any of these are ever experienced, we always learn something else about a great coach. They are usually a great communicator as well. Somehow, he or she instinctively knows when to motivate and when to be quiet. They always seem to know how to say what needs to be said at crucial times in a way that builds up instead of tearing down. And, even though they are forced to juggle present situations quickly, they always seem to have their eye on the goal – the victory their team can win.

St. Paul was just that kind of person. As a convert to the faith, Paul was very focused on what God had planned for him. His mission was to build the church outside of Israel through any form of communication possible. Sometimes that meant long travels to meet people in person. Other times, he would write eloquent letters to the believers in far off lands to encourage them in sustaining and growing the church. The Letter to The Romans is the first of fourteen of these letters Paul or his disciples wrote for that purpose. The Letter to the Romans is the longest of Paul's letters and the one that most thoroughly spells out his understanding and conviction to faith. Paul makes it very clear in his letter to the Romans that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of prophecy and the means to eternal salvation.

Like a great coach, Paul realized that communication was very important. The Letter to the Romans (like all his letters), is written with patience, understanding and compassion. At the same time, Paul attempts to motivate the young Christian community in Rome by challenging them to be fervent in their new faith and not lazy in its interpretation. Paul's main lesson in The Book of Romans is that we are justified by faith in Christ and not by the old law. This allowed for non-Jews to join the church without first adhering to the laws and traditions of the Jewish community. Christianity was not an easy message to believe for the Jew who refused to give up sole commitment to Mosaic Law. Paul knew the Roman church was struggling with this and other less serious problems. He instructs them in his letter on how to solve this puzzle.

Interesting Fact: There was no organized Christian church in Rome when Paul wrote this first letter.

Bonus Point: Paul promised to visit the Romans on his way to what country?