

15 June 2025



# Book of Romans

*Established in Our Faith in Christ*

*For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established— that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.*

**Romans 1:11-12 - NKJV**

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## Background Context of Paul's letter to the believers in Romans

Acts 2: 5 - 11 (around 33-34 AD)

Acts 18: 1 - 11 (around 49-52 AD)

- Paul had never been to Rome when he wrote the letter
- His knowledge about believers in Rome came first from Aquila and Priscilla, who had been expelled from Rome and now stayed in Corinth.
- Claudius (Roman Emperor 41-54 AD) had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. This event was also recorded by Suetonius, a Roman Historian, in his works known as the Twelve Caesars.
- It was believed the letter was written during Paul's third journey in Corinth/Greece, where he stayed for 3 months - Acts 20:2-3 ( 53-57 AD)
- Most, if not all, believers who remained in Rome during that time were Greek.
- Greeks' understanding of the Scriptures is limited, and how Jesus is the fulfilment of the Scriptures may not be fully understood by the Greek believers.
- Very much aligned for people who are not from the Jew's background - like us

# Romans 1:1-17

## Part 1 - Paul's introduction

- Paul introduced himself as the servant/bondservant of Christ
  - Similar to Peter's letter in 2 Peter 1:1
  - Are we Christ's friend or Christ's servant? - John 15:14-15
- Clarify what is the Gospel of God
  - The Gospel of God is about Jesus Christy, the Lord
  - God has promised this good news through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures (hundreds of prophecies about the Messiah, written hundreds and thousands of years before, fulfilled in Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection)
- The Letter was addressed to the Greeks (Gentiles) in Rome who believed in Christ, that never met Paul before, but might have heard about his ministry probably from Priscilla and Aquilla that has return to Rome (Romans 16:3)

## Part 2 - His longing to come to Rome



- Paul tried to convince the believers in Rome that he remembered them always in his prayer, and he also prayed that God open the way for him to visit them.
  - Paul tried to visit Rome few times but has not yet succeeded (Acts 19:21, Romans 1:13)
  - Paul finally got the chance to visit Rome and stay for two years (Acts 28:30), after raising to appeal to Caesar - Acts 25:8-12
- He longed to impart some spiritual gifts so they may be strengthened, established, or made it immovable - original word - stērichthēnai, stērixai
  - What spiritual gifts did Paul refer to? Gift to preach the Gospel of Christ Romans 1:15, Romans 16:25
- Our faith (not only understanding and knowledge) in the Gospel is the element that will enable us to encourage each other

# Key Take Away - Romans 1:1-13



- The gift of the Spirit - 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 - includes: wisdom (v8), knowledge (v8), and faith (v9) in addition to other spiritual gifts
- Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ with wisdom, knowledge, and faith is a spiritual gift that we can impart to others, including those who already believe.
- Paul's longing is also this church's longing: that is, so we all have the immovable faith, faith that is not dependent on our circumstances, feelings, pastors, or churches.
- Our faith is established in the truth that Jesus is a living God, who had died for our sins, but rose again as evidence that he has defeated death, and our trust to his promise: whoever believes in Him will receive the eternal life