



## The Apostle Paul *in* Rome

**Memory Text:** *“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.”* ([Romans 1:8 KJV](#)).

### **Additional Verses for Meditation and Study This Week:**

*Romans 15:14, 20-27; Acts 28:17-31; Philippians 1:12; Romans 1:7; Ephesians 1;*

**Main Thought for the Week:** In the book of Romans, the grand theme of salvation is expertly laid out by the Apostle Paul, with the focus naturally upon Jesus Christ. To start out our study of Salvation by Faith this quarter, we are going to look at some of the contextual issues associated with Paul’s epistle to the Romans. Context is an important part of Bible study, because it helps us to understand the people and the circumstances that make up the Bible narrative. Context helps us answer the following questions:

- Who was speaking to whom?
- Why were they speaking?
- What were they trying to accomplish?

We can never forget, however, that God designed that the things that are recorded in His Word are for us today, and not just for historical reference (**1 Corinthians 10:11**). They have direct spiritual implications, which we can better appreciate by understanding the original context.



## The Apostle Paul's Letter

### Sunday's Summary – October 1:

**SUMMARY THOUGHTS:** One of the purposes of establishing the city of origin of the New Testament epistles is to ascertain the date of writing. Because Paul traveled a lot, knowing his location at a particular time gives us a clue to the date. Paul established the church at Corinth on his second missionary journey, A.D. 49-52 (Acts 18:1-18). On his third journey, A.D. 53-58, he visited Greece again (Acts 20:2-3) and received an offering for the saints in Jerusalem near the end of his journey (Romans 15:25-26). Therefore, the Epistle to the Romans was probably written in the early part of A.D. 58.

1. What other important churches did Paul visit on his third missionary journey?

Acts 18:18-23 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 19:1-2, 8-10 \_\_\_\_\_

**Discuss/Consider:** Is there any danger that by focusing on the context of the original messages, we can lose sight of how the various messages of Scriptures apply to us today? Is it possible to look at the Bible as a set of messages to other people, and miss the whole point? Why is it that we are so prone to see the correction and reproof as applying to “them” but the promises as applying to “us?” \_\_\_\_\_

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**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Paul's Desire to Visit Rome**

### **Monday's Summary – October 2:**

1. Why did the Apostle Paul want to visit Rome, and what had prevented him from visiting earlier?

**Romans 15:20-27** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 19:17-21** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 18:1-3** \_\_\_\_\_

**Discuss/Consider:** Is it better to seek to evangelize in totally new fields, or to merely build upon the spiritual labors of others? \_\_\_\_\_

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**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Paul in Rome**

### **Tuesday’s Summary – October 3:**

1. What was the situation that ultimately brought Paul to Rome?

**Acts 25:10-12** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 28:16-17** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 23:10-11** \_\_\_\_\_

**ILLUMINATION:** Not by Paul’s sermons, but by his bonds, was the attention of the court attracted to Christianity. It was as a captive that he broke from so many souls the bonds that held them in the slavery of sin. Nor was this all. He declared: “Many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.”  
Philippians 1:14. – Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 464

**Discuss/Consider:** Why are we so slow to see the working of God in situations that look bleak, dreary or painful for us? (**Philippians 1:12**) \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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## The “Saints” in Rome

### Wednesday’s Summary – October 4:

1. Who does God call to be saints?

2 Timothy 1:8-10 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 1:3-6 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Peter 3:9 \_\_\_\_\_

**Discuss/Consider:** How are we to understand the word “predestinate[d]” as found in Romans 8 and Ephesians 1, in light of John 3:16 and 2 Peter 3:9? \_\_\_\_\_

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**ILLUMINATION:** Notwithstanding the opposition, twenty years after the crucifixion of Christ there was a live, earnest church in Rome. This church was strong and zealous, and the Lord worked for it.

– Ellen G. White Comments, *The SDA Bible Commentary, Volume 6*, p. 1067

**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Wrapping It All Up...**

**Friday's Summary – October 6:**

### **Reflections on the week...**

**Appeal:** The plan of salvation was not an afterthought by God, but was prepared before man was even created. We encourage you to take some time today to reflect and see if you give your relationship with Christ the kind of attention it deserves. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Final Thoughts:** At Metro New York World Ministry, we seek to encourage every listener to study the Bible carefully for himself or herself. We want everyone to understand how the plan of salvation applies to the individual, and not just the group. The Bible teaches that the sin problem is a big problem, in need of a big solution. As we study the book of Romans this quarter, we will begin to get into some foundational truths of the salvation which was planned for us from “before the foundation the world.” We pray that this study will lead to a greater appreciation of the work of the Godhead in the redemption of mankind, and the protection of the entire universe.

**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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