

John Wesley – May 24, 1738

In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.

I began to pray with all my might for those who had in a more especial manner despitefully used me and persecuted me. I then testified openly to all there what I now first felt in my heart. But it was not long before the enemy suggested, "This cannot be faith; for where is thy joy?" Then was I taught that peace and victory over sin are essential to faith in the Captain of our salvation; but that, as to the transports of joy that usually attend the beginning of it, especially in those who have mourned deeply, God sometimes giveth, sometimes withholdeth, them according to the counsels of His own will.

After my return home, I was much buffeted with temptations, but I cried out, and they fled away. They returned again and again. I as often lifted up my eyes, and He "sent me help from his holy place." And herein I found the difference between this and my former state chiefly consisted. I was striving, yea, fighting with all my might under the law, as well as under grace. But then I was sometimes, if not often, conquered; now, I was always conqueror.

Great Verses:

Romans 1:16

Romans 3:23

Romans 5:8

Romans 6:23

Romans 8:28

Romans 8:38-39

Romans 11:29

Romans 12:1-2

Memory Verse for This Month:

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

– Romans 1:16

Wi-Fi Password: Love2111

Cover Art: *The Apostle Paul, Rembrandt, 1627*

FIRST CHURCH PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY



The Book of Romans

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Romans 1-16

September 14, 2016

Who Wrote Romans?

Paul (1:1)

Amanuensis = Tertius (16:22)

When Was It Written?

Paul's Missionary Journeys

First & Second

The Third

An Offering for Jerusalem Saints

Stay Over in Greece (Corinth)

The Plan – (15:18-29)

The Date – 56-58

What Really Happened Afterwards

Left Corinth/Cenchrea (Acts 20)

Stopped at Miletus – Skipped Ephesus (Acts 20)

Sailed to Tyre by Land to Jerusalem (Acts 21)

Paul Arrested and Journey to Rome

Traditions: Then to Spain, Back to Rome, Execution

To Whom Was It Written?

Roman Church – Settled by Converts from Pentecost (Acts 2:10)

By Voicing – Jews & Gentiles - A Mixed Church

Claudius Expulsion of Jews in 49 (Priscilla & Aquila-Acts 18:2)

Why Was It Written?

The Return of the Jews

A Jewish-Gentile Church

Prepare for His Visit

Themes

Sin (Hamartiology)

Salvation (Soteriology)

Justification

Sanctification

Glorification

Implications on Conduct (Practical Theology, Ethics)

Jewish & Gentile Relations

Romans in History

Irenaeus – Salvation Gospel

Augustine – Conversion in Romans 13:13-14

Luther – Foundation

“This Epistle [Romans] is really the chief part of the New Testament and the very purest Gospel, and is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul” (Luther, *Commentary on Romans*, p. xiii).