

The Book of Romans

Lesson 1

8/28/2019

Its Author, Place and Date of Composition is quoted from: Baker's New Testament Commentary by William Hendriksen & Simon J. Kistemaker

Romans - Copyright ©1980, 1981 by William Hendriksen:

"The following facts point to Corinth as the place where the apostle (Paul) composed the epistle to the Romans:

1. He commends to the church Phoebe whom he calls "a servant of the church of Cenchrea." Now Cenchrea was the eastern port of Corinth. It is generally, and probably correctly, assumed that Phoebe carried Paul's letter to its destination.
2. He calls Gaius his "host." This person may well have been the one of that name mentioned in 1Co 1:14, where the apostle informs the Corinthians that he had baptized this member of their congregation. In Rom 16:23 Gaius is sending greetings.
3. Also extending a salutation is Erastus. Cf. 2Ti 4:20, "Erastus remained at Corinth." An inscription discovered on a paving-block at Corinth reads, "Erastus laid this pavement at his own expense." If these references are to the Erastus of Rom 16:23, they confirm the theory that Romans was composed in Corinth."

"... The date for his entire third missionary journey was therefore probably 53/54-57/58, and the date for the composition of the epistle to the Romans, just before his departure from Corinth, was probably 57 or 58. Since it was Paul's intention to reach Jerusalem by Pentecost (Act 20:16), we can perhaps be even more specific and say that the letter was probably written toward the close of the winter and/or during the beginning of the spring. ..."

Let's start the book of Romans with this TRUTH always in our heart, mind and soul:
Heb 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

Rom 1:1 "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, ..." (KJV)

servant:

δουλος

doulos

Thayer Definition:

1a) a slave

1b) metaphorically, one who gives himself up to another's will ...

1c) devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests

2) a servant, attendant

Definitions 1b & 1c above: Remember what our Lord said in Matthew 16:24-26?

Mat 16:24 "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, 'If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?'"

This was the apostle Paul's life after his experience on the Damascus road in Acts 9:1-6 (when you have time, read the account of Paul's conversion). Jesus intervened in Paul's life on the Damascus road! The apostle Paul was **never the same** after Christ's intervention in his life. He literally became a new "creature in Christ"!!! He died to his will, purposes, desires, etc. and took up the will of Christ just like Jesus obeyed His Father and did His will. Are you still living your own will, desires, pleasures, purposes, etc. or are you following Christ's will for your life? Jesus said, John 10:27, "**My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: ...**". Are you following Christ? It is the difference between life and death. [Remember the 5 works of saving grace Jesus does in, to and for us at the moment of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit explained in Ezekiel 36:24-27 & verse 31 we talked about the last two Wednesdays (8-14 & 21-2019)? **Please** - review those changes made in your soul and pray over them until you understand them in your mind and the Holy Spirit has written these absolute truths in your heart (Hebrews 8:10-11)!!! It is exceedingly important for every born again person to understand what changes were wrought in his/her soul when he/she were saved - How we were changed and are different now. When we are truly been born again, our lives changed forever from that moment of rebirth until death! We became **new creatures in Christ** by His work of saving grace, according to the kind intention of His will, by His great LOVE & MERCY, with nothing of us involved. (Ephesians 1 & 2)] At the moment of

the "rebirth" Paul became a willing "slave" of Christ (Remember the heart of stone verses the heart of flesh **and** the Holy Spirit put in us). Paul lost "his life" at that point and became a follower of Christ - a willing "servant" (2 definition above). He took up his cross and followed Christ. Christ became his LORD at that moment of transformation in his heart and soul!!! Listen to his words: Act 9:6, "And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? ..." That must be the prayer of our hearts if we have truly been born again and therefore Christ is truly LORD of our heart and soul!!! There is no other option. We MUST FOLLOW Christ!!! Otherwise, at the last judgment, **we will hear Jesus say loud and clear:** Matthew 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A "SLAVE/SERVANT" OF JESUS CHRIST - JUST LIKE THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS AND EVERY TRUE BELIEVER IS!!! It will be continual spiritual **warfare after the rebirth for every believer as they grow from a spiritual baby to a mature follower of Christ!!!** This growing process (sanctification) will last our whole life time while here on earth - dying more to sin, our self, our flesh; and living more to Christ, becoming more like Him each and every day. Expect many battles as you grow more like Christ in a world that hates Him! (Jesus tells all His disciples **who follow Him**, John 15:18 "**If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.'** If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me." Paul told Timothy, 2 Timothy 3:12, "Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.."