

**The Way**  
Maturity of the Church  
Lesson 16: Paul Wrote a Letter to the Believers in Rome  
*\*We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons\**

**Review (Where We've Been)**

***The Natural Progression of the Story of Scripture...***

- Accept the Gospel Story (God promised/sent a Deliverer to save from sin)
- Embrace God's Way for the Gospel to Be Proclaimed (Church spreads it)
- Study, Live, and Grow in God's Ways (Maturity in church/individuals)

**BIG Idea**

How were people able to study, live, and grow in God's ways? *He often had human authors write letters.*

Is there a handwritten letter that you've kept? Why?

***Handwritten letters can...***

- Show people how much they mean to you (personal)
- Allow you to fully explain what you want to say (meaningful)
- Preserve history (documents events, thoughts, feelings)
- Bring people closer together (words matter)

**“The Holy Spirit chose the apostles and other men to write books of the Bible. They wrote them as letters to churches and individual Christians who lived during the time the apostles were living, but these letters are God's Word to us also.” – Firm Foundations**

Over the next couple months, we'll be looking at a letter Paul wrote.

***Who was Paul?***

- Persecutor of Christians
- Convert to Christianity
- Missionary to the Gentiles
- Mentor to and Lover of the Church
- Author of the Letter to the Romans (written somewhere between AD 56-58)  
*“Acts 20:1-4 refers to Paul's visit to Corinth on his third missionary journey. It was during this time that he wrote his letter to Rome.” – Firm Foundations*

## Information (What You Need to Know)

***Paul will help the Roman believers understand the following truths in this letter...***

- You are far from God (Romans 1-3) ***Condemnation***
- You are made right with God through faith (Romans 4-5) ***Justification***
- You are free from the power and penalty of sin (Romans 6-8) ***Sanctification***
- You are restored to God (Romans 9-11) ***Restoration***
- You are to live in obedience to God (Romans 12-16) ***Transformation***

***Paul's Opening Words to the Christians at Rome...***

### ▪ **He told them who he was in Christ**

**Romans 1:1 (ESV)** Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God...

- ✓ **Servant of Christ Jesus** (willingly commits to serve a master he loves/respects)
- ✓ **Apostle** (sent authority to speak and write God's word, equal in authority to the OT Scriptures)
- ✓ **One Set Apart for the Gospel** (calling to tell others the good news of Christ)

### ▪ **He told them who they are in Christ**

- ✓ They are *beloved by God*

**Romans 1:7 (ESV)** To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints...

- He loves by providing beauty and variety on the earth
- He loves by making the sun to shine, and the rain to fall
- He loves by creating food to eat

**"When Adam and Eve disobeyed by taking the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, God responded with love. He provided clothing for Adam and Eve, and He promised to send a Deliverer who would die to pay for sins. We know from God's Word that God loves the whole world and gave His Son to die for all." – Firm Foundations**

God demonstrates His love for all mankind through making a way for them to have a relationship with Him, even though all are sinners.

**John 3:16 (ESV)** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**What is the most important question we will ever seek to answer? As it turns out, it's not, "What do you love?" And it's not even, "Whom do you love?".... The most important question we can ever seek to answer is this: "Who loves you?" God does. – J.T. English and Jen Wilkin (You Are a Theologian)**

*It's not about you trying to prove your love but realizing that God loves you.*

- ✓ They are *called to be saints*

**Romans 1:7 (ESV)** To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints [a “*holy one*,” someone set apart to live only for God]...

“The moment you heard and obeyed God’s call to you to trust in Jesus as your Savior, God set you apart for Himself and His service. Before you became a child of God, Satan and sin used your mind and your body. However, from the time you were born into God’s family, you were set apart by God to be used only by Him to do the things which please Him.” – Firm Foundations

- ✓ They are the recipients of God’s *grace* and *peace*

**Romans 1:7 (ESV)** To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- *Grace*

**Grace** means that God is willing to forgive us and richly bless us, even though we don’t deserve to be treated so well.

- *Peace*

“**Peace** is not just the absence of conflict but echoes the OT concept of *shalom*, where a person’s life with God and everything else is in ordered harmony, both physically and spiritually, and *all is well*.” – ESV Study Bible

### Application (What You Need To Do):

#### *What are the results of our relationship with God in Christ?*

- Once enemies; now friends
- Strength in weakness
- Divine peace that passes human understanding