



# BABY SHOWER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 10AM - 1PM  
2015 CHICAGO AVENUE, MINNEAPOLIS





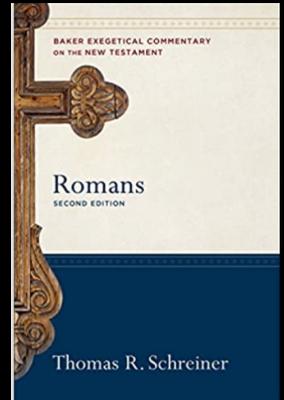
# Romans

SERMON SERIES

This epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament, and is truly the purest gospel...It can never be read or pondered too much, and the more it is dealt with the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes.

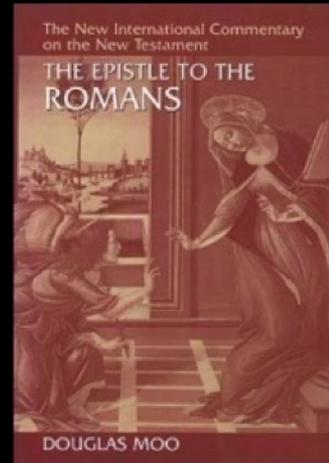
(Luther 1972:365)

Thomas R. Schreiner, *Romans*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.,  
Baker Exegetical Commentary of the New Testament,  
Baker Academic, 1.



Romans is ultimately a book about *God*: how *he* acted to bring salvation, how *his* justice is preserved, how *his* purposes are worked out in history, how *he* can be served by his people.

Douglas J. Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1996), 43.



## **Romans 1:1**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus,  
called to be an apostle,  
set apart for the gospel of God —

## Romans 1:7

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.

How was the church in Rome founded?

What were Paul's purposes in the letter?

How is Paul described (review of verse 1)?

How is the Roman church described?

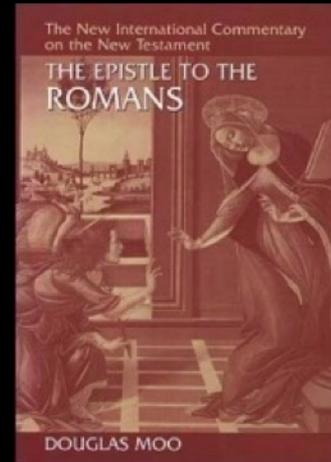
What can we take away this morning?

# How was the church in Rome founded?



The length and theological orientation of this prescript are due mainly to the fact that Paul was introducing himself to a church that he had neither founded nor visited.

Douglas J. Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1996), 40.

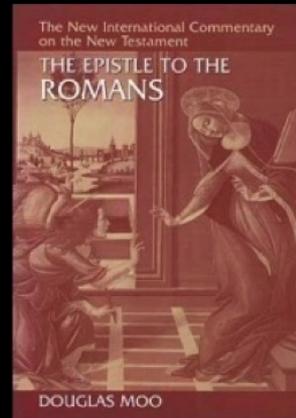


## Acts 2:1-5, 10b-11a

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. <sup>5</sup> Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem devout Jews from every nation under heaven...and visitors from Rome, <sup>11</sup> both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians..."

An important event in the history of the Jews in Rome is mentioned by the Roman historian Suetonius. In his *Life of Claudius*, he says that Claudius “expelled the Jews from Rome (in A.D. 49) because they were constantly rioting at the instigation of Chrestus” (25.2). Most scholars agree that “Chrestus” is a corruption of the Greek *Christos* and that the reference is probably to disputes within the Jewish community over the claims of Jesus to be the *Christos*, the Messiah.

Douglas J. Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1996), 4-5.



## Acts 18:1-3

<sup>1</sup> After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup> And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, <sup>3</sup> and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.

What were Paul's purposes in the letter?

# What were Paul's purposes in the letter?

## #1 – Forge a relationship with Roman Church for future missions

### Romans 15:23–24, 28

<sup>23</sup> But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, <sup>24</sup> I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while...<sup>28</sup> When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you.

What were Paul's purposes in the letter?

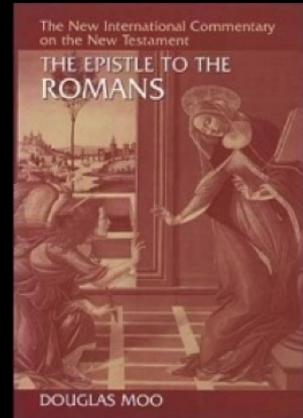
**#2 - To reconcile Jew and Gentile under one banner--Christ!**

**Romans 1:16**

<sup>16</sup> 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.

We must assume that Paul has the whole community, a mixed group of Jewish and Gentile Christians, in mind as he writes...Paul's purpose may be to rehearse the basic issues separating Jews and Christians and to show what his gospel has to say about them, with the purpose of helping Gentile Christians understand the roots of their faith...(while also) criticizing Judaism for its overemphasis on the law and its presumption of "most favored nation" status.

Douglas J. Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1996), 4-5.



# What were Paul's purposes in the letter?

## #3 - Preach the Gospel

### Romans 15:20

<sup>20</sup>I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation...

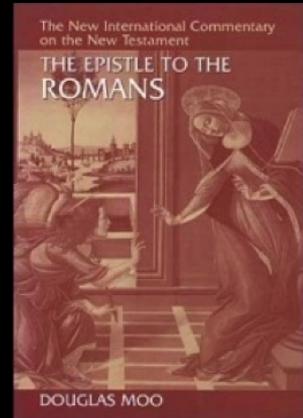
How is Paul described (review of verse 1)?

**Romans 1:1**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus,  
called to be an apostle,  
set apart for the gospel of God —

Here the title...mark(s) Paul as one among that unique group appointed by Christ himself to have the salvation-historical role as the “foundation” of the church (Eph. 2:20). For the risen Christ appeared to him (1 Cor. 15:8) and chose him for his special mission to the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13; cf. 1 Tim. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:11)...What Paul intends by this is spelled out in the...opening of Galatians: “Paul, an apostle — sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead ...” (NIV).

Douglas J. Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1996), 41-42.



How is the Roman church described?

**Romans 1:7**

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.

# How is the Roman church described?

## Matthew 3:16–17

<sup>16</sup> And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

How is the Roman church of Hope described?

**Hope Community 1:7**

To all those in Rome Hope  
who are loved by God  
and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace  
from God our Father and  
the Lord Jesus Christ.

In designating the Roman Christians as “beloved by God” and “called to be saints,” Paul implies that they are God’s chosen people; for both phrases echo OT designations of Israel...In addition, these two descriptions remind the readers that who they are depends on *God’s* love and call. Paul uses “saints” at least 38 times to designate Christians (four other times in salutations), the focus being not on behavior but on status: Christians are those who *have been* sanctified “in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God” (1 Cor. 6:11)...And so, Paul acknowledges, it is ultimately God himself, by his Holy Spirit, who “sanctifies” Gentiles, turning them from unclean and sinful creatures to “holy” offerings fit for the service and praise of a holy God.

What can we take away this morning?

Do you trust the Bible when it says here,  
“You are loved by God”?

Do you trust the Bible when it says here,  
“You are loved by God”?

Have you named those things which are  
preventing you from receiving God’s grace  
and peace to you through Christ?

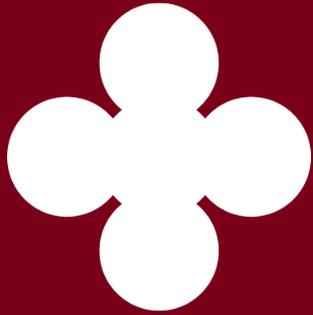




*To all of you, who are loved by God and  
Called to be saint: Grace to you and peace  
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Chris.*



New here? Come say hi & grab a coffee mug!



NEW TO HOPE

Downstairs after service