

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

RLJ-1572

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NOVEMBER 6, 2016

PART 1: SEXUAL IMMORALITY

BACKGROUND

The traditions of the Roman Catholicism infer that the apostle Peter came to the city of Rome and established the Christian church there. This is wishful thinking since the church in Rome began shortly after the day of Pentecost, when Jews from Rome visited Jerusalem during the Festival of Weeks. It was held 50 days after the first day of the Passover week. The word Pentecost literally means "50 days after the Passover." **Acts 2:5-11**

Three thousand Jewish men were born again on the day of Pentecost. This included Jews from Jerusalem, Judea and Galilee and other locations like Rome. They returned to their homelands and spread the news about Jesus, the resurrection and the need to be saved and baptized in water. **Acts 2:37-42**

Thus the church in Rome was not started by any of the apostles, but by men who had been saved on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem. The activities of the church in Rome spread throughout the Roman Empire and Paul was eager to travel there to give them more instruction concerning the Christian faith. **Romans 1:7-12**

Historical records indicate that Paul wrote the letter to the Romans 23 years after the resurrection of Jesus when he was at the city of Corinth around 56 A.D. A Christian woman in Corinth named Phebe traveled to Rome with this letter. **Romans 16:1-2**

Paul had visited the city of Corinth several times, and during one of previous visits to the city, he met a Jewish couple from Rome named Aquila and Priscilla. **Acts 18:1-3**

The Roman Emperor Claudius had expelled all Jews from the city of Rome and that included this couple. Through Aquila and Priscilla, Paul learned about some of the members in that church. By 56 A.D. the decree for Jews to leave Rome and been lifted and Aquila and Priscilla moved back and Paul sent greetings to them. **Romans 16:3-4**

Paul had also met other Christian Jews who had settled in Rome and he sent special greetings to them. **verses 5-15**

Paul arrived as a prisoner four years after he sent the letter in 60 A.D. **Acts 28:11-16**

He was released from prison in A.D. 62 after being acquitted at his trial and spent the next four years traveling and visiting the churches he had founded. Then he was arrested by the Roman government and sent to Rome again. He was tried and sentenced to death around 68 A.D. and beheaded shortly thereafter.

INTRODUCTION

Paul begins his letter by introducing himself and listing his credentials. **Romans 1:1-6**

He says that this letter is addressed to the Christians living in Rome. **verses 7**



Paul was impressed by their testimony and wanted to visit in order to give them further instructions concerning their faith in Jesus Christ. **verses 8-15**

ESTABLISHING CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

Paul wanted to assure the Christians that even though he was a Jew, he was not ashamed of the Gospel and that he would boldly proclaim it, regardless what anyone said about him. **verses 16-17**

Rome was known for its immorality and homosexuality was common among both sexes. Paul wanted to be upfront with his readers that homosexuality is a sin; it is not accepted by God and therefore should be condemned by the Christian community. **verses 18-32**

HOMOSEXUALITY IS A SIN

Paul's teaching on homosexuality was based on revelation truth that Jesus as the Creator set forth for the people of Israel.

1. Men are not to engage in sexual intercourse with men. **Leviticus 18:22**
2. Homosexuality was classified as an abomination. The dictionary defines an abomination as an atrocity, disgrace, horror, outrage, evil, scourge, a curse. There was a death sentence upon anyone practicing homosexuality. **Leviticus 18:27-30; 20:13**
3. No homosexuals or whores were allowed in Israel. **Deuteronomy 23:17**
4. Israel became infected with homosexuality. **1 Kings 14:24**
5. When a righteous king reigned, homosexuals were expelled from the land. **1 Kings 15:11-12; 22:46**
6. King Josiah walked with the Lord and ordered the bathhouses of the sodomites to be destroyed. **2 Kings 22:1-2; 23:7**

SUMMARY

Men and women who identify and declare themselves to be homosexuals are possessed by evil spirits. Demon possession is like cancer in the human body; it spreads and destroys healthy cells and eventually kills the body. God never condoned or tolerated homosexuality; He ordered it to be rooted out and eradicated.

Jesus Christ died and paid for the sins of mankind. God wants to save all the men and women trapped in homosexuality. If Christians accepts homosexuality as a different lifestyle, we are essentially condoning their sin and condemning them to remain in their sinful way of life and this will bring the wrath of God on our nation. **Romans 1:32**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?