

Paul's Letter to the



Romans

Study 1

The Righteousness of God

The Jews in Rome



- A Jewish community in Rome in 2nd cent BC
- Captives were taken to Rome after Pompey's conquest of Judea BC63. Many were released after his "triumph" (victory march) 2 years later
- The Jews occupied a quarter on the other side of the Tiber. Its proximity to the wharves made it ideal for trading. Jewish numbers increase
- Cicero comments on the size and influence of the Jewish community BC59
- Julius and Augustus Caesars were favourable towards the Jews. Allowed freedom of religion
- After the death of Herod BC4, the 8000 Jews in Rome complained against Archelaus
- Because of an embezzlement case, the Jews were banished from Rome by Tiberius AD19
- Jews from Rome attended Pentecost **Ac 2:10**
- Due to riots caused by "**Chrestus**", banished again by Claudius (AD41-54) in AD49 **Ac 18:2**
- Paul wrote the letter to the Romans in AD57



Nº	Location	Ref	Duration	Year	Letters
1	Antioch	18:22		53	
2	Galatia	18:23			
3	Phrygia	18:23			
4	Ephesus	19:1	3yr 20:31	53-56	1Corinthians
5	Macedonia	20:1			2Corinthians
6	Greece	20:2	3mth 20:3	57	Romans
7	Macedonia	20:3			
8	Philippi	20:6			

Ecclesial Members

Rom 16



Gentile Members (17)

Epanaetus **v5**
Amplias **v8**
Urbane **v9**
Stachys **v9**
Tryphena, Tryphosa **v12**
Persis **v12**
Asyncritus **v14**
Phlegon **v14**
Hermes **v14**
Patrobas **v14**
Hermes **v14**
Philologus **v15**
Julia **v15**
Nereus & sister **v15**
Olympas **v15**

Jewish Members (9)

Priscilla & Aquila **v3**
Mary **v6**
Andronicus & Junia **v7**
Apelles **v10**
Herodian **v11**
Rufus & mother **v13**

Households (5)

2 Jewish, 3 Gentile

Priscilla & Aquila **v5** (J)
Aristobulus **v10** (J)
Narcissus **v11** (G)
The Brethren **v14** (G)
The Saints **v15** (G)

The Prominence of Sisters (10)

Phebe **v1**, Priscilla **v3**, Mary **v6**, Junia **v7**,
Tryphena, Tryphosa, Persis **v12**, Rufus' mother
v13, Julia, Nereus' sister **v15**

Roman Ecclesial Diversity



A Gentile Majority

Oftentimes I purposed to come unto you ... even as among other Gentiles **1:13**

For I speak to you Gentiles inasmuch as I am the apostle to the gentiles ... **11:13, 15:16**

A Significant Jewish Minority

What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh hath found ... **4:1**

Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the Law) ... **7:1**

Jewish Tensions

Thou art called a Jew and makest thy boast in the Law **2:17**, He is not a Jew which is one outwardly **2:29**, Is God the God of the Jews only? **3:29**.

Gentile Tensions

Be not high minded but fear **11:20**, God is able to graft them in again **11:23**, Ye have now obtained mercy through their (Jewish) unbelief **11:30**.

The Poor Fund

Ecclesial Delegates

2 MACEDONIA

Sopater – Berea
Aristarchus – Thess
Secundus – Thess
Luke - Philippi

3 GALATIA

Gaius – Derbe
Timothy – Lystra

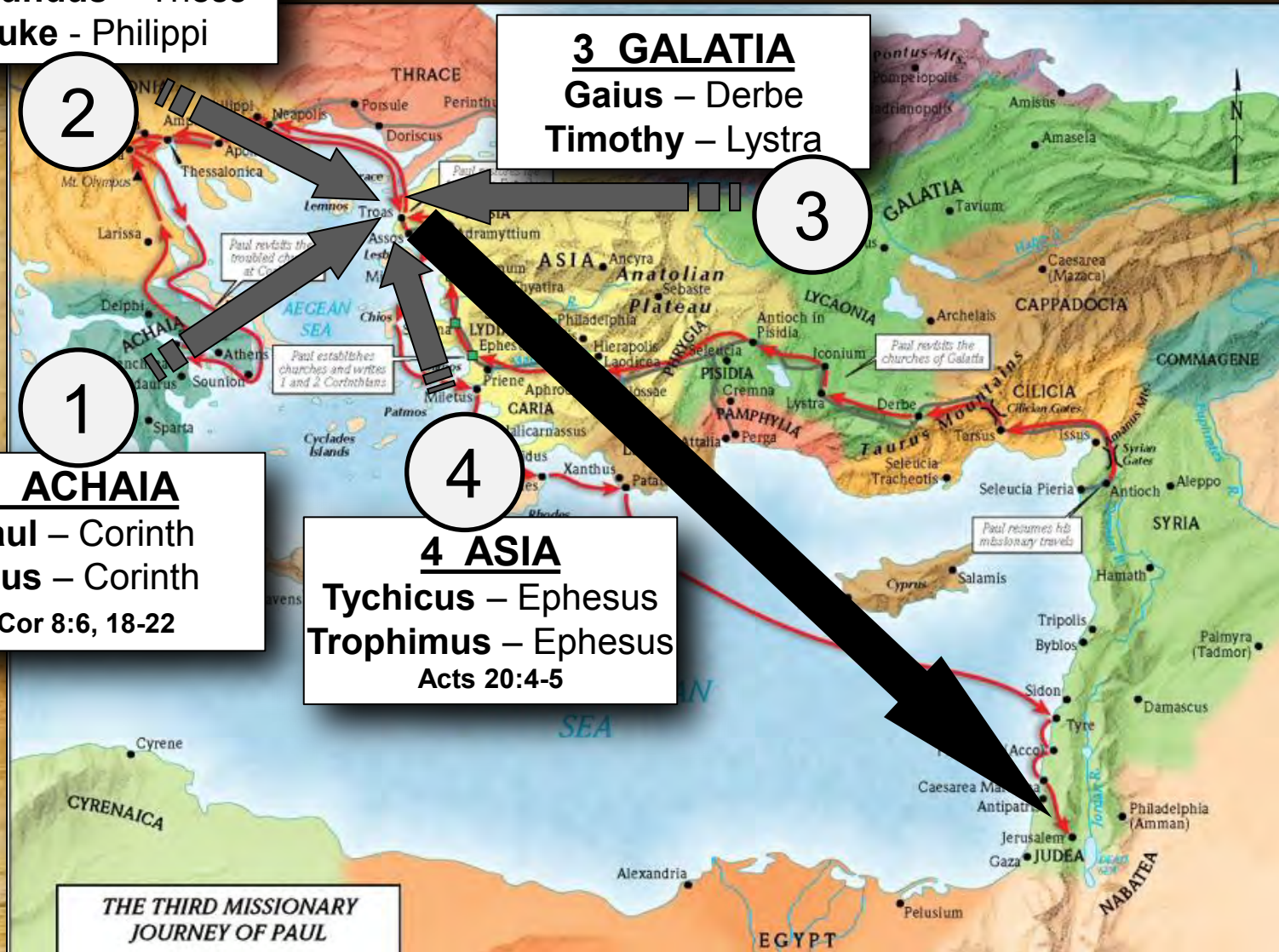
1 ACHAIA

Paul – Corinth
Titus – Corinth
2Cor 8:6, 18-22

4

4 ASIA

Tychicus – Ephesus
Trophimus – Ephesus
Acts 20:4-5



Reason for the Epistle



To Prepare for the Apostle's Visit:

- He intended to go immediately to Jerusalem for Pentecost **Ac 20:16** and then to Spain via Rome **Rom 15:24, 28, Ac 19:21**.

To Abolish Human Distinctions:

- To elevate the Gentiles to the Jews **2:14-15, 29**. Gentiles found righteousness, Jews didn't **9:30**.
- To elevate the Jews to the Gentiles **11:18**. Israel still the centre of God's purpose **11:28**.
- To eliminate any self-righteousness of either Jew or Gentile before God **3:23, 5:12**
- To promote ecclesial unity **14:3, 19, 15:5**

To Educate in Doctrine & Conduct:

- To explain how a man can be righteous before God (by faith, not Law) **1:5, 16-17, 16:26**
- To promote spirituality **1:11**, repentance **2:4**, thankfulness for mercy **11:30-32**, love **13:9-10**.

Structure of the Epistle

Introduction 1:1-15

1:1-15 Opening Salutation

The Righteousness of God 1:16-15:13

1:16-17 The R. of God in the Gospel
1:18-3:20 Man's failure to Attain R.
3:21-5:21 The R. of God Revealed
6:1-8:39 The R. of God with Believers
9:1-11:36 The R. of God with Israel
12:1-15:13 The R. of God in Practice

Conclusion 15:14-16:27

15:14-33 Plans & Purpose
16:1-27 Final Greetings

- Minor sections close "through Jesus Christ our Lord" **5:21, 6:23, 7:25, 8:39**
- Major sections close with praise **8:38-39, 11:33-36, 15:13, 16:25-27**

