

The Book of Romans

“A RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM GOD!”

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Date: 3-1-09

Text: 1:8-17

Lesson: 2



TEXT:

Longing to Go to Rome

8 First, I thank **my God** through **Jesus Christ** for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. **9** For **God** is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of **his Son**, that without ceasing I mention you **10** always in my prayers, asking that somehow by **God's will** I may now at last succeed in coming to you. **11** For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— **12** that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. **13** I want you to know, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. **14** I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. **15** So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

The Righteous Shall Live by Faith

(these two verses are the theme of the entire book)

16 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. **17** For in it the righteousness of **God** is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

STUDY NOTES:

-our prayers must go through Jesus to get to God the Father
(Jn 15:16; 1 Tim 2:5; Heb 9:15; 12:24)

-Paul has not yet been to Rome, he is writing from Corinth on his
3rd missionary journey (Acts 20:2,3)
and though he greatly desired to come to see the churches at
Rome, he wanted first to go to Jerusalem and deliver the
collection of funds raised by fellow Christians for the poverty
stricken Christians of Jerusalem
(Rom 15:18-28)

-the Greeks and the Barbarians (our ancestors!)

(Note: The word “barbarian” was invented by highly educated Greeks and Romans who spoke the refined languages of Greek and Latin, who when they listened to the Goths, Slavs, Visigoths, Germans, Franks etc...talk, to the Romans it sounded like “bar...bar...bar” guttural gobbledegoop! “Bar...bar...” became “Barbarians”)

But Paul says that the Gospel was for them also!

- The Gospel was for the Jews first, then the Gentiles
(Jn 4:22; Acts 1:7-8; 3:26; 13:46)

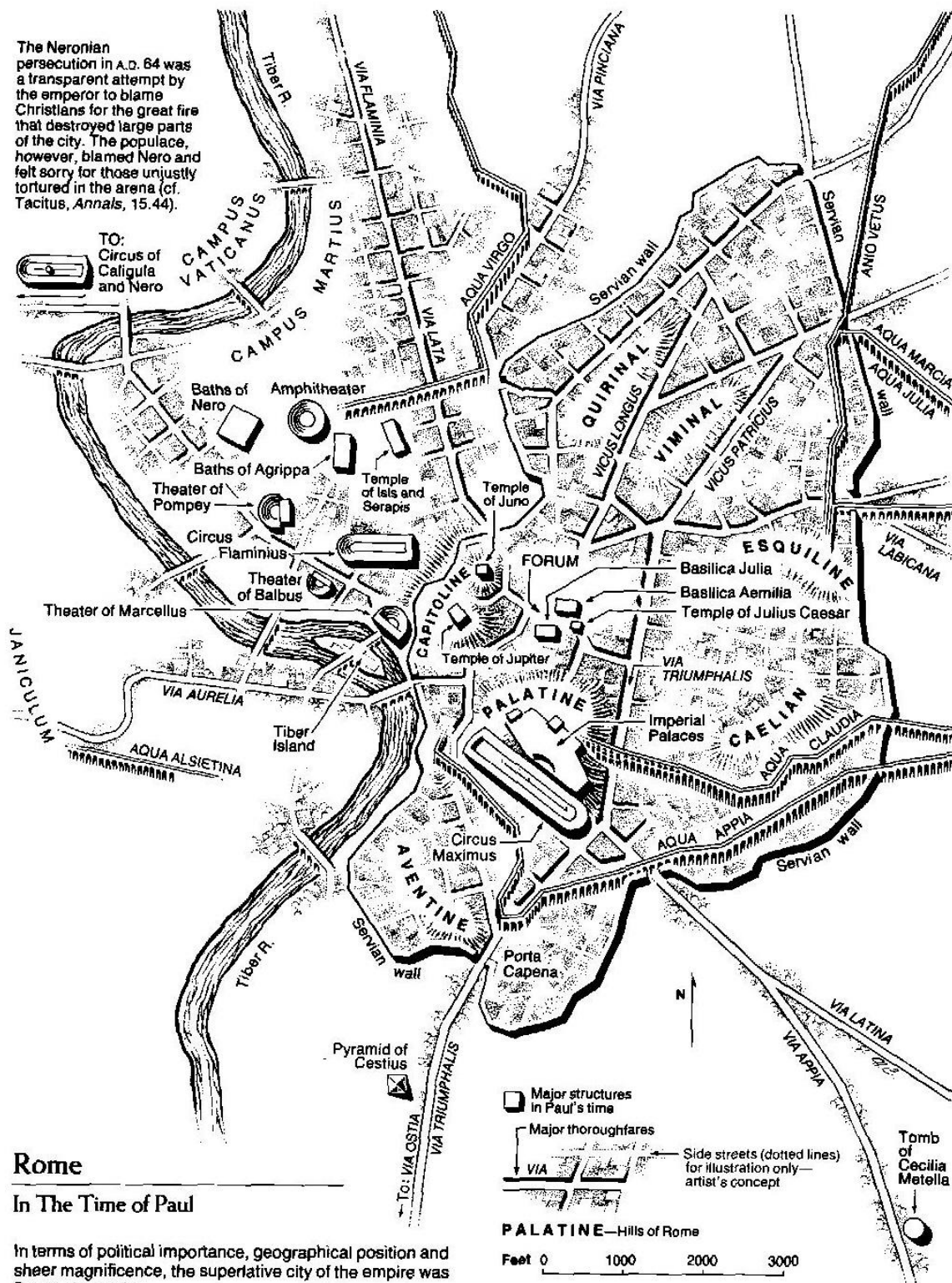
-Note the progression of how God saves us:
gospel – power of God – salvation – believe – righteousness of God –
Revealed from faith, for faith, live by faith
(2 Tim 1:8; 1 Cor 1:18; Hab 2:4; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38)

- The distinction between
OBJECTIVE and SUBJECTIVE JUSTIFICATION

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. Why must the church still proclaim that the only way to the true God is through Jesus?
 2. How do Christians still encourage one another and help fellow believers in poverty?
 3. Where is the Gospel today getting through to Jewish people that Jesus is their Messiah?
 4. What is a simple definition of JUSTIFICATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH?
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The Neronian persecution in A.D. 64 was a transparent attempt by the emperor to blame Christians for the great fire that destroyed large parts of the city. The populace, however, blamed Nero and felt sorry for those unjustly tortured in the arena (cf. Tacitus, *Annals*, 15.44).



Rome

In The Time of Paul

In terms of political importance, geographical position and sheer magnificence, the superlative city of the empire was Rome, the capital.

Located on a series of jutting foothills and low-lying eminences (the "seven hills") east of a bend in the Tiber River some 18 miles from the Mediterranean, Rome was celebrated for its impressive public buildings, aqueducts, baths, theaters and thoroughfares, many of which led from distant provinces. The city of the first Christian century had spread far beyond its fourth-century B.C. "Servian" walls and lay unwalled, secure in its greatness.

The most prominent features were the Capitoline hill, with temples to Jupiter and Juno, and the nearby Palatine, adorned with imperial palaces, including Nero's "Golden House." Both hills overlooked the Roman Forum, the hub of the entire empire.

Alternatively described as the glorious crowning achievement of mankind and as the sewer of the universe where all the scum from every corner of the empire gathered, Rome had reasons for both civic pride in its architecture and shame for staggering urban social problems not unlike those of cities today.

The apostle Paul entered the city from the south on the Via Appia. He first lived under house arrest and then, after a period of freedom, as a condemned prisoner in the Mamertine dungeon near the Forum. Remarkably, Paul was able to proclaim the gospel among all classes of people, from the palace to the prison. According to tradition, he was executed at a spot on the Ostian Way outside Rome in A.D. 68.





THE CRUCIFIXION, AFTER THE PAINTING IN VENICE IN THE CHIERA DI SAN CASSIANO, FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY ALINARI

Jacopo Robusti (il Tintoretto)
1518-1594



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