

ROMANS (BACKGROUND)

Note: To understand the reason Paul wrote Romans you must put the puzzle of the history found in the Scriptures together. This is how I believe it happened.

THE BEGINNING—The church of Rome did not come into existence with an act of an apostle. It came with a loud roar, flaming tongues, and the Holy Spirit filling the new converts with His indwelling power and God’s joy, peace, and an insatiable desire to tell others of the resurrected Christ who lived in them. (**Acts 2:1-11, fn 2:3, 4[1st], fn 2:9-11**) *Where did your church begin?*

KICKED OUT OF THE SYNAGOGUE—The return of the Spirit-filled Jews to the Roman synagogues must have led to tumultuous times! After all, they (the Jews) believed that because God had established a covenant with the Jewish people, they would be saved because they belonged to that covenant. “To be sure, Jews made a great deal of obeying the law. They obeyed God’s law, however, not to “get saved” but to “stay saved”...” Douglas J. Moo, *Encountering the Book of Romans*, p. 7. Law and grace do not mix, and these Holy Spirit-filled Jews and the Holy Spirit-filled Gentiles were kicked out of the synagogues. (**Acts 2:10, 11, Acts 2:46, fn 2:46, Romans 10:1-4, fn 10:4, I Corinthians 11:19**) *Why is it important to you that the Christians were kicked out of the synagogue? How is salvation by the Old Covenant or works still embraced by some churches today?*

KICKED OUT OF TOWN—It was at this time the Roman churches were formed; and because the gospel was being preached, Gentiles were coming in large numbers. With growth came tension—tension with covenant Jews over salvation, tension between Jews and Gentiles over rituals, holy days, and even diets, and tension with the synagogue Jews over Jesus as the Messiah. Because of the rancor and irritating arguments, the Roman emperor, Claudius, expelled all the Jews from Rome. Douglas Moo, p. 10 In **Acts 18:1-3** you see these exiled Christian Jews meeting Paul and (I believe) pouring out their hearts and deep hurts over their struggles in their beloved church. The apostle responded with this letter to the church at Rome addressing all these tensions. (**Romans 1:1-4, fn 1:3,4, Romans 1:16, 17, fn 1:16{2nd}, Romans 2:28,29, fn 2:28, 29, Romans 3:20-25, fn 3:25{2nd}, Romans 4:17-25, fn 4:17, Romans 9:30-33, fn 9:32, Romans 15:7**) *Why was it necessary for Paul to write about the history of our salvation?*

Check up—Are you praying with your spouse and your family? Group—Pray for personal requests and bond together by fellowshiping together.