

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

(Reading the Epistles of Paul)

1. The Epistles

- a) They were “Letters”
 - i) Written to Individuals
 - ii) Encouraging words of instruction
- b) But some were lengthy
 - i) Written to Churches
 - ii) Expository approach
 - iii) Corrective
 - iv) Instructive
 - v) Inspirational

2. The Letter to the Romans

- a) Written to the Church in Rome
- b) Expository approach taken
- c) Focus: The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ
- d) Many major features of the Gospel were discussed

3. Reading the Epistles of Paul

- a) He is a “master theologian”
- b) He packs in a lot of thought
 - i) In a paragraph
 - ii) In a sentence
 - iii) In a word

- c) Great carefulness must be exercised when reading Paul's epistles

ROMANS IS AN EXPOSITION OF THE GOSPEL

¹Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God

²which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,

³concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,

⁴and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

Romans 1:1-4

1. Introduction of Paul

- a) Self-introduction
- b) Normal practice

2. How Paul saw himself

- a) A bondservant of the Lord Jesus Christ
- b) Called to be an apostle
- c) Separated (set aside) to preach/ teach the Gospel of God

3. Features of the Gospel of God

- a) The Gospel was promised
 - i) Prophesied
 - ii) Written in the Scriptures (The Old Testament)
- b) The center of the Gospel
 - i) The Lord Jesus Christ
 - ii) The Son of God
 - iii) The Son of Man

- iv) The Son of David
- c) This is affirmed by the Holy Spirit
 - i) Evidenced in His power to heal the sick and to cast out demons
 - ii) Further evidenced in the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ

CONCLUSION

1. Practical tips on reading Romans

- a) Read carefully
- b) Raise questions

2. The Four Gospels

- a) The semi-biography of the Lord Jesus in the 4 Gospel accounts
- b) Tracing the life and the teachings of the Lord Jesus

3. The Gospel of the Lord Jesus

- a) Exposition of the Gospels
- b) Teachings carefully stated in theological language