

## A Paul and Rome.

### ❖ Paul's letter to the Romans.

- Paul delivered the offering mentioned in Romans 15:25-26 to Jerusalem after his third missionary trip. That suggests Paul's letter to the Romans was written during the first months of year 58 AD during his stay in Corinth.
- Paul heard news about the apostasy of the Galatians who had embraced salvation by works, so he wrote them a harsh letter. He also wanted to warn the Rome so they could avoid that mistake.

### ❖ Paul's desire to visit Rome.

- According to Romans 15, why couldn't Paul visit Rome right then?
  - (1) He wanted to spread the Gospel where no churches were planted yet (v. 20-22).
  - (2) He had to deliver some offerings from Macedonia and Achaia to Jerusalem (v. 15:25-28).
- Then Paul planned to go to Spain and visit Rome in his way there (v. 28).
- He hoped he could be a blessing for the Romans, and he expected them to help him with his work in Spain (v. 24). That way the Romans could bless others too.

### ❖ Paul in Rome.

- He was arrested while visiting the Temple. He was accused of bringing Gentiles to the atrium.
- Paul was moved to Caesarea and he remained safe there for two years. Then he was moved to Rome because he had appealed to Caesar.
- There he could freely preach to Jews and Gentiles (Acts 28:11-31).

## B The Church in Rome.

### ❖ Called to be saints. Romans 1:7.

- Paul's greetings in Romans 1 were written to the believers in Rome, but they also apply to us. Paul said we are:
  - (1) Beloved of God. God especially loves those who answer to His love.
  - (2) Called to be saints. We are set apart from the world and consecrated to God because we accepted Christ and we were baptized.
- God loves everyone and has chosen everyone to be saved. Nevertheless, only those who accept salvation will receive it (Ephesians 1:4; Hebrews 2:9; 2 Peter 3:9).

### ❖ The believers in Rome. Romans 15:14.

- Paul praised the Romans' faith (Romans 1:8) and three other things:
  - (1) They were full of goodness. The way they lived testified to God's love.
  - (2) They were filled with knowledge. They were rooted to the Bible.
  - (3) They were able to admonish one another. They could encourage one another and be encouraged by others.