

Romans





Romans



The
HOLY
BIBLE



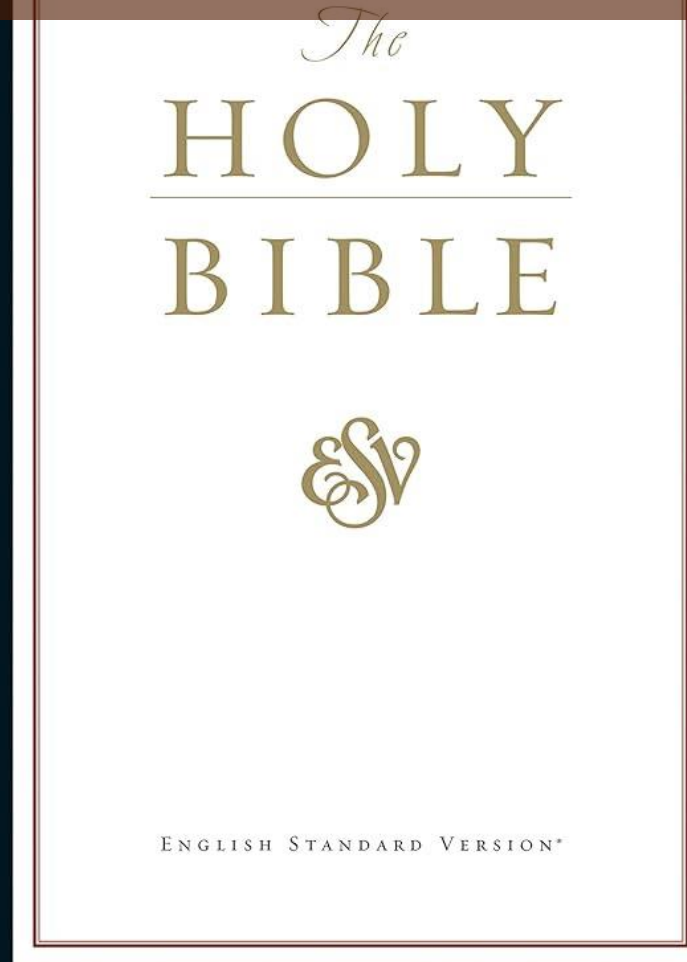
ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION®

Lots of different types
("genres") of writing



Lots of different types ("genres") of writing

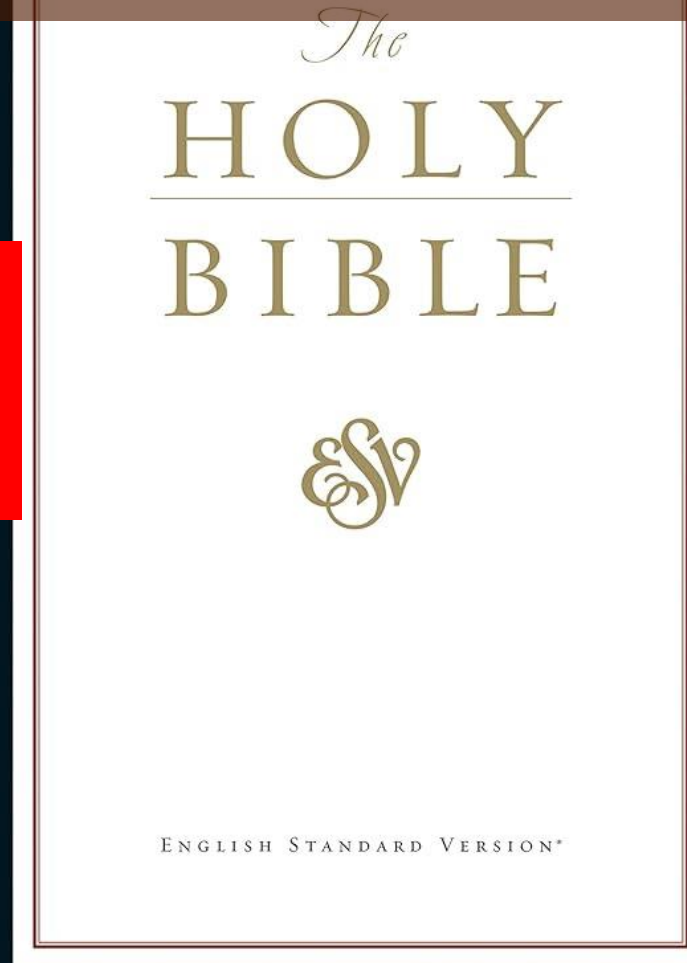
- OT narratives
- OT psalms/poetry
- OT wisdom
- OT law
- OT prophets



- NT gospels
- NT Acts
- NT epistles
- NT Revelation

Lots of different types ("genres") of writing

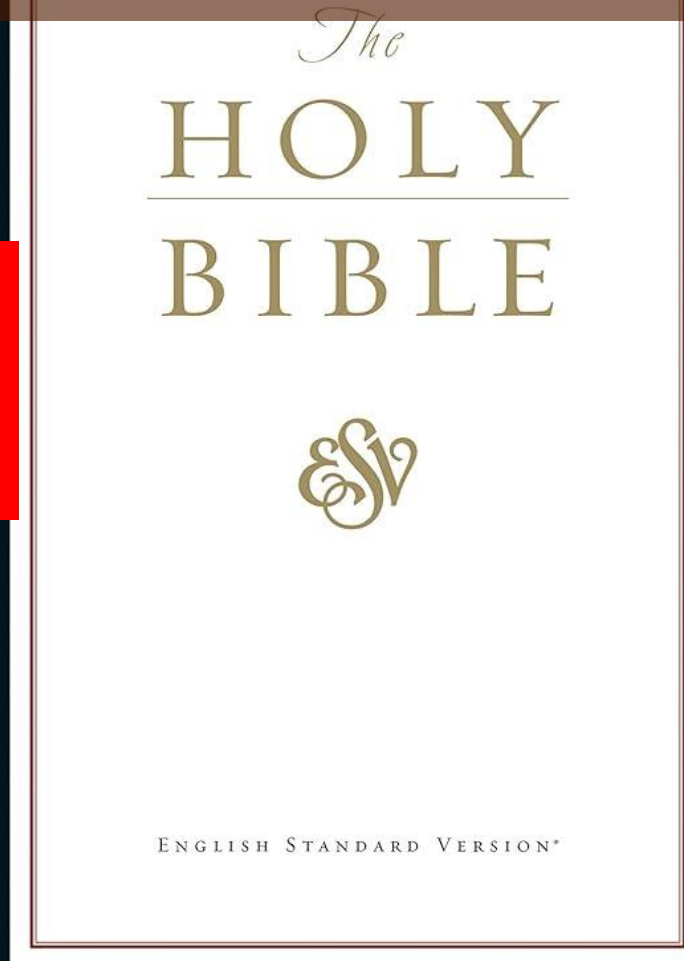
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- NT gospels
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Lots of different types ("genres") of writing

- OT narratives
- OT psalms/poetry
- OT wisdom
- OT law
- OT prophets



- NT gospels
- NT Acts
- NT epistles
- NT Revelation

Why
Romans?







IMPACT



Saint Augustine
354-430

“Eagerly then I returned to the place where Alypius was sitting; for there had I laid the volume of the Apostle when I arose thence. I seized, opened, and in silence read that section on which my eyes first fell [Romans 13]...



Saint Augustine
354-430

No further would I read;
nor needed I: for instantly
at the end of this
sentence, by a light as it
were of serenity infused
into my heart, all the
darkness of doubt
vanished away.”
- *Confessions, Bk VIII*



Martin Luther
1483-1546

“This letter is truly the most important piece in the New Testament. It is purest Gospel. Romans is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word by heart, but occupy himself with it every day as the daily bread for



Martin Luther
1483-1546

the soul. It can never be read
or pondered too much, and the
more it is dealt with, the more
precious it becomes and
the better it tastes”

- *Preface to Romans Commentary*



John Wesley
1703-1791

“About a quarter before nine, while he [Luther] was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given



John Wesley
1703-1791

me that he had taken away
my sins, even mine, and
saved me from the law of sin
and death”
- *Wesley's Journal*



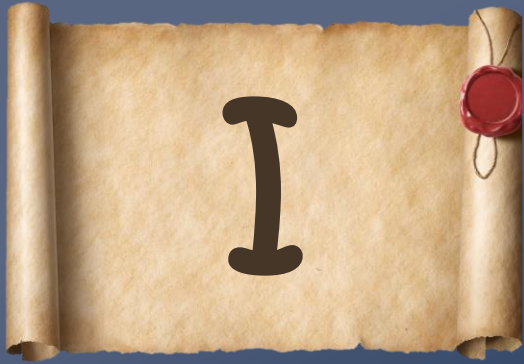
How to Study an Epistle



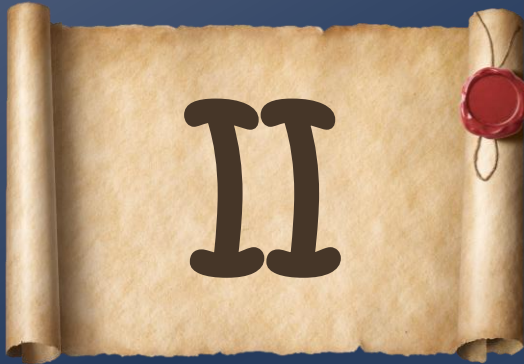
The “Occasion” of the Letter



The Opening of the Letter



How to Study an Epistle



The “Occasion” of the Letter



The Opening of the Letter

How to Study an Epistle in 8 Steps

1



Historical
context

How to Study an Epistle in 8 Steps

1



Historical
context

2



Literary
context

How to Study an Epistle in 8 Steps

1



Historical
context

2



Literary
context

3



Textual
analysis

How to Study an Epistle in 8 Steps

1



Historical
context

2



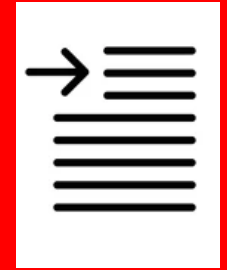
Literary
context

3



Textual
analysis

4



Paragraph
exegesis

How to Study an Epistle in 8 Steps

2



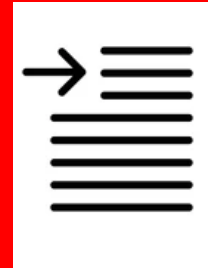
Literary
context

3



Textual
analysis

4



Paragraph
exegesis

5



Theological
analysis

How to Study an Epistle in 8 Steps

3



Textual
analysis

4



Paragraph
exegesis

5



Theological
analysis

6



Application

How to Study an Epistle in 8 Steps

4



Paragraph
exegesis

5



Theological
analysis

6



Application

7



Mix-in
others

How to Study an Epistle in 8 Steps

5



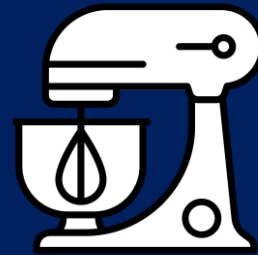
Theological
analysis

6



Application

7



Mix-in
others

8



Ongoing
reflection

How to Study an Epistle in 8 Steps

1



Historical
context

Historical setting



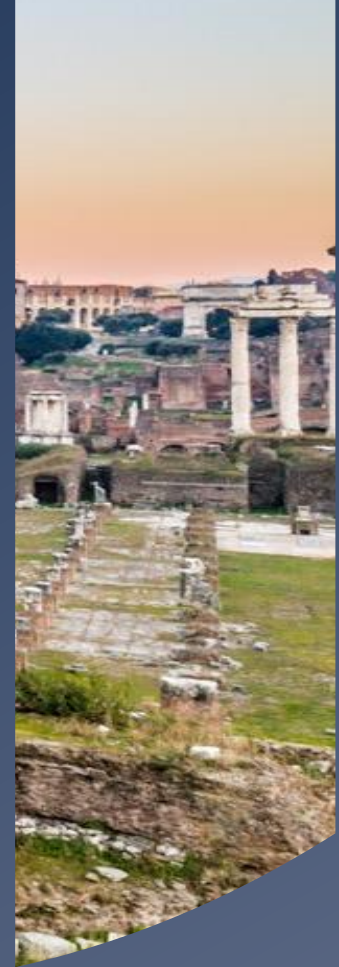
ROME

Author – Paul, likely around 54-55AD
from Corinth



ROME

Emperor Nero fresh on throne



ROME

Church – Jewish and Gentile

MORE TO COME!

How to Study an Epistle in 8 Steps

1



Historical
context

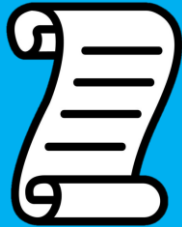
How to Study an Epistle in 8 Steps

1



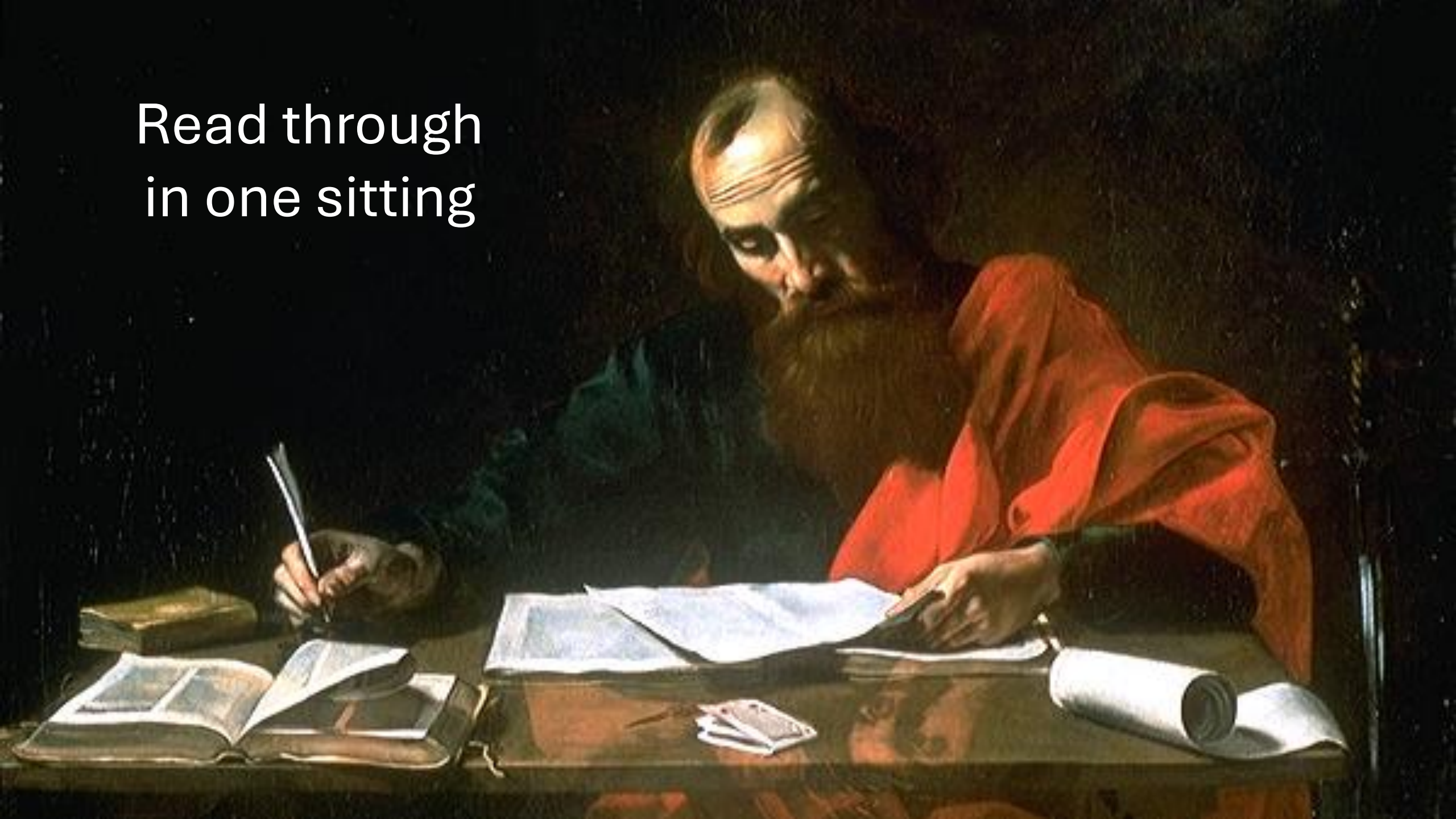
Historical
context

2



Literary
context

Read through
in one sitting



Try to follow the flow of
thought and structure





Note repeating words,
ideas, themes

What words
appear most
often?

“God” (θεός) 153x

“Lord” (κύριος) 43x

“Law” (νόμος) 72x

“Faith” (πίστις) 40x

“Christ” (Χριστός) 65x

“Sin” (ἁμαρτία) 48x

We want the magic number, seven answers.

This is an unusual
“epistle” or “letter”

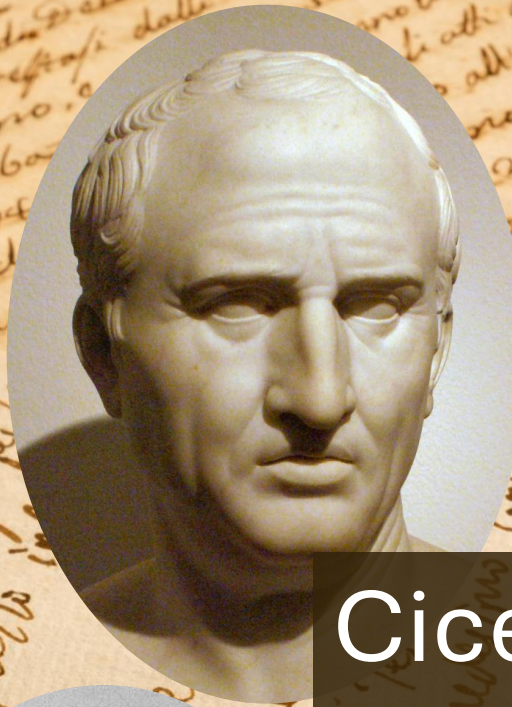
ΦΗΤΙ ΑΥΤΟΥ ΕΝΓΡΑΦΙΣ ΑΓΓΕΛΙΑΣ ΠΕΡΙ ΤΟΥ ΥΨΑΥΤΟΥ ΤΟΥ
ΓΕΝΟΜΕΝΟΥ ΕΚΕΤΕΡΩΤΟΣ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΥ ΚΑΤΑ ΣΧΙΣΜΑΤΟΣ ΟΡΙΣΘΕΝ
ΤΟΣ ΥΨΟΥ ΕΝΔΥΝΑΜΕΙ ΚΑΤΑ ΠΝΑΔΙΩΣ ΕΥΝΗΣ ΕΞΑΝΙΣ
ΤΑΣΕΩΣ ΝΕΚΡΩΝ ΤΗ ΥΨΟΥ ΚΥΝΗΜΩΝ ΔΕ
ΜΕΝ ΧΑΡΙΝ ΚΑΙ ΠΡΟΣΤΕΙΝ ΥΠΑΚΩΟΝΤΕΣ ΤΗ
ΠΡΕΤΟΙΣ ΕΘΝΕΣ ΠΕΡΙ ΤΟΥ ΟΝΟΜΑΤΟΣ ΤΗ ΥΨΟΥ ΤΑΣΥΝ
ΤΟΥΣ ΟΥΣΙΝ ΕΝ ΧΡΙΣΤΩ ΚΑΙ ΕΝ ΤΗΝ ΑΠΟ ΕΥΤΡΟΦΙΑΝ ΚΑΙ ΚΑΙ ΤΗΝ

ΑΡΘΗΤΟΙ ΤΑΥΤΑ ΕΝ ΤΗ ΚΑΤΑ ΤΗΝ ΑΠΟ ΕΥΤΡΟΦΙΑΝ ΚΑΙ ΚΑΙ ΤΗΝ

~14,000-15,000
ancient letters

- Private letters:
18-209 words

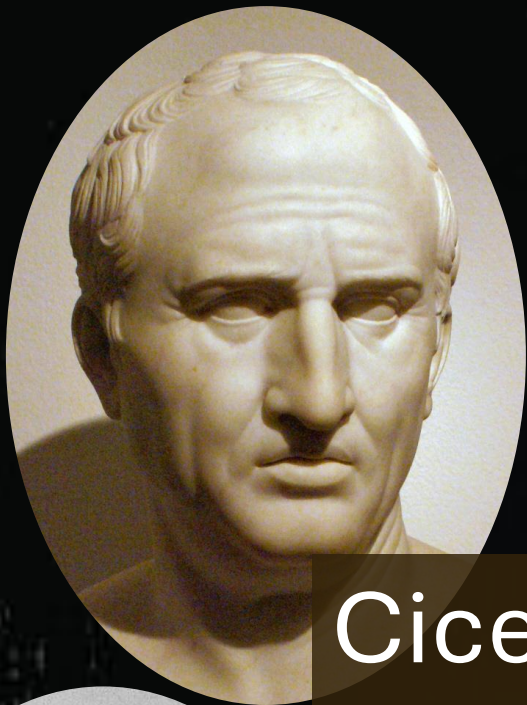
- Literary letters:



Cicero 796 letters
22-2,530 words



Seneca 124 letters
149-4,134 words



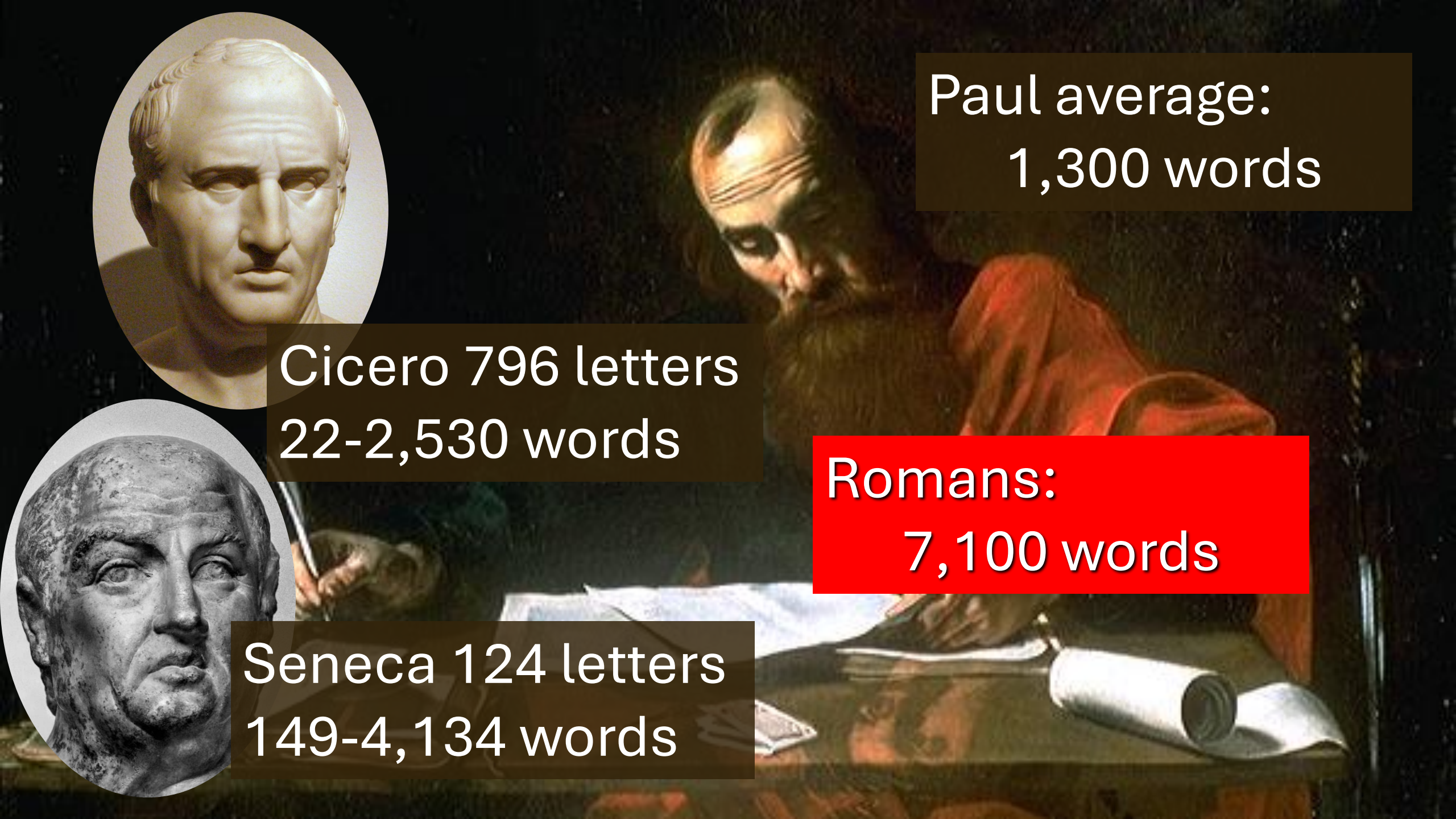
Cicero 796 letters
22-2,530 words



Seneca 124 letters
149-4,134 words

Paul average:
1,300 words

Romans:
7,100 words



How to Study an Epistle in 8 Steps

1



Historical
context

2



Literary
context

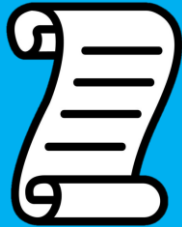
How to Study an Epistle in 8 Steps

1



Historical
context

2



Literary
context

3



Textual
analysis

How to Study an Epistle in 8 Steps

1



Historical
context

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Literary
context

3



Textual
analysis

4



Paragraph
exegesis

How to Study an Epistle in 8 Steps

2



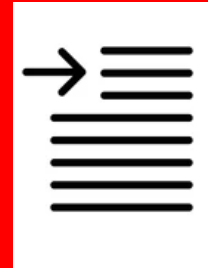
Literary
context

3



Textual
analysis

4



Paragraph
exegesis

5



Theological
analysis

How to Study an Epistle in 8 Steps

3



Textual
analysis

4



Paragraph
exegesis

5



Theological
analysis

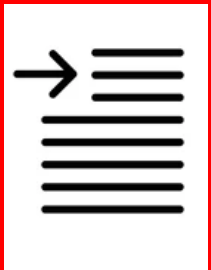
6



Application

How to Study an Epistle in 8 Steps

4



Paragraph
exegesis

5



Theological
analysis

6



Application

7



Mix-in
others

How to Study an Epistle in 8 Steps

5



Theological
analysis

6



Application

7

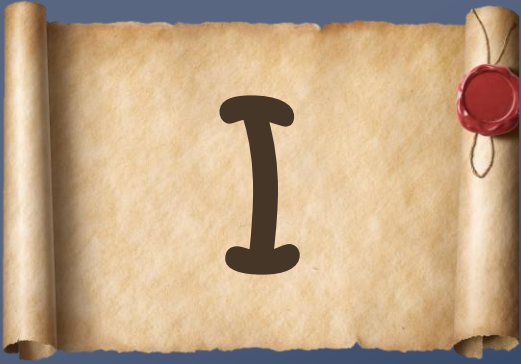


Mix-in
others

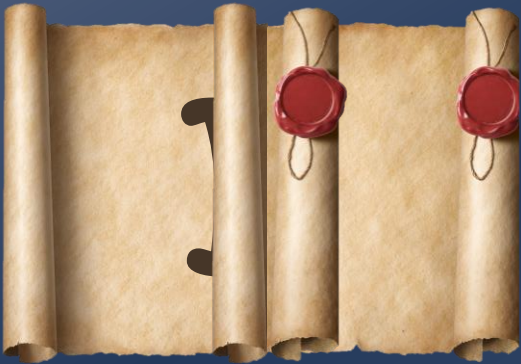
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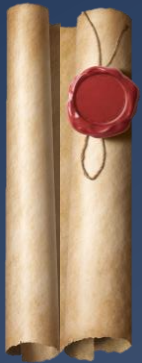
Ongoing
reflection



How to Study an Epistle



The “Occasion” of the Letter

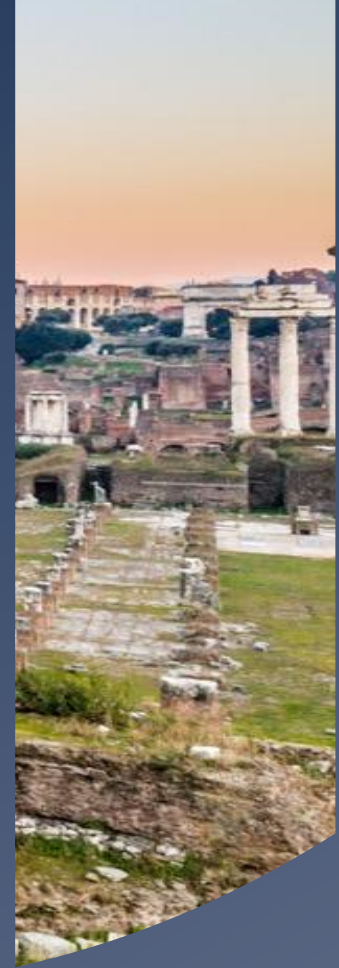


How to Study an Epistle in 8 Steps

1



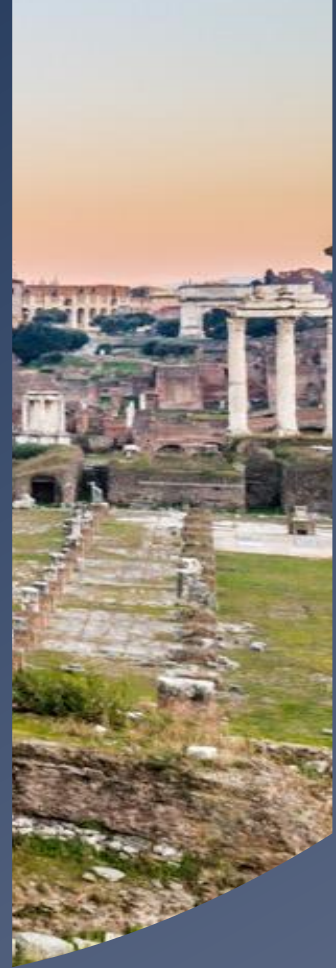
Historical
context



ROME

Church – Jewish and Gentile

MORE TO COME!



ROME

Church – Begins Jewish

Acts 2:5

Now there were dwelling
in Jerusalem Jews, devout
men from every nation
under heaven...

Acts 2:5

Ἦσαν δὲ εἰς Ἱερουσαλὴμ
κατοικοῦντες Ἰουδαῖοι,
ἄνδρες εὐλαβεῖς ἀπὸ
παντὸς ἔθνους τῶν ὑπὸ τὸν
οὐρανόν...

Acts 2:9-10

Parthians and Medes and
Elamites and residents of
Mesopotamia, Judea and
Cappadocia, Pontus and
Asia, Phrygia and
Pamphylia, Egypt and the
parts of Libya belonging
to Cyrene, and visitors
from Rome

Acts 2:9-10

Πάρθοι καὶ Μῆδοι καὶ
Ἑλαμίται καὶ οἱ κατοικοῦντες
τὴν Μεσοποταμίαν,
Ἰουδαίαν τε καὶ
Καππαδοκίαν, Πόντον καὶ
τὴν Ἀσίαν, Φρυγίαν τε καὶ
Παμφυλίαν, Αἴγυπτον καὶ τὰ
μέρη τῆς Λιβύης τῆς κατὰ
Κυρήνην, καὶ οἱ
ἐπιδημοῦντες Ῥωμαῖοι



ROME

Church – Begins Jewish, but adds Gentiles

Rom 1:5-6

through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

Rom 1:5-6

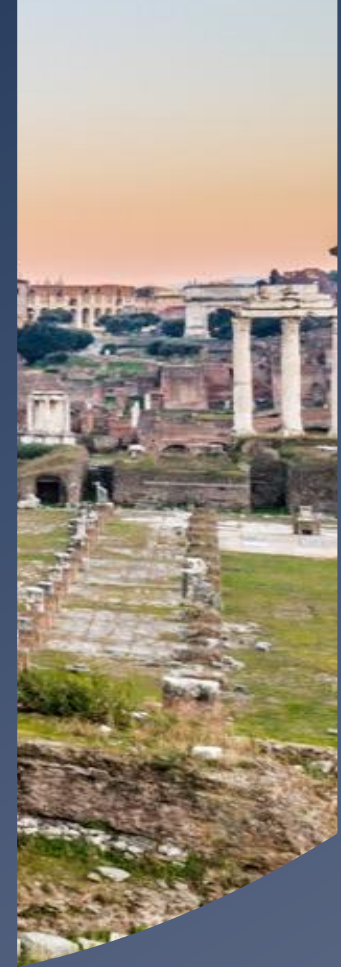
δι' οὗ ἐλάβομεν χάριν καὶ ἀποστολὴν εἰς ὑπακοὴν πίστεως ἐν πᾶσιν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν ὑπὲρ τοῦ ὀνόματος αὐτοῦ, ἐν οἷς ἐστε καὶ ὑμεῖς κλητοὶ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ



ROME

Population – 750k - +1mm

Jews – 40,000 to 60,000



ROME

TROUBLE ~49AD!



Emperor Claudius
(41-54AD)

“Iudaeos impulsore Chresto
assidue tumultuantis
Roma expulit”
Seutonius, *De Vita Caesarum*

~49 AD, “He expelled from
Rome the Jews who were
constantly making disturbances
at the instigation of Chrestus”

Acts 18:1-2

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome.

Acts 18:1-2

Μετὰ ταῦτα χωρισθεὶς ἐκ τῶν Ἀθηνῶν ἦλθεν εἰς Κόρινθον. καὶ εὗρών τινα Ἰουδαῖον ὀνόματι Ἀκύλαν, Ποντικὸν τῷ γένει προσφάτως ἐληλυθότα ἀπὸ τῆς Ἰταλίας καὶ Πρίσκιλλαν γυναῖκα αὐτοῦ, διὰ τὸ διατεταχέναι Κλαύδιον χωρίζεσθαι πάντας τοὺς Ἰουδαίους ἀπὸ τῆς Ῥώμης



Jews return after Claudius's
death on October 13, 54AD

Emperor Claudius
(41-54AD)

Rom. 16:3-4

Greet Prisca and Aquila,
my fellow workers in
Christ Jesus, who risked
their necks for my life...

Rom. 16:3-4

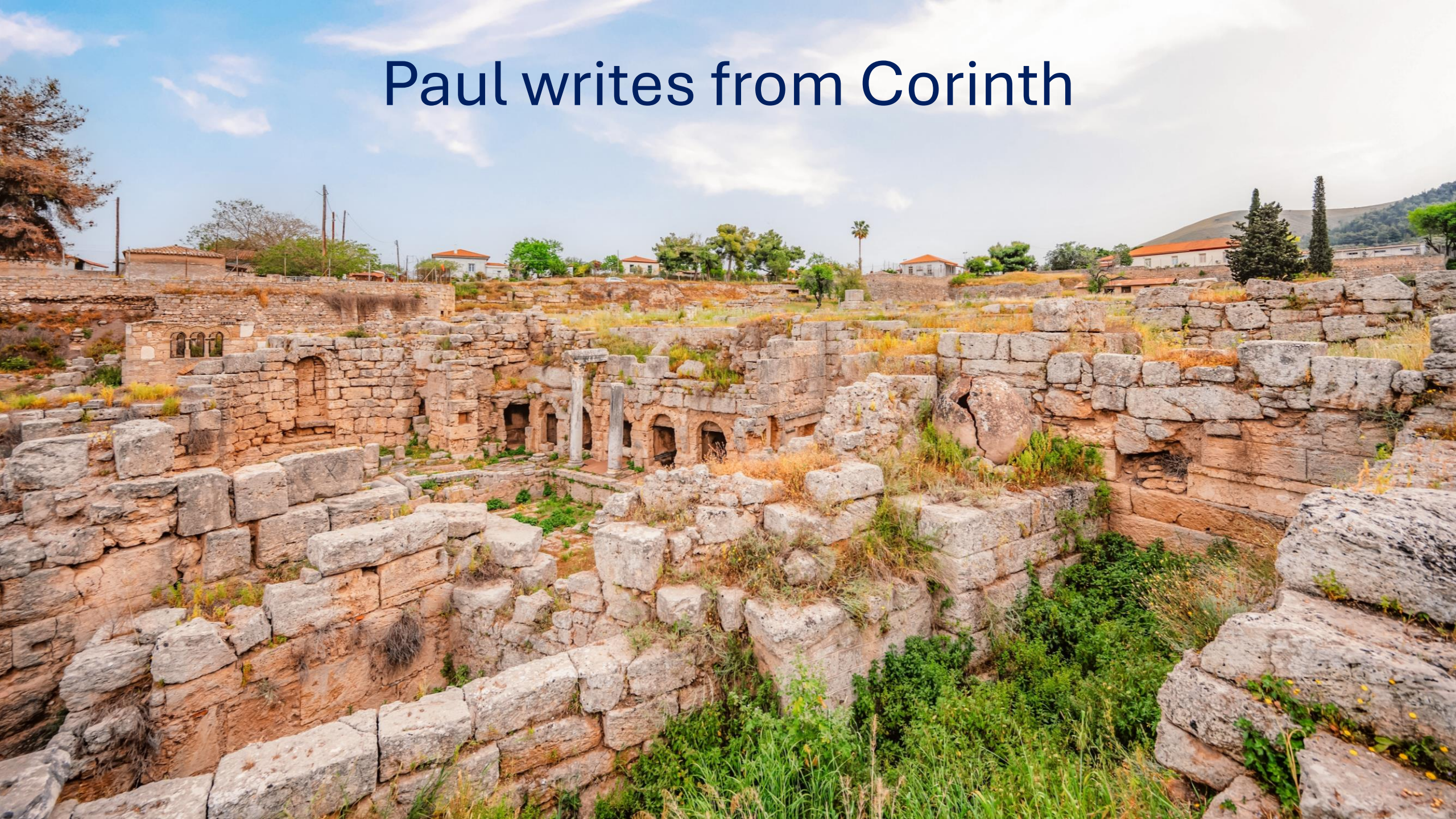
Ἀσπάσασθε Πρίσκαν καὶ
Ἀκύλαν τοὺς συνεργούς
μου ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ,
οἵτινες ὑπὲρ τῆς ψυχῆς μου
τὸν ἑαυτῶν τράχηλον
ὑπέθηκαν...



Think through the
implications...

There is lots more
to the “occasion”

Paul writes from Corinth

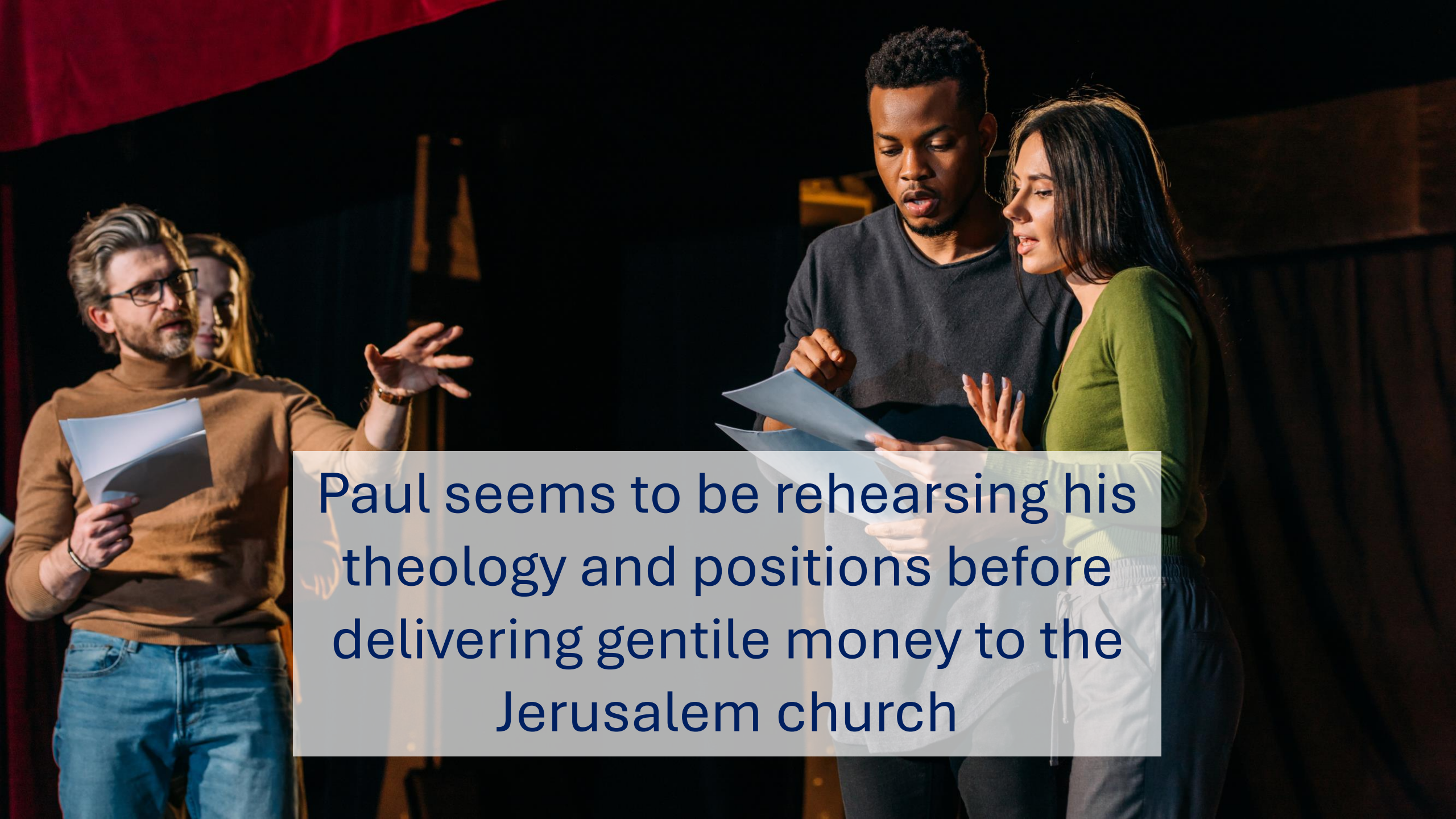


Rom. 16:23

Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus, greet you.

Rom. 16:23

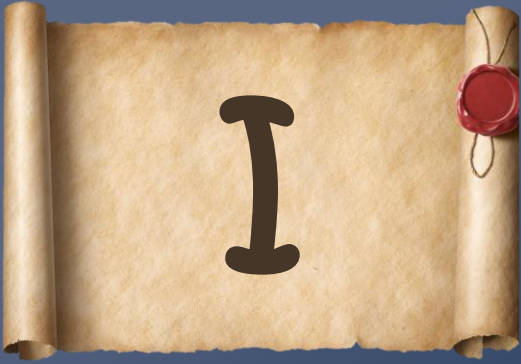
ἀσπάζεται ὑμᾶς Γάϊος ὁ
ξένος μου καὶ ὅλης τῆς
ἐκκλησίας. ἀσπάζεται ὑμᾶς
Ἑραστος ὁ οἰκονόμος τῆς
πόλεως καὶ Κούαρτος ὁ
ἀδελφός.



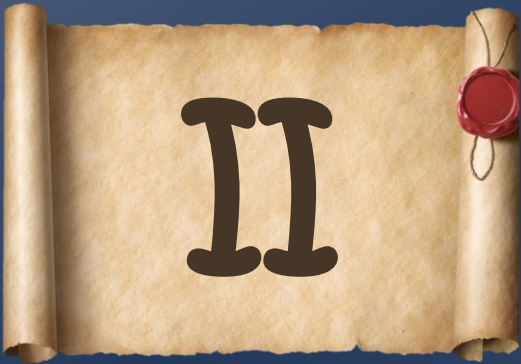
Paul seems to be rehearsing his theology and positions before delivering gentile money to the Jerusalem church

Paul writes from Corinth

Paul seems to be rehearsing his theology and positions before delivering gentile money to the Jerusalem church



How to Study an Epistle



The “Occasion” of the Letter



The Opening of the Letter

Try to follow the flow of
thought and structure



Intro
Greetings
overarching
theme
1:1-1:17



Reign and
condemnation
of sin over
Gentile and Jew
1:18-3:20

Reign and
condemnation
of sin over
Gentile and Jew
1:18-3:20



Salvation of the
cross through
faith
3:21-5:21

Salvation of the
cross through
faith

3:21-5:21



Struggles
and fruit of
salvation

6:1-8:39

Salvation of the
cross through
faith
3:21-5:21



Struggles
and fruit of
salvation
6:1-8:39



The problem
of Israel
9:1-11:36

Struggles
and fruit of
salvation
6:1-8:39



The problem
of Israel
9:1-11:36



Christian
conduct
12:1-15:13

The problem
of Israel
9:1-11:36



Christian
conduct
12:1-15:13



Closing and
Paul's plans
15:14-16:27

Intro
Greetings
overarching
theme
1:1-1:17

Rom. 1:1-2

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,

Rom. 1:1-2

Παῦλος δοῦλος Χριστοῦ
Ἰησοῦ, κλητὸς ἀπόστολος
ἀφωρισμένος εἰς
εὐαγγέλιον θεοῦ, ὃ
προεπηγγείλατο διὰ τῶν
προφητῶν αὐτοῦ ἐν
γραφαῖς ἁγίαις

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“Servant” (δοῦλος)

Emphasizes dependence and commitment

Rom. 1:1-2

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Παῦλος **δοῦλος** Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ, **κλητὸς** ἀπόστολος ἁφωρισμένος εἰς εὐαγγέλιον θεοῦ, ὃ προεπηγγείλατο διὰ τῶν προφητῶν αὐτοῦ ἐν γραφαῖς ἁγίαις

“Called” (δοῦλος)

Called or invited, like to a meal

Rom. 1:1-2

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Rom. 1:1-2

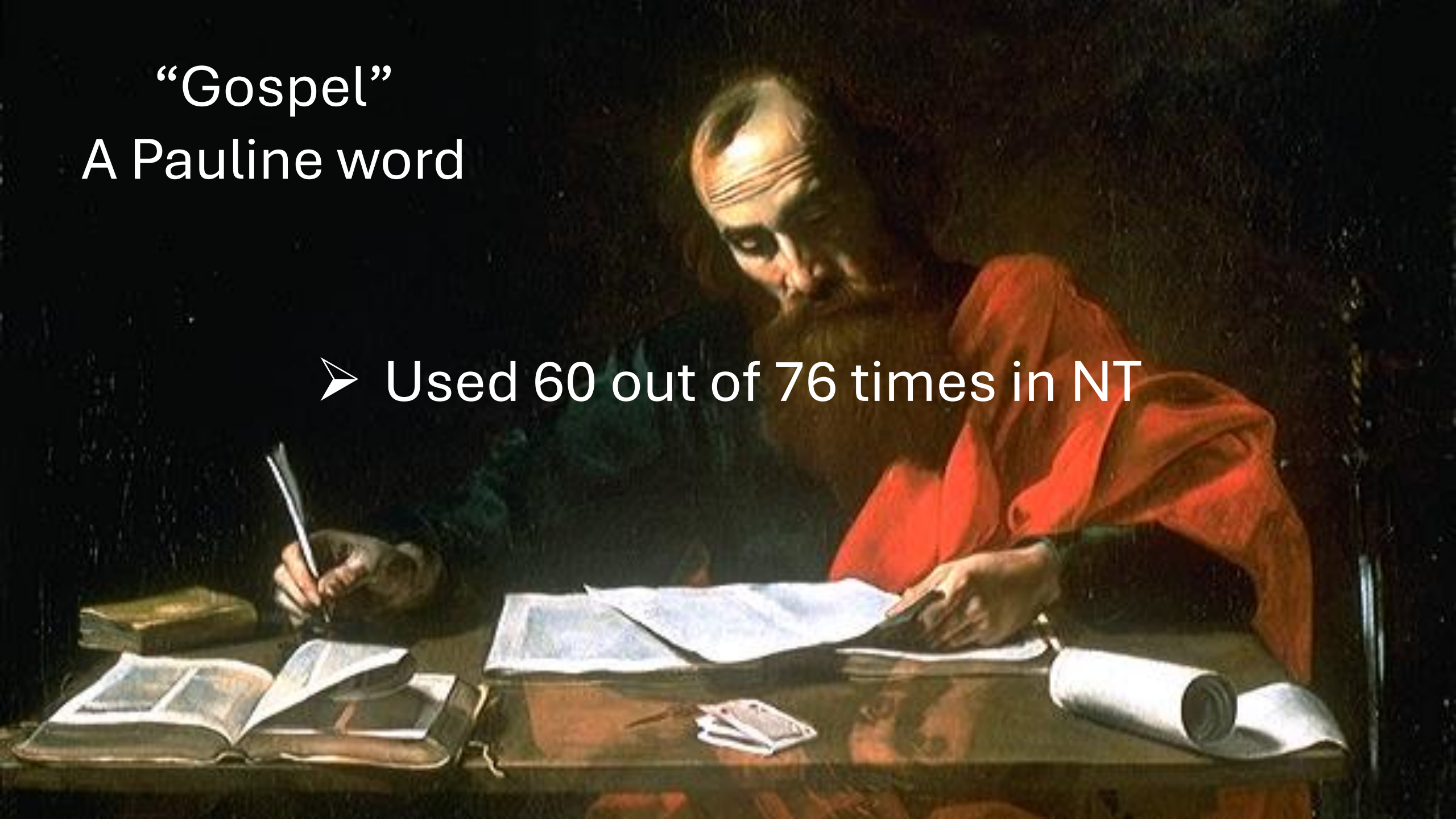
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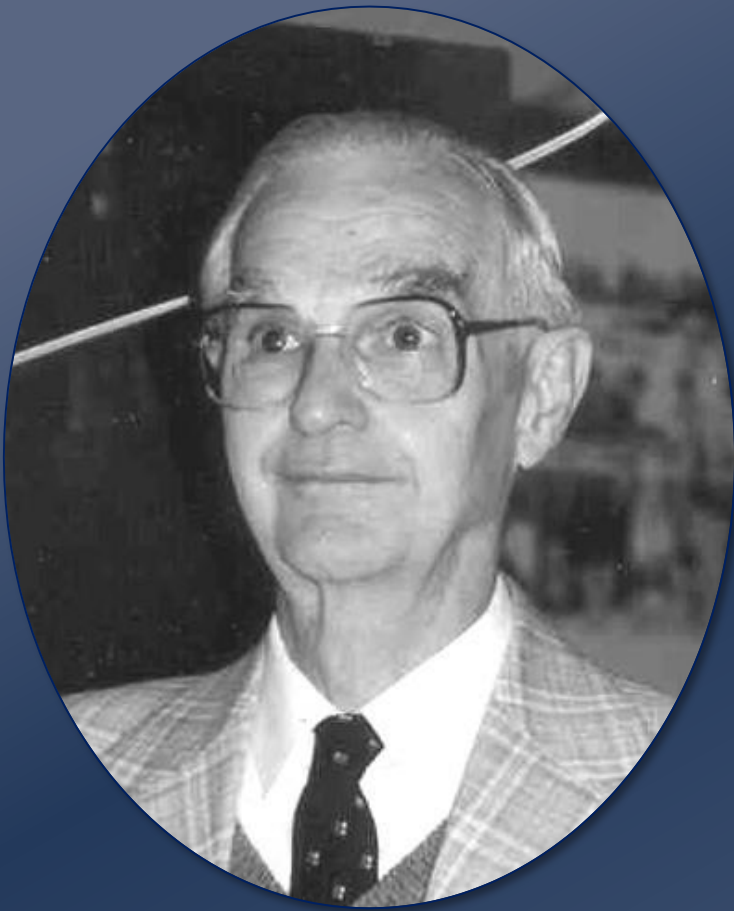
“Gospel” (εὐαγγέλιον)

“Good news” BUT....

“Gospel” A Pauline word

➤ Used 60 out of 76 times in NT





Leon Morris
1914-2006

“There is no good news
to compare with the
news of what God has
done in Christ for
man’s salvation.”

1 Cor. 15:1-4

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the **gospel** I **preached** to you... that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day

1 Cor. 15:1-4

Γνωρίζω δὲ ὑμῖν, ἀδελφοί, τὸ **εὐαγγέλιον** ὃ **εὐηγγελισάμην** ὑμῖν... ὅτι Χριστὸς ἀπέθανεν ὑπὲρ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν κατὰ τὰς γραφὰς καὶ ὅτι ἐτάφη καὶ ὅτι ἐγήγερται τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ τρίτῃ

Rom. 1:1-2

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προεπηγγείλατο διὰ τῶν
προφητῶν αὐτοῦ ἐν
γραφαῖς ἁγίαις

“Gospel” (εὐαγγέλιον)

For Paul, the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ

Rom. 1:3

concerning his Son, who
was **descended** from
David according to the
flesh

Rom. 1:3

περὶ τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ τοῦ
γενομένου ἐκ σπέρματος
Δαυὶδ κατὰ σάρκα,

“Descended” (γίνομαι) 35x-Romans
“Change in nature from one state to another”

Rom. 1:4

and was declared to be
the Son of God in power
according to the Spirit of
holiness by his
resurrection from the
dead, Jesus Christ our
Lord,

Rom. 1:4

τοῦ ὁρισθέντος υἱοῦ θεοῦ
ἐν δυνάμει κατὰ πνεῦμα
ἁγιοσύνης ἐξ ἀναστάσεως
νεκρῶν, Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ
τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν,

Rom. 1:3

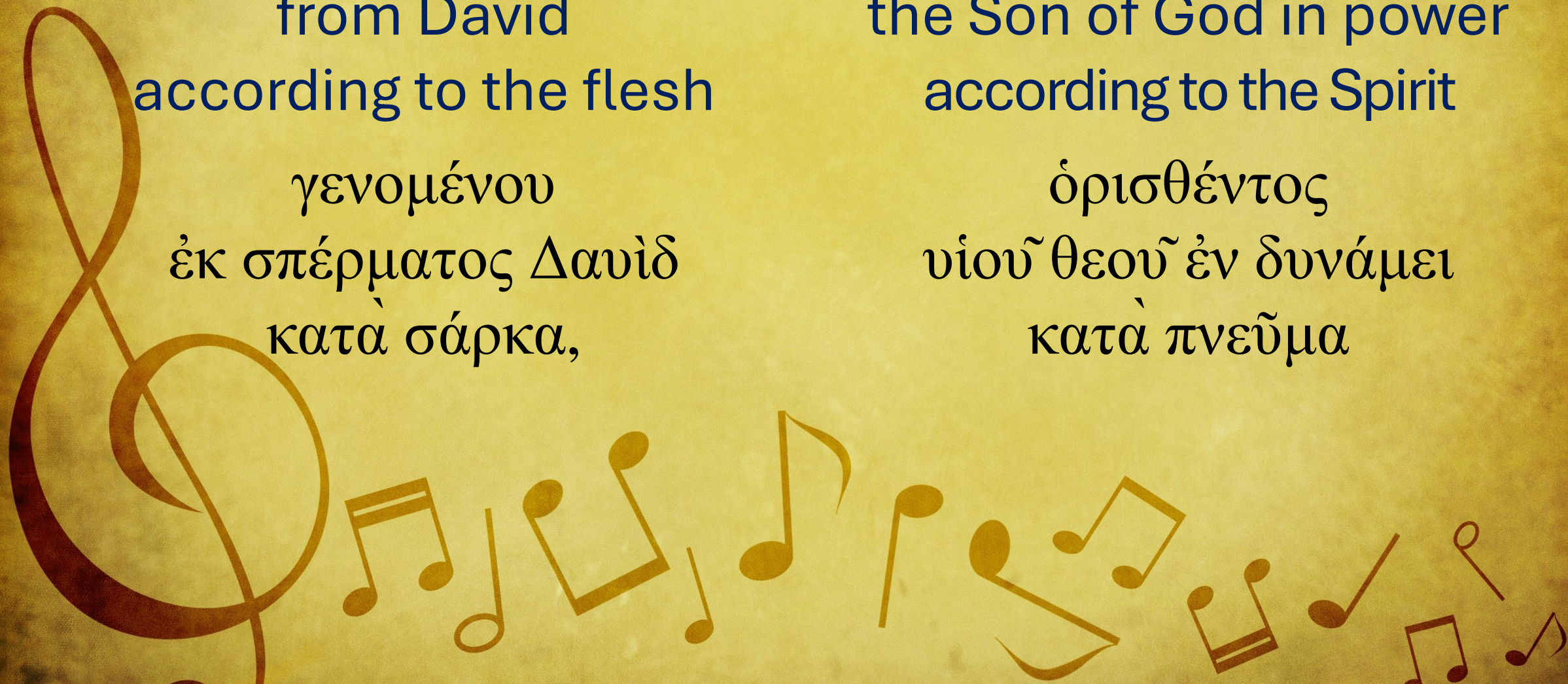
Who was descended
from David
according to the flesh

γενομένου
ἐκ σπέρματος Δαυὶδ
κατὰ σάρκα,

Rom. 1:4

Declared to be
the Son of God in power
according to the Spirit

ὁρισθέντος
υἱοῦ θεοῦ ἐν δυνάμει
κατὰ πνεῦμα



Rom. 1:5

through whom we have
received grace and
apostleship to bring
about the obedience of
faith for the sake of his
name among all the
nations,

Rom. 1:5

δι' οὗ ἐλάβομεν χάριν καὶ
ἀποστολὴν εἰς ὑπακοὴν
πίστεως ἐν πᾶσιν τοῖς
ἔθνεσιν ὑπὲρ τοῦ ὀνόματος
αὐτοῦ,

Rom. 1:6

including you who are
called to belong to Jesus
Christ,

Rom. 1:6

ἐν οἷς ἐστε καὶ ὑμεῖς **κλητοὶ**
Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ,

Rom. 1:7

To all those in Rome who
are loved by God and
called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace
from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom. 1:7

πᾶσιν τοῖς οὖσιν ἐν Ῥώμῃ
ἀγαπητοῖς θεοῦ, κλητοῖς
ἁγίοις, χάρις ὑμῖν καὶ
εἰρήνη ἀπὸ θεοῦ πατρὸς
ἡμῶν καὶ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ
Χριστοῦ.



*take
home*

A brown paper take-home bag stands upright against a dark blue background. The bag has a simple, rectangular shape with a folded top and a flat bottom. The words "take home" are printed in a dark brown, cursive script on the front panel. The bag is illuminated from the left, creating a soft glow on its surface and a subtle shadow on the ground.



“Claudius had commanded all the
Jews to leave Rome” (Acts 18:2)

God works
through history!

**AMAZING
NEWS**

The image is a dynamic, comic book-inspired graphic. The central focus is the text "AMAZING NEWS" in a large, bold, white sans-serif font with thick black outlines, giving it a three-dimensional appearance. The word "AMAZING" is positioned above "NEWS". This text is superimposed on a bright red, jagged starburst shape. The background is a complex composition of white, yellow, and orange halftone dots, with numerous white speed lines radiating from the center, creating a sense of high energy and movement. The overall style is reminiscent of classic comic book art.



You are loved

You are called

You are forgiven

“To all those in Rome who are loved by
God and called to be saints” (Rom 1:7)

“To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints” (Rom 1:7)

Come hear this
most important
letter!



Romans

