



1. Who is the writer and/or speaker ?
2. When was it written and/or said ?
3. To whom was it written and/or said ?
4. What are the major natural divisions ?
5. What is the repeated key word ?
6. What simple phrase sums it all up ?
7. What is the application to my life today ?

## The Letter of Paul to the Romans

1. **The writer :** The apostle Paul introduces himself in 1v1 according to first century rules of politeness. This is a letter to a specific church (1v7). This “epistle” is inspired by God cf. 1 Tim3v16 & 1 Pe3v15-16), verbalized by Paul (15v15) and written down by Tertius (16v22). The latter is unknown except here, but the name means “third person” and could refer to Silas (Ac15v39-40) or Luke (cf. Lk1v1, Ac1v1, & 16v10) who were travelling with Paul at that time.  
 Paul’s imprint is on the book in several places (cf. 11v1 & Ph3v5 ; 15v16 & Ga2v7 or 2Tim1v11 ; 15v26 & 1 Cor16v3 ; 16v3 & Ac18v18). His style is that of a jurist (Ac16v37, 22v3 & 25, 23v3 & 6, 24v10, 25v10, 26v2 & 28) arguing the necessity to receive the Gospel as a **divine revelation** (1v17).
2. **The date :** Paul has not yet been to Rome according to 1v15 & 22. He is at Cenchrea in Greece (16v1) where he spent 3 months (Ac20v3) and went on his way to Jerusalem (15v25). According to Ac20 this would be on his 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey in 56 AD. He would be soon (Ac20v16) arrested in Jerusalem (Ac21v27) because of the Jews who had followed him (Ac20v3 & 21v27). Nero was already emperor since 54 AD.
3. **The readers :** Paul addresses the “saints” in Rome (1v7), a term that means “all true Christians” (8v9 & 27), but he also addresses those who are religious, but have not truly repented of their sin (2v4) like so many Jews of his day (2v17). So his readers are both those who know the Scriptures (2v25, 4v1, 16 & 7v1) as well as those who were saved out of pagan nations (11v13, 18 & 16v5).
4. **The divisions : Three powerful revelations -**
  - i. The revelation of the Gospel in the world, ch 1-8
  - ii. The revelation of the Gospel in Israel, ch 9-11
  - iii. The revelation of the Gospel in the church, ch 12-16
5. **The key word : God (θεός) 153 times from 1v1 to 16v27**
6. **The message :** “The gospel, for it is **the power of God** for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” 1v16 NASB
7. **The application :** “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what **the will of God** is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” 12v2 NASB

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PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS :