

Paul's Letter to the Romans

Rome

Puteoli

Some Introductory Background
(And Its Pentecost Sunday!)

Rhegium

Syracuse

Berea

Thessalonica

Philippi

Samothrace

Troas

Corinth

Athens

Ephesus

Miletus

Rhodes



Romans - Composed Late in Paul's Ministry

Illyricum

I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done..... So from Jerusalem all the way round to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

Romans 15:18, 19 (NIV UK)



When? Note the Unusual and Extensive Closing Greeting

Greet Priscilla and Aquila... **Greet** also the church that meets at their house. **Greet** my dear friend Epenetus.. **Greet** Mary... **Greet** Andronicus and Junia... **Greet** Ampliatus... **Greet** Urbanus... and my dear friend Stachys. **Greet** Apelles... **Greet** those who belong to the household of Aristobulus. **Greet** Herodion... **Greet** Tryphena and Tryphosa, those women... **Greet** my dear friend Persis, another woman... **Greet** Rufus... and his mother... **Greet** Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the other brothers and sisters with them. **Greet** Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas and all the Lord's people who are with them. **Greet** one another with a holy kiss.

Romans 16:3-16 (NIV UK)



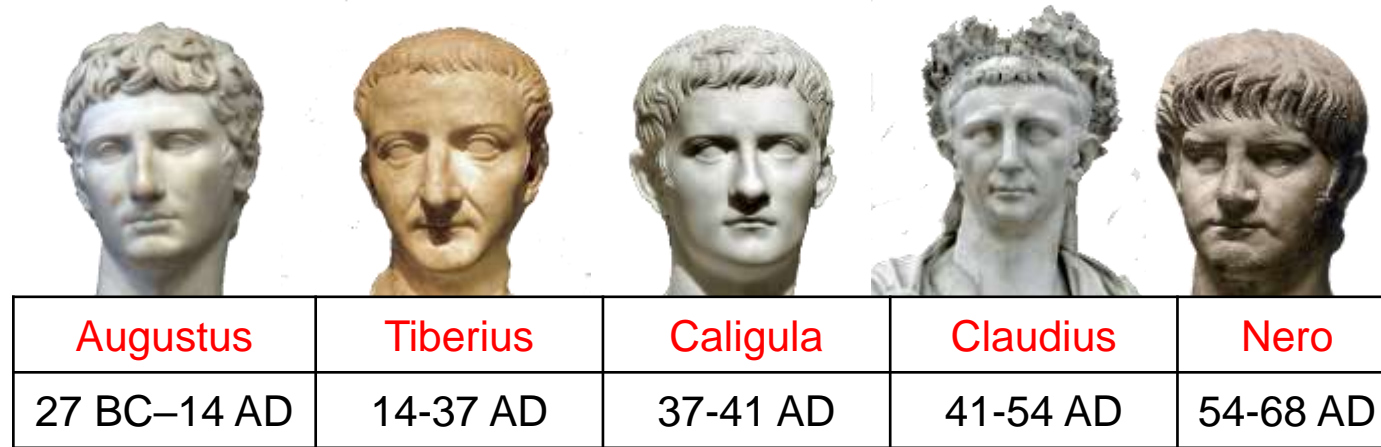
Note: Some Are Explicitly Jewish Christians, But Others in the Larger List Also Seem to Be Jews

Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. **Greet** also the church that meets at their house.... **Greet** Andronicus and Junia, **my fellow Jews** who have been in prison with me. **Greet** Herodion, **my fellow Jew**.

Romans 16:3-16 (NIV UK)




But Claudius Had Expelled Jews From Rome in AD 49



After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. **There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla,** because **Claudius** had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. **Acts 18:1-2 (NIV UK)**



Since Jewish Christians Were Back in Rome, Claudius Had Died By This Time



Augustus	Tiberius	Caligula	Claudius	Nero
27 BC–14 AD	14-37 AD	37-41 AD	41-54 AD	54-68 AD

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Romans 16:3-16 (NIV UK)

Nero Let Them Back Earlier in His Reign, When He Behaved As a More Benevolent Dictator



Augustus	Tiberius	Caligula	Claudius	Nero
27 BC–14 AD	14-37 AD	37-41 AD	41-54 AD	54-68 AD

Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. **Greet** also the church that meets at their house.... **Greet** Andronicus and Junia, **my fellow Jews** who have been in prison with me. **Greet** Herodion, **my fellow Jew**.

Romans 16:3-16 (NIV UK)



(Later In His Reign, Nero Persecuted Christians)

“..Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666. Revelation 13:18 (NIV UK)

666 is deliberate “code” during a time when the church was an “underground movement”. It can be decoded by Hebrew Gematria.
(Hebrew does not have separate numbers like English does)

The Greek version of Nero’s name and title *Nron Qsr* (pronounced "Nerōn Kaisar"), transliterates into Hebrew as נרון קסר and yields a numerical value of 666, as shown:

Resh (ר)	Samekh (ס)	Qoph (ק)	Nun (נ)	Vav (ו)	Resh (ר)	Nun (נ)	Sum
200	60	100	50	6	200	50	666

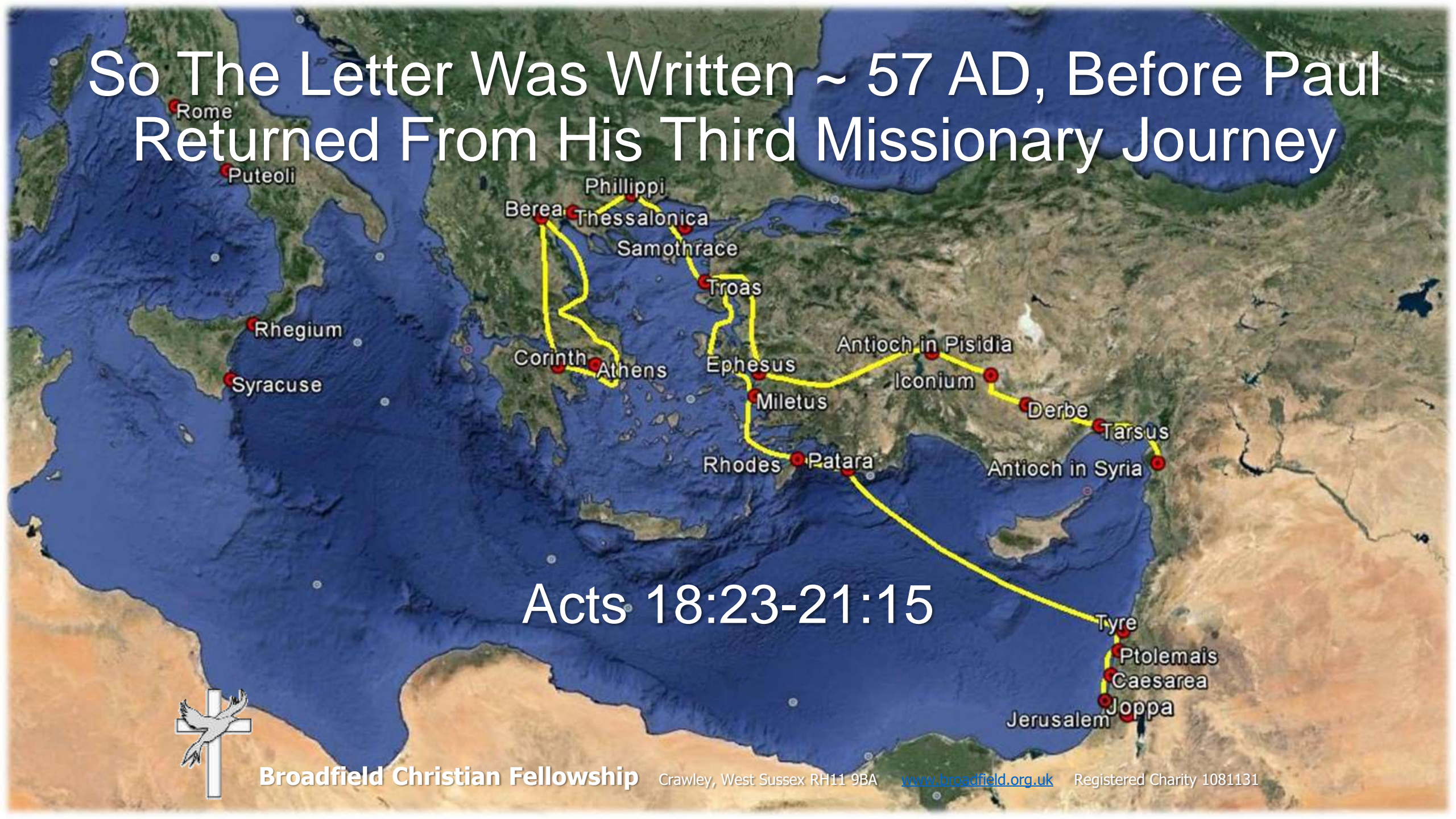


Nero, 54-68 AD

Hence “The Beast” of Revelation is not Nero himself, but will be a Nero-like figure



So The Letter Was Written ~ 57 AD, Before Paul Returned From His Third Missionary Journey



Acts 18:23-21:15



While Paul Stayed With Gaius At Corinth

“...Paul sent for the disciples and.... said goodbye and set out for Macedonia. He travelled through that area... and finally arrived in Greece, where he stayed three months.” Acts 20:1-3 (NIV UK edited)

Gaius, whose hospitality I and the whole church here enjoy, sends you his greetings.

Romans 16:23 (NIV UK) edited



It Was Brought to Rome by Phoebe

Lecheaum

Corinth

Cenchrea

(Lecheaum and Cenchreae were the two ports of Corinth)

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me.

Romans 16:1, 2 (NIV UK)



Paul Had Not Yet Been to Rome

Illyricum

Rome

Puteoli

Thessalonica

Philippi

Mytelene

Troas

Antioch in Pisidia

It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you. But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to visit you, I plan to do so when I go to Spain.

Romans 15:20-24 (NIV UK edited)



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So, What Was The Occasion of This Letter?

(Paul's Letters Were Mostly Prompted By Occasions or Situations In the Churches to Whom He Wrote)



Note That Paul Addressed This Letter To *Gentile* Christians In Rome

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God – the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. **And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus**

Romans 1:1-6 (NIV UK)



But He Was Content That Jewish Christians Would Also Be Listening

Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. **Greet** also the church that meets at their house.... **Greet** Andronicus and Junia, **my fellow Jews** who have been in prison with me. **Greet** Herodion, **my fellow Jew**.

Romans 16:3-16 (NIV UK)



The Gentile Christians Seemed To Have A Superior Attitude to Jewish Christians

If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: you do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, 'Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.' Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you

Romans 11:17-21 (NIV UK)



Look Again At The Greetings of Chapter 16

Greet Priscilla and Aquila... **Greet** also the church that meets at their house.

Greet Epenetus.. **Greet** Mary... **Greet** Andronicus and Junia... **Greet** Ampliatus... **Greet** Urbanus... and ...Stachys. **Greet** Apelles... **Greet** those who belong to the household of Aristobulus. **Greet** Herodion... **Greet** Tryphena and Tryphosa... **Greet** Persis... **Greet** Rufus... and his mother... **Greet** Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the other brothers and sisters with them. **Greet** Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas and all the Lord's people who are with them. **Greet** one another with a holy kiss

Timothy...sends his **greetings** ... as do Lucius, Jason and Sosipater, my fellow Jews. I, Tertius, who wrote down this letter, **greet** you in the Lord. Gaius, whose hospitality I and the whole church here enjoy, sends you his **greetings**. Erastus, who is the city's director of public works, and our brother Quartus send you their

greetings. Romans 16:3-16; 21-23 (NIV UK edited)



A Gentile Greeting From Corinth?

Erastus, who is the city's director of public works, and our brother Quartus send.. their greetings.

Romans 16:23 (NIV UK) edited



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The Erastus Pavement, Corinth

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Erastus, who is the city's director of public works, and our brother Quartus send.. their greetings.

Romans 16:23 (NIV UK) edited

Could this be the same Erastus?



Note that the *Gentile Christians* Were Exhorted to do the Greeting!

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Romans 16:3-16 (NIV UK)



To Greet The Minority Jewish Christians Who Had Recently Returned To Rome

Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. **Greet** also the church that meets at their house.... **Greet** Andronicus and Junia, **my fellow Jews** who have been in prison with me. **Greet** Herodion, **my fellow Jew**.

Romans 16:3-16 (NIV UK)



Greet = *Aspazomai* (Greek) = “to wrap one’s arms around”

Greet Priscilla and Aquila... **Greet** also the church that meets at their house.
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Romans 16:3-16 (NIV UK)



Note Also “a Holy Kiss”

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Romans 16:3-16 (NIV UK)



Paul Was Very Concerned to Promote Fellowship Between Jewish & Gentile Christians

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Romans 16:3-16 (NIV UK)



It Is Very Important to Keep This Occasion
In Mind (The Superior Attitude of the
Gentile Christians Towards The Jewish
Christians), As You Consider The
Theological and Ethical Arguments in This
Letter, In The Weeks to Come



Remember: According to Paul, A Church That Does Not Love Is Not A Church

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and **if I have a faith** that can move mountains, **but do not have love, I am nothing.** If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. **Love** is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It **does not dishonour others,** it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres..... And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. **But the greatest of these is Love.**



1 Corinthians 13:1-7 & 13 (NIV UK)

Let's Not Forget It's Pentecost Sunday!

Remember, Paul did not know the Gentile Christian Majority at Rome.

This means that when Paul spoke about their experience of the Holy Spirit in this letter, he did not know of the *actual* experience that the believers at Rome had received.

So, what we read about is what Paul expected the *normal* experience of a Christian believer to be, whether Jews or Gentile.



Let's Not Forget It's Pentecost Sunday!

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Romans 5:5 (ESV UK)

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" Romans 8:15 (ESV UK) edited

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Romans 14:17 (ESV UK).



Compare Romans 5:5 With Acts 2:32, 33

....hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been **poured* into our hearts** through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 5:4 (ESV UK)

This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has **poured* out** this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

Acts 2: 32, 33 (ESV UK)

Paul used the same expression
as Peter did in his Pentecost sermon!



Compare Romans 14 & Acts 16

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, **but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**

Romans 14:17 (NIV UK 1984 text)

At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptised. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; **he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God – he and his whole household.**

Acts 16:33, 34 (NIV UK)

Jim Graham: “Joy is peace dancing. Peace is joy resting”



Compare Romans 8 and Galatians 4

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

Romans 8:15 (ESV UK) edited

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Galatians 4:6,7 (ESV (UK))

English: “cry”, “crying” =Greek: **krazo**, pronounced **krad-zo**



Krazo (Krad-zo), Matthew 14

When evening came.... the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they **cried out** in fear. 14:23-26 (ESV UK)

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he **cried out**, "Lord, save me." .. 14:28-30 (ESV UK)



Krazo (Krad-zo), Matthew 21

The disciples....brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were **shouting**, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ...”

21:6-9 (ESV UK).

But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children **crying out** in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant...

21:15-16 (ESV UK).

(See also two instances in Mark 11:7-10 and 15:12-14)



Krazo (Krad-zo), Mark 10

...as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to **cry out** and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he **cried out** all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” ... Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.” And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.”

10:46-49, 50-52 (ESV UK) edited.

(See also two instances in Matthew 20:29-34)



Krazo (Krad-zo), Acts 14

And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!” Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, **crying out**, “Men, why are you doing these things?

14:11-14 (ESV UK)



Krazo (Krad-zo), Acts 19

When they heard this they were enraged and were **crying out**, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theatre, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's companions in travel....Now some **cried out** one thing, some another.... and most of them did not know why they had come together. Some of the crowd prompted Alexander, whom the Jews had put forward...But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours they all **cried out** with one voice, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

19:28, 29, 32-34 (ESV UK) edited



How Does Your Experience Compare?

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, **by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ...

Romans 8:15,16 (ESV UK) edited

Having believed, **you were marked in him with a seal***, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:13-14, NIV UK

* Signifying authenticity

