

Paul's Letter to the
Romans



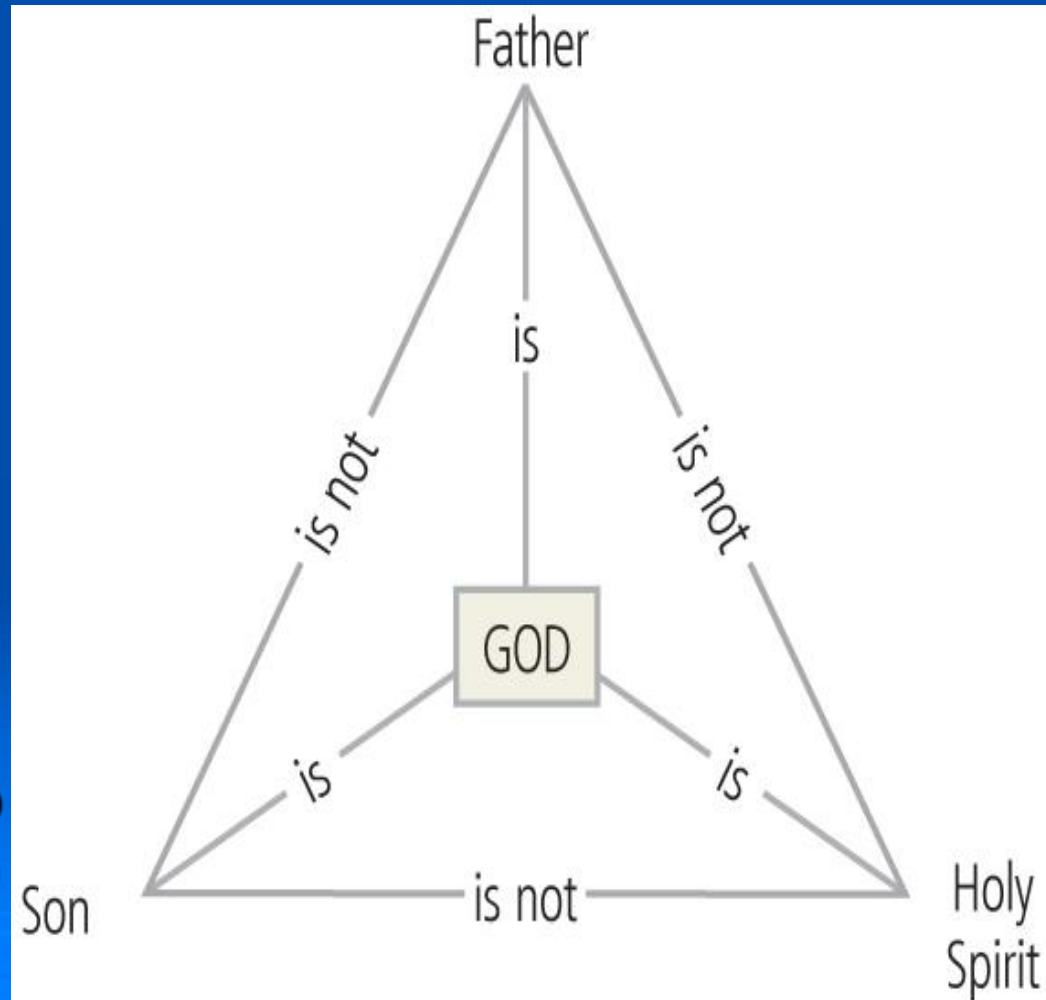
IMPORTANCE OF PAUL'S PREAMBLE

- Tone of the letter is set in the 1st verse of Romans 1
- Letter is to Believers in the City of Rome, not to Romans in general
- Slave of Messiah Yeshua is NOT about exceptional humility; it is about high honor
- Apostle = *apostolos*
- *Shaliach* = agent
- *Apostlos* a gloried messenger
- *Shaliach* has much autonomy and the full power and authority of his master



FATHER AND SON AS TWO ENTITIES

- Paul was not being humble; he was being authoritative
- Paul's greeting addresses all Believers in the City of Rome
- The Father has not retreated from history
- The Father is at the top of the Godhead hierarchy
- **Hagios** = saints
- Beloved of God and Saints are synonyms
- Old Testament reference to Hebrews, now expanded to include gentile and Jewish Believers



TO WHOM DO WE PRAY?

- Vs. 8 thanksgiving is Paul's priority
- *Dia* = Through
- ***"I thank my God THROUGHYeshua"***
- Enoch and Tobit confirm that Jews believed that archangels were intermediaries
- Matthew 6:9 – 13
- Yeshua instructs us to pray to The Father
- The Father remains supreme



PAUL THE PIOUS JEW

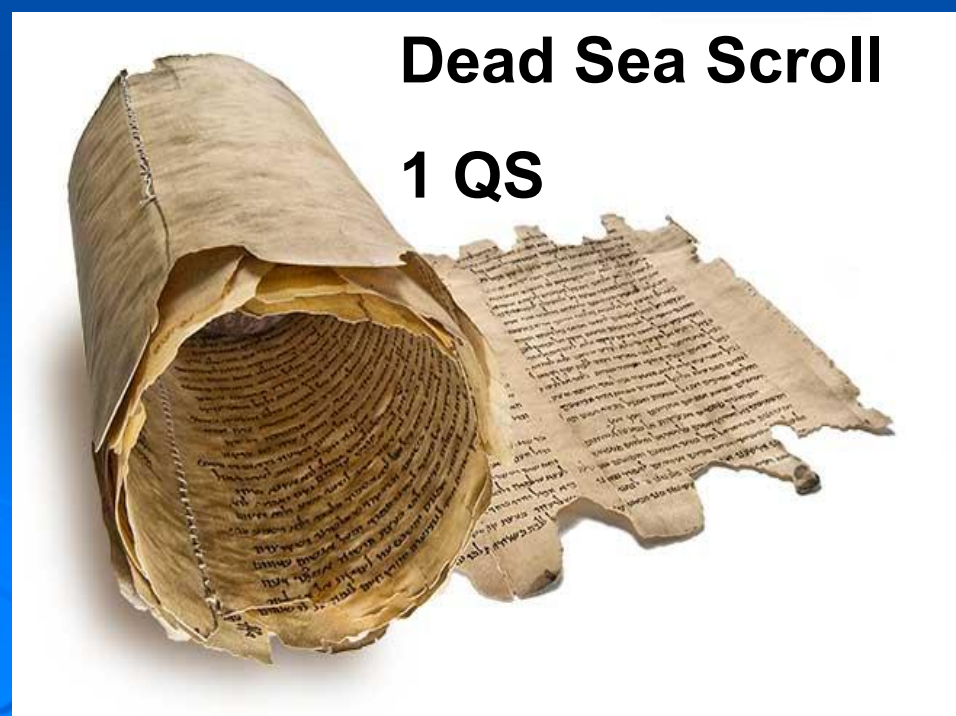
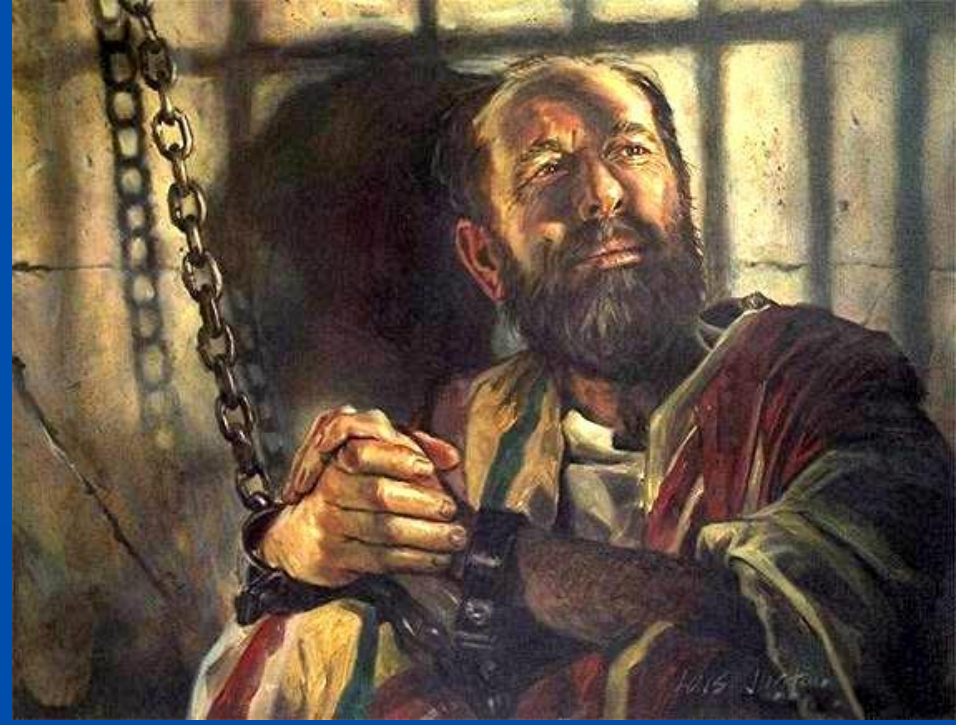


- Paul thinks like a Jew, behaves like a Jew, IS a Jew!
- He does NOT have a Gentile worldview
- Personally verified that he was a Pharisee of Pharisees many years after salvation
- His training under Gamaliel formed the basis of his theology, with new info on Yeshua layered on top
- Most Believers unconsciously read the Bible through Western Gentile eyes, as first formulated by the early Church Fathers



SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- Paul only gets to Rome in chains
- Never had contact with the recipients of his letter
- Impart a “spiritual gift”
- Essenes wrote about “spiritual gifts”
- DSS 1QS Sounds very much like the New Testament
- Paul and Yeshua must have had close contact with the Essenes



Dead Sea Scroll

1 QS

PAUL EXPLAINS WHY HE HAS NOT COME TO ROME



- Paul backtracks on his statement about imparting spiritual gifts
- Redefines it as meaning mutual encouragement as brothers in Messiah
- He explains that he wanted to come to Rome, but circumstances prevented it
- Paul wanted to have some “fruit” in the Rome congregation
- Paul was only a man and seeing good fruit come from his work might be his only earthly reward

ASHAMED Vs. SHAME



Shame
& Honor



- Barbarians = non-Greek speakers
- All gentiles, regardless of status or education, were to be offered the Gospel
- Vss. 16 & 17 are the theme of the letter: the saving power of the Gospel
- What does “Not ashamed of the Gospel” mean” ?
- Shame is a cultural status
- Ashamed is a psychological condition of guilt and regret

“...It is the power of God to everyone who believes....”

- A mysterious, real force with the ability to transform
- 1Cor. 1:18
- 1Cor. 2:3 – 5
- 2Cor. 6:6 – 7
- It is also a continuing divine force that sustains new life
- Trust Christ for salvation; but the actual force is the Father's
- Psalm 107



SALVATION

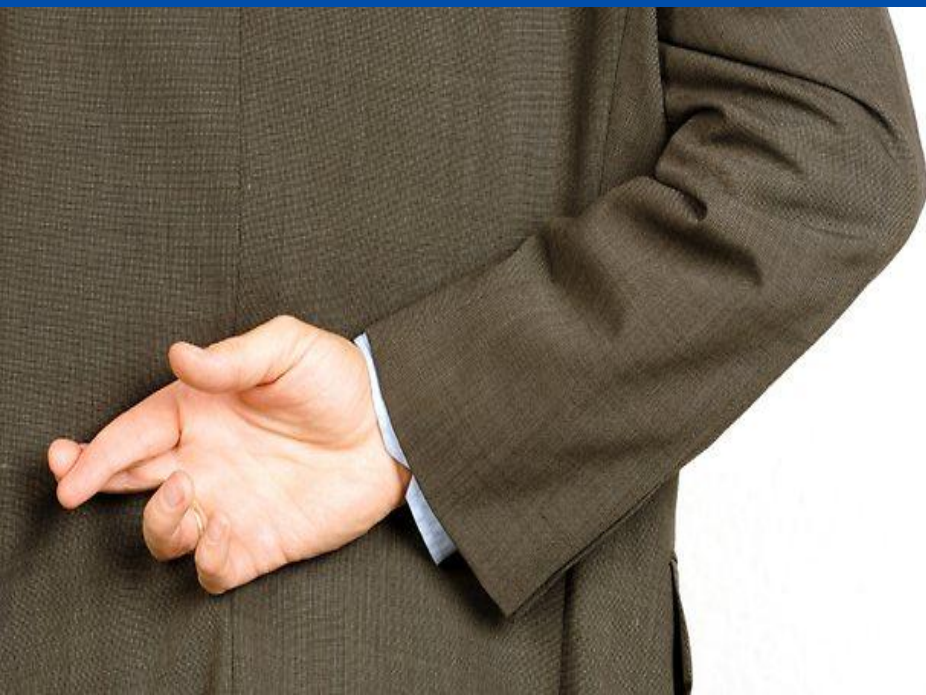
- In the OT, saving was rescue from an actual situation.....from death or danger
- In the Gospel context, saving is spiritual
- It is delivery from a FUTURE judgment
- One can be “saved” immediately, but the most important effect will not come until later





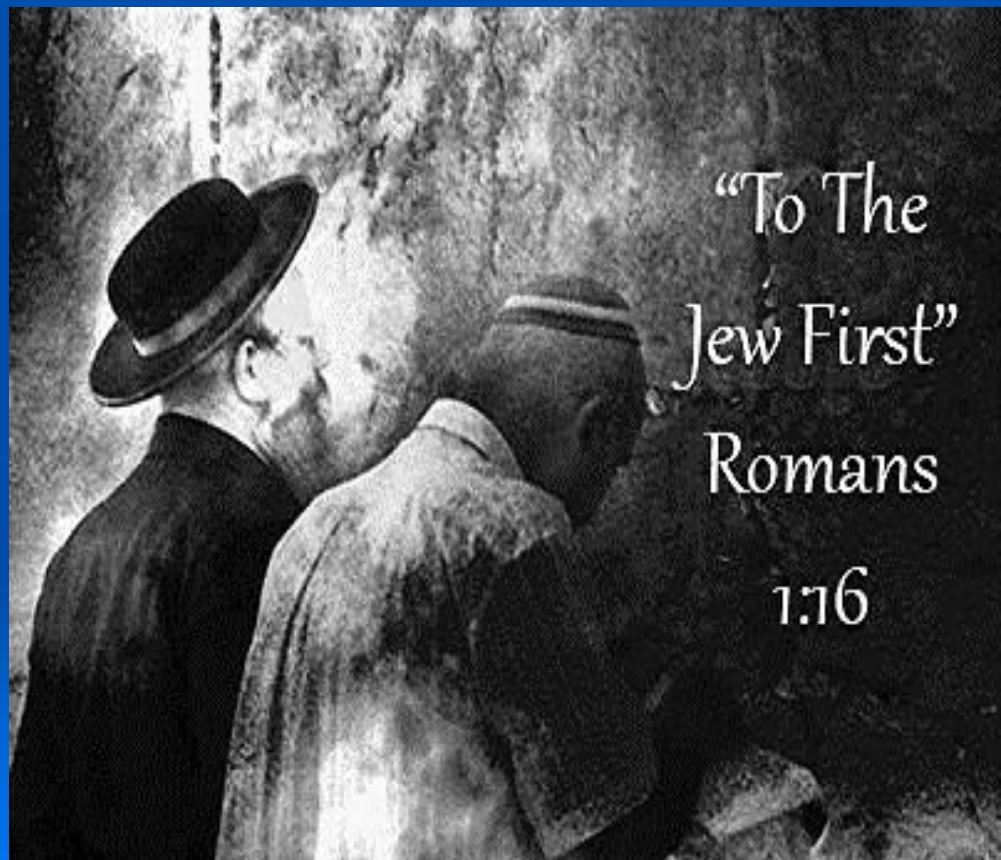
CONTINUING TRUST

- “Salvation to everyone who believes...”
- Present tense...means to keep on trusting
- Once-Saved-Always-Saved says that momentary belief is good enough
- Pretenders?
- Matt. 7:21 -23
- Heb. 6:4 – 6
- James 5:19 – 20
- 2Peter 2:20 - 22



GOD'S PRIORITIES

- God's power of salvation is for Jews and gentiles
- NO Two Covenant Theology!
- Israel is the bearer of the Abrahamic Covenant
- Gentiles receive Abraham's blessing THROUGH Israel
- Israel was Christ's priority
- Matt. 15:21 – 24
- Christianity has tried to reverse God's priority for 1900 years !



“To The
Jew First”
Romans

1:16