

WOOLHAMPTON PARISH

‘THE GOD WHO SPEAKS’ – YEAR OF THE BIBLE

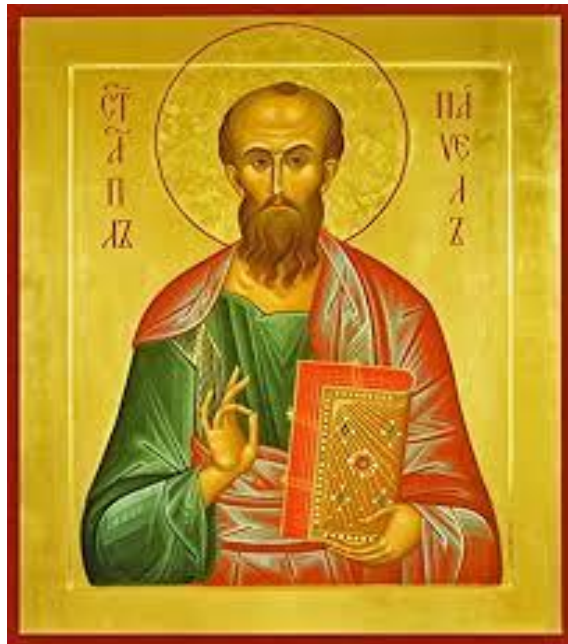
BRIEF GUIDE TO BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

## LETTER TO THE ROMANS

### *Why did Paul write to the Romans?*

Several reasons have been put forward, not all of them incompatible.

**Paul was planning a journey to Spain**; he may not have known Latin, and he certainly did not know Spain, so he wanted help from Christians at Rome.



- I. According to Acts, Paul thought it unnecessary for Christians to obey Jewish Law, but he did allow observance of it.
- II. In order to win help from the Jews, he needed to make clear what his attitude to the Law was. He did not sweep away the Law.
- III. Evidence exists that a group of Jews were expelled from Rome for disorderly behavior connected with someone named “Chrestos”. Is this person **Christos (Christ)**? Was Paul trying to heal a rift by showing each group that it needed the other?
- II. The letter is the fullest statement of how salvation in Christ works. Perhaps Paul wanted to send to Rome ahead of time as an example of his teaching and a letter of introduction.

(from *The Bible – A Reader’s Guide*, by Henry Wansborough)

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**Now read Romans chapter 8**

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