

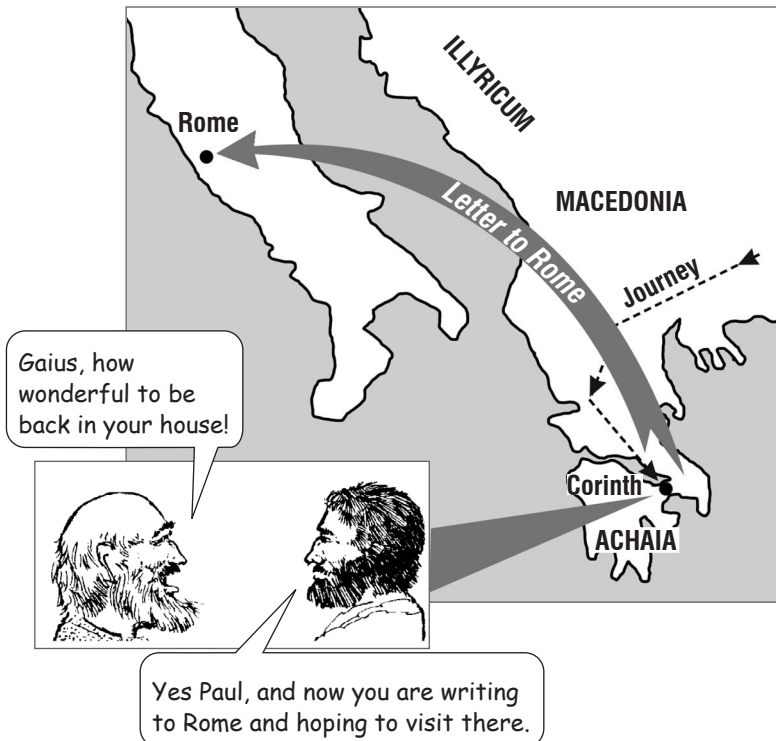
# Lesson 4A

## Back in Corinth

(Acts 20:2b–3)

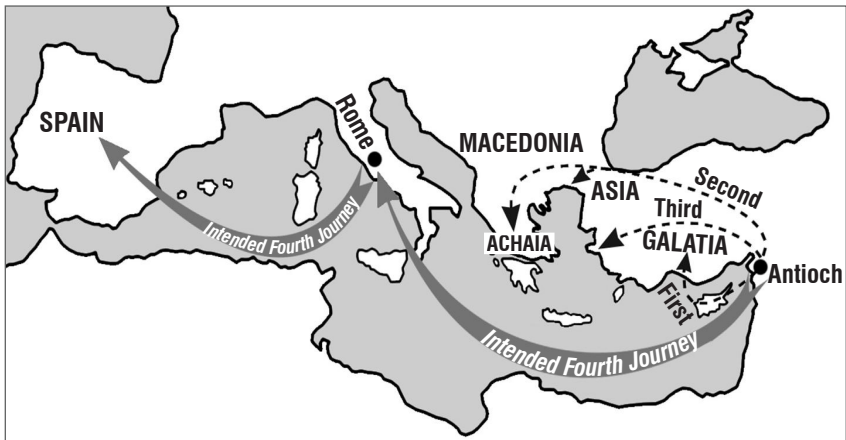
Romans Written (Rom. 15:12 to 16:27)

1. Having finished evangelising in the provinces of a) M \_\_\_\_\_ and b) I \_\_\_\_\_ (see the following map) Paul now journeyed south to the province of c) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 20:2) where he stayed for a period of d) \_\_\_\_\_ months (Acts 20:3) in the city of e) \_\_\_\_\_ (map). This was his f) \_\_\_\_\_ visit (2 Cor. 12:14) to this city, and, as we have already seen, one of his main objectives was to receive the g) \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 15:26 compare with 2 Cor. 9:5) they had promised to make towards Paul's fund for the h) \_\_\_\_\_ among God's people in i) \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 15:26). This he intended to take personally (accompanying the delegates from the donating churches) to j) \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 15:25).



2. So now we arrive at a truly momentous time in Paul's ministry when, in all sincerity, this mighty man of God could sit back a moment and say with intense satisfaction that he had a) \_\_\_\_\_ work to do in those regions (Rom. 15:23). By this he meant that he had adequately evangelised all the way from b) \_\_\_\_\_ to c) \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 15:19). What a gigantic accomplishment!
3. But don't think that this meant that Paul was intending to retire! Although he was now about 57 years old, a vast **new** plan of expansion was forming in his mind, reaching out to the extreme west, to the country of \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 15:24).
4. Now take a look at the map to see just how incredible this plan was!

 **Note:** This is not a detailed map of the journeys.



By looking at the distance Paul now **planned** to travel from Antioch in Syria to **Spain**, we can see at a glance that, compared to any of his previous three missionary journeys it is (tick the right answer):

- a. half the distance.
- b. the same distance.
- c. more than double the distance.

5. So Paul realised that, just as Antioch in Syria had provided a wonderful **base** from which to launch his first three journeys, he would require a **new** base if he were ever going to evangelise adequately **Spain** and the extreme west.

This new base would have to be

- a strong, well established church.
- situated far nearer to **Spain** than was Antioch in Syria.
- suitable for Paul to use for periods of rest.
- willing to help send him out on his new task.

The obvious choice was the church in a) \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 1:7) to which he writes, asking them to b) \_\_\_\_\_ him (Rom. 15:24) in his new mission to c) \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 15:24) after he had enjoyed visiting them first.

6. The church in Rome was not only suitable as his new base because it was so much nearer to Spain, but also because it contained a large number of Paul's friends and converts who had gravitated there, as it was the capital of the Empire. We know this because in Romans 16 Paul greets them by name. For example he greets his old friends who had returned to Rome from Ephesus, that is a) \_\_\_\_\_ and b) \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 16:3). Indeed he greets no less than 24 people by name in Romans, chapter c) \_\_\_\_\_, as well as naming two whole families that he knows!
7. So although Paul had never visited Rome, he obviously looked upon the church there as very close to him. The letter he wrote them is considered by many to be his finest, and indeed it ranks among the greatest writings of all time.

Now review again the three letters (preserved in the New Testament) that Paul wrote on his third missionary journey (in Supplement 1), seeing how Romans is the last of these. From Supplement 1 you can see that Paul was about a) \_\_\_\_\_ years old when he wrote Romans when he was in the city of b) \_\_\_\_\_.

8. He was staying in the house of his host, a) \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 16:23) at the time (look again at the picture in 4A.1). It was lovely to be in the home of one of his first converts in Corinth, that Paul himself had b) \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 1:14) on his **second** missionary journey, in the very early days in Corinth when he was alone there awaiting c) \_\_\_\_\_ and d) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 18:5) to follow him on from Macedonia.
9. Furthermore, thanks to Titus' recent successful peace mission to Corinth, Paul was at last able to relax, after the fearful storms through which he

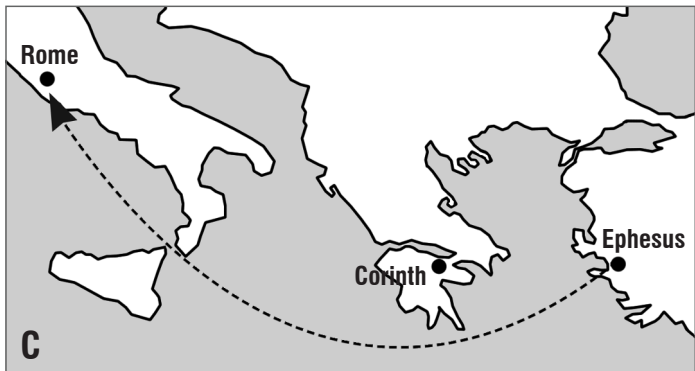
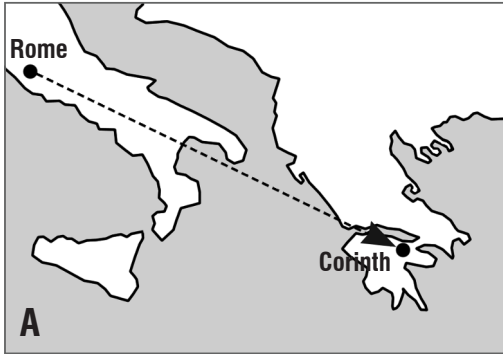
and the Corinthian church had just passed. So as a result, in his letter to the Romans, Paul was able to set out his most profound and mature teaching on the a) \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (Rom. 1:16); indeed he testifies that he has complete confidence in it because it is God's b) \_\_\_\_\_ to save all who c) \_\_\_\_\_, first the d) \_\_\_\_\_ and also the e) \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 1:16).

10. His letter to Rome is a most brilliant explanation of how a sinner, whether Jew or Gentile, can be put right with God: it is through a) \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 1:17) from beginning to end. Paul takes Habakkuk 2:4 as his text, then writes: "*The b) \_\_\_\_\_ (person who is put right with God) will c) \_\_\_\_\_ by d) \_\_\_\_\_*" (Rom. 1:17). This then is **the central theme** of his letter to the Romans.
11. Now it is important both to compare and to contrast Romans with Galatians, because one of the main themes of Galatians is that a person is justified, that is to say a) \_\_\_\_\_ with God only by b) \_\_\_\_\_ in c) \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal. 2:16). So the **theme** of Paul's letter to the Romans is very similar to his letter to the d) G \_\_\_\_\_.
12. But here the likeness ends! In **style** they are totally different! **One** is like a white hot volcano, erupting in burning indignation against the false teachers who had done such damage to his newly planted churches; this, you will remember, is his letter to the a) \_\_\_\_\_. The **other** is serene and mellow as he sets out, with brilliant logic, his mature and reasoned reflections on these same truths. This, we have just seen, is his letter to the b) \_\_\_\_\_.
13. As we study Paul's letter to the Romans we shall see how his purpose is to explain to **two** groups in the church how a sinner can be put right with God by **faith**. These two groups are the a) \_\_\_\_\_ and the b) \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 1:16). The reason for this is that the church in Rome had a large number of Christians from **both** these groups.
14. Of course, being the capital of the Empire, Rome itself was not a Jewish but a a) \_\_\_\_\_ city, so the strongest group in the church would probably have been b) \_\_\_\_\_.
15. On the other hand we know that in Paul's day there was a large colony of Jews in Rome. For example, Philo, a writer of those times, tells us that the Roman Emperor, in power at the time Jesus was born and who was called \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 2:1), allowed all the Jews in Rome to practise

their religion freely, and gave them a special area, beyond the river Tiber in Rome, where they could meet.

16. To illustrate this, let's go over the movements of the Jewish couple, Aquila and Priscilla, by studying the following three maps.

### Movements of Aquila and Priscilla



When we first heard about them they had been turned out of the city of a) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 18:2) by the Roman Emperor b) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 18:2) because they were c) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 18:2). From there they had gone to d) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 18:1–2) where Paul first met them, as in map e) \_\_\_\_\_. After that they moved with Paul to f) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 18:19) as in map g) \_\_\_\_\_. Now Paul's greetings to them in this letter show that they were back safe and sound again in h) \_\_\_\_\_, as in map i) \_\_\_\_\_ (where there had been a change of Emperors).

17. Some time before Priscilla and Aquila moved back to Rome, when Paul had still been with them in Ephesus, he also had begun to think of going on from Macedonia, Achaia and Jerusalem to a) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 19:21). Indeed, it could well have been the fact that Priscilla and Aquila were planning to go back to b) \_\_\_\_\_ that set Paul thinking of following them there!
18. Well, throughout this study, perhaps you have noticed how much background material we have been able to gather about this letter to the Romans mainly from **three** of its chapters; that is:
- chapter 1 (esp. vv.16–17)
  - chapter 15 (esp. v.24)
  - chapter 16 (v.3 onwards)

### Exercise

Underline in your Bible Romans 1:16–17; Romans 15:24; Romans 16:3.

19. In which of the three chapters, mentioned in Frame 18, does Paul
- a) tell them that the message he wants to share with them is how a sinner can be put right with God by faith. Chapter \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) share his plan to evangelise Spain, and his hope that the church in Rome will help him in this mission by providing him with a new base. Chapter \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) greet lots of old friends and converts who had gravitated to Rome, which shows us the strong links he had with this church. Chapter \_\_\_\_\_
20. So in Corinth, during this period of a) \_\_\_\_\_ months (Acts 20:3), Paul completed this wonderful letter we call Romans. Perhaps another

reason for writing it was that a lady called b) \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 16:1), from Corinth's neighbouring church, c) \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 16:1), was actually going to travel to Rome, and so Paul was able to take advantage of this by sending his letter with her. He also takes the opportunity of asking the church in Rome to d) \_\_\_\_\_ her in the Lord's name (Rom. 16:2) and give her all the help she needs.

This then, in brief, is the story of how, why and what Paul wrote to the Romans.

**21. To Think and Pray About**

How does Paul try to persuade the Christian **Jews** in Rome to help his mission to the **Gentiles** in Spain? (Read Romans 15:8–12; and 20–21.)

What great principle does Paul establish here?

What are you and your church doing to put this principle into practice in your area? What more could you do?

**22. Now review and then do Test 4A.**