



LAUREL CANYON
church of Christ

BIBLE CLASS: NEW TESTAMENT CHURCHES

Wednesday nights at 7:00PM | July 7 – September 29, 2021

August 18, 2021

Lesson 7: The Church in Rome

Excerpt from the workbook, “New Testament Churches: Their Strengths and Weaknesses” by Carl McMurray:

“By the first century, Rome was already over seven centuries old and had over a million inhabitants. It was a polytheistic city since it was customary for the god of every conquered nation to be invited to make his home in Rome. The Roman gods themselves were indefinite forces rather identifiable beings until coming in contact with Greek culture and artisans who produced representative statuary. Jews were known to be living in Rome as early as 138 BC and by 58 BC Cicero speaks of multitudes of them. In 49 AD the Jews were expelled from Rome by Claudius, but the repression was not of long duration. There might be some historic indication that it was the introduction of the gospel to Rome that stirred up the Jews and brought about their expulsion from the city, although this is not a proven fact. If it was true, then this would have been the time about which the church was established. We do know that as early as 64 AD, when Paul came to Rome, the Christians were already numerous and meeting in several locations. It has been suggested that the church in Rome was established by converts who returned to the city after the Pentecost recorded in Acts 2 or the dispersion in Acts 8. It is also possible that Asian converts took the gospel to Rome during the occasion recorded in Acts 19:10, as was probably the case in the formation of the churches at Colossae and Laodicea. Like these two congregations, the church at Rome was formed without the benefit of an apostle being present, unproven rumors as to the work of Peter in Rome notwithstanding.”

Bible References:

- Romans (Especially chapters 1,2, 8 and 11)

Questions:

1. How can we know the church in Rome was active and working?
2. What handicap was the church at Rome laboring under?
3. Since we don't have miraculous gifts today, aren't we laboring under the same handicap? Why or why not?
4. What is there for me to do if I can't be a "leader" in worship or teaching?
5. What should the church be focused on in teaching and practice?
6. What dangers still exist, even when we struggle to have our focus right?
7. Explain the three ways that Roman church was actively being spiritual?