Pastor Alex Catarroja Romans / Acts – Podcast Episode 13



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Associate Pastor Jeremy Preece

Welcome to truth matters church, we are continuing our introduction to the Epistle of Romans. Thank you so much for joining us today. I'm Jeremy, this is Pastor Alex. And today we are continuing our introduction into the Epistle of Romans. And we're going to pick up well and continue our look at Paul's credentials as an apostle of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Alex Catarroja

And that's exactly what we'll endeavor to do, Jeremy, and thanks for being with us for now our second session of this podcast. And as we covered in our first podcast, what we're really doing, probably for this session, and maybe one more, depending on the the content that will continue to go over is again, we're trying to lay the groundwork into the book of Romans, because we're going to go on this journey, and open up this marvelous epistle. And there's a lot of legwork that needs to be done. And we just started to do that legwork in terms of just trying to get background information, as much information as we can get. And that would include information about the author, and that's what we're going to pick up here. But we're also going to look into other historical settings, you know, cultural backgrounds and things like that, that will hopefully be helpful for us to, to see the scripture for what it really is, again, it's it was written to a specific time to specific people to a specific culture or a specific power in including that as well. So we're going to pick up where we left off last time. And we were, you know, we're going into the authorship of the book of Romans. And it's clear again, that it's from the Apostle Paul, and we are starting to look into Paul in in, you know, we got into his testimony and things like that, and that we're looking at Paul's own words of his own credentials, or pedigree, and boy, that Paul have a pedigree and again, in his own words, just by brief, re mentioned here, he called himself again, a Hebrew of Hebrews. And this is found for us in Philippians, three, verses five through six. And again, we covered that in our first session, and that he was circumcised in the eighth day of the tribe of Benjamin, he was a former pharisee he was a former persecutor of the church. And here's where I want to pick up. And this is actually, this is huge in terms of Paul's pedigree is that he was brought under the teaching of Gamaliel. And, and I want to look at an example in Scripture, where Gamaliel actually is not only mentioned, but he's actually quoted. So you can hear some of the wisdom from Gamaliel. Because Paul was brought up under this rabbi who was considered one of the greatest rabbis in the first century. And he too, was a teacher of the law, he too Gamaliel was a pharisee. And as we'll see, he was very well respected. So with that, I'd like for us to turn to the scripture to look at the person of familial and it's, it's recorded for us in Acts chapter five. And just a little bit of a backdrop here. So when Acts chapter five, the the apostles were arrested, and God sent an angel, me first when they were preaching and teaching Christ in Jerusalem, they were arrested from the religious leaders. And then they were in jail. And God sent an angel to release them, and commanded them to go ahead and continue to preach in the temple. So they did that that very next day. And when the council was, was commencing the Council, which was the religious leader, leaders at that time, and they came in, they wanted to pretty much tell the apostles to stop teaching in this name, when they tried to call and retrieve them from the prison, the cards came back and they were perplex like these, they're not there. And, and they were, they were found to be back in

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Jerusalem, again, preaching Christ. So that's a little bit of the backdrop here and now they're brought again, after being released, you know, from prison, going back to temple, another brought back before the religious leaders. And here's, and here's where we're going to pick up in Acts five, beginning at verse 33. But when they heard this, they again the religious leaders, they were cut to the quick and intended to kill them again, the apostles, but a pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, here it is respected by all the people, he set up in the council and gave orders to put them outside for a short time. And he said to them, men of Israel, take care what you propose to do with these men. For some time ago. Sidious rose up claiming to be somebody in a group of about 400 men joined up with him, but he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census and drew away some people after him he to perish, and all those who followed him were scattered. So in the present case, I say to you stay away from these men again referring to the apostles and let them alone For if this plan or action is of men, it'll be overthrown. But if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them, or else you may be even found fighting against God. And here it is they took his advice. Again, the Council, the religious leaders, took his advice. And after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then release them. So they went on their way from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for his name. And every day in the temple, and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ. So in that example, again, Gamaliel actually, that was a very. very wise wisdom that he gave to the religious rulers, again, they wanted to have the apostles to stop and even killed for preaching in the name of Jesus. And in his wisdom, he looked at some examples in the past history. Again, he mentioned that he is and he mentioned, what was it Judas, he mentioned these two characters. And apparently, they try to lead some sort of religious revolt. And what happened was, after they were taken out of the picture, so did their followers. So Gamaliel again, in his wisdom, he knew that if something starts, and it's not from God, it'll stop. But if God starts something, you can't do anything about it. And in fact, he even said, If you try to go against that, you will find yourself going against God. So again, here at this point in time, Gamaliel, you can you can see, there's no indication that he's a believer of Jesus Christ at this point. But in that wisdom, there is hope, because through the Acts of the Apostles, and through their testimony and witness, and again, him having that wisdom. You know, that that wisdom could lead him to salvation because he did have a teachable heart.

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Apparently, it's similar to Nicodemus. Nicodemus came to Jesus at night and was a little quiet about it took him a couple years to come to faith, but he was one of two men who, who bury Jesus after he was crucified. So here we have a second example of a very, very large group of Pharisees who didn't believe in Christ. But Gamaliel is closer, perhaps than just about anybody else at this time.

Pastor Alex Catarroja

And that's actually a really, really good call out and also a very good example. Because, yeah, those within the council, you know, the Pharisees, the teachers of Israel, that even within their their counsel, that you find the Nick edema says, and now you find the Gamaliel, we know

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Nicodemus actually took it a step further, because he went to go seek Jesus at night. And we have that great discourse recorded for us in john chapter three. So with Nick edemas, we know that he was not only a teacher of Israel, but he was also a true seeker of Messiah, and he saw the signs that Jesus did, and he knew that Jesus, no one could do what Jesus did unless he was from God. So for Nicodemus, it was a little more clear that he became a believer. Gamaliel on the other hand, not that we don't have any definite scripture that says that he in fact, you know, sought after Christ or the teaching of Christianity, but at least in this wisdom here, that there is hope, because even within the council or the religious rulers, there is a varying degrees of the hardness of hearts and their rejection and displacement of Jesus. And at least we know in Gamaliel case that he was acting in wisdom. But all this is to say, this great rabbi, well respected as we saw in our account here, in Acts chapter five, he was one of the greatest rabbis in the first century, and Paul was brought under the tutelage of Gamaliel. So as far as the Jews were concerned, he can he can see he's the Hebrew of Hebrew sees the Jew of Jew, a, whatever a Jew can accomplish, whether it's from First of all, from the National lineage from the actual lineage, to the actual upbringing and education, right and to advancing in his religion in Judaism. Paul was at the top, Paul's credentials was was really off the charts. And that's why he went ahead and call that out for us in Philippians, chapter three. And as we look more again, we're looking at Paul's credentials. So here's the Jew of Jews. Again top of his class, you can say as far as advancing in his religion being brought up under the best teaching and Rabbi and rabbis of his day, it's one thing to say that you are a true apostle. Well, first of all the the first test because in Paul's day, even to this day, there are those who claim to be apostles. Hold the Office of an apostle. And we'll get into that into the introduction of Romans on the Office of an apostle. But for now, I'll just mention this, the Office of an apostle, one way you know that it is a true apostle, and someone's really truly sitting in that office. First of all, what are you saying? What's the message you bring? That's a good tell tell if what you're bringing the Gospel, the biblical, biblical gospel. That's one. That's one tell tell. Another one is, and as I mentioned in our first session, is you had to be hand selected and chosen by God. And we know that the Apostle Paul was hand selected. So he was hand selected to be functioning in the office of an apostle along with the other apostles in Jerusalem. So Paul has that going for him. But here's, here's another thing. Again, it's one thing to say that you're an apostle. But here's some other credentials of his apostleship. He was imprisoned. Okay, he was beaten countless times. He was in constant danger of death, always wondering if he's gonna die that day or not. He says, and this is all from second Corinthians chapter 11, that this descriptive list when he's talking when he's defending his apostleship, he five times he received 39 lashes. Can you talk about the 39?

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Can you talk a little bit about 40? What, why not 39?

Pastor Alex Catarroja

Yes. So actually, in in the book of Deuteronomy in chapter 25, within the law itself, there was within the law, the stipulations for corporal punishment, where they're actually gets stripes, they actually get beaten. And it was up to the judges of Israel at that time. So the way it happened under that theocracy is they would have a judge from every tribe, and the people

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would pick judges, and they would put them over the people. And these judges, we need to, we need to preside over the people of Israel. And their goal was to be a fair judge. And you know, the punishment must fit the crime, they must be fair, regardless of your social standing. And within the law, there was again these stipulations that if the punishment fell, if they felt that the punishment deserved beating, or lashes, you know, so the the guilty was found guilty and condemned, and they felt that that person should have some retribution, then they stipulated within the law. God said, okay, you can stripe him or lash him 40 times, but no more. And one of the reasons was because you would, it would be insulting you would degrade one, you know, your your fellow brother. So God put a limit and say, okay, 40 times, if you if the judges decide that that the punishment should result in scourging, or in this case, I should say lash lashes are beating, that it should be no more than 40. Again, the Jews being super sensitive with the law. And that's where the Talmud comes in, which is kind of another boundary around the law where they created all these additional manmade rules and traditions. Part of their goal was, we don't want to break the law. So they decided the Jews, again, this wasn't stipulated in Scripture, hey, we don't want to accidentally go over 40. So we're going to give herself a little room in case you forget.

Pastor Alex Catarroja

Yeah, 40 minus one. So if they miss counted, they didn't unintentionally break the law. So five times, Paul was found, you know, condemned by the Jews. And then in his day, he received the 39 lashes, which is again, the last one, and that's fine,

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just unimaginable suffering to go through for the cause of Christ.

Pastor Alex Catarroja

And you know, when I think about it, too, and, you know, it just dawned on me is, you know, one of the marks that Jesus is Messiah is his pierced hands, and his Pierce feet and his pure side. And we know that after his resurrection, and in his glorified body, that those scars are still there. And with the Apostle Paul, with these beatings that he endured, and we're gonna, we're just starting to, to go through this list, that it is quite probable that Paul two could have his marks as a true apostle, so that even in eternity, there would be this respect because I think many of us especially here in the West, you know, Paul is our apostle. He's the apostle of the Gentiles. No other apostle was an apostle that was sent to To the non Jews, and that would be the rest of the world. So there's there is this appreciation that we have for the Apostle Paul and his ministry in his teaching, because for all intents and purposes, he is our, our spiritual father, in that he, you know, it was through the working of the spirit in his ministry and in his life that we have the gospel that we have the Scripture, and that we hear Paul's heart is his Shepherd's heart. And he's ministering to us, even to this day. And he's been, he's been in glory for about 2000 years now. And yet, his ministry is still bearing fruit. And when he thinks about that truth that I just mentioned, that's when he breaks out into doxology. And as epistles, because he sees he sees the truth, he sees the fruit of his ministry, and the gospel transcend him, and for that he rejoices. And for that, that's why he endured all these things. Then again, you know, when you go into Paul's credentials, as you can see, he wasn't just any ordinary apostle, he bore the marks of an

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apostle. And, you know, not not only they received the five times, five times he received the 40 lashes less one, but three times he was beaten with rods, you know, one time he was actually stoned. And the Jews actually thought they stoned him. And they thought he was dead. They presumed them to be dead, and they left. But Paul wasn't, he got up. And the next day, he went back, and he preached the gospel. God bless this man.

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So when we wake up with a headache, and we don't want to go to church, oh,

Pastor Alex Catarroja

you know, Jeremy, we can go there. I mean, wow. I mean, the apostle Paul, and His love and His devotion and his commitment to Christ and the ministry and the furtherance of the gospel. It is uncanny. It is a model for us. But it does put it in perspective for us. I mean, jeez, liquid Paul had to endure, to give us what we're studying now. And yet, here we are, you know, in our comfortable in many of our many of our situations are far more comfortable circumstances than it was back in that day, you know, in the east. You know, there could be one little headache, or whatever it is, I'm not going to church, oh, I'm not going to read my Bible today. You know, for that, I would just appeal, you know what, let's, let's repent of that. Because if Paul could, could be stone left for dead, and next continue on with what he believed that God, Christ called him to do that he would do that, that we as believers, whatever it is, that God put it on our heart, to do for the advancement of his ministry, to really do that, at all costs. So regardless of our circumstances, regardless if we're having a good day or a bad day, you know, really we can learn from the Apostle Paul, in, in in follow his example,

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and even what you read a few moments ago, and Acts chapter five, they counted it, a joy and an honor to suffer for the name of God and for the call of Christ just, you know, just thinking in my own life, how we come across minor persecution in the United States, we think, oh, the world is caving in because this little thing someone made fun of me or they unfriended me on Facebook or whatever. And here these men suffered beatings and imprisonment, and Paul rejoiced in that it is, it is such a it's almost hard to fathom, as a Christian in this modern day and age.

Pastor Alex Catarroja

Yes, we, to this day, we with all the problems in our in our great country. And there's lots of them, even with all that, the liberties that we have to express our faith in Jesus Christ is we're blessed in that way. Now, could that change? Absolutely. But for this time being, we do have that religious freedom as protected in the First Amendment. But as we know, with government, and power and whoever's in power and government, that there's always going to be this poll and assault sorry, how we can express that religious freedom, just like we are in our current situation. So let's continue on again. See, Paul, I didn't finish there. There's another page that I need to go through that again, this is part of Paul's credentials. He He bore the marks of Jesus on his body as he put in his own words. He was shipwrecked multiple times. By the time he wrote this epistle. He was shipwrecked three times mean when he wrote Second Corinthians

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11, I should say, but we know that even on his route and transit to Rome, that there was another ship wreck. So we know at least there was four times it was shipped direct and pretty much in this spare and probably they didn't know if they were going to make it the next day. So he's been through that multiple times. Again, he spent days stranded in the sea. And we know that Paul, he's had at least four missionary journeys that we can deduce from Scripture. So he's gone through multiple missionaries. journeys. And again, whenever he goes from town to town on these missionary journeys, he was always in danger for his safety, he was always in danger from his fellow Jews in the towns that he visits, he was in constant danger of the in the wilderness, he was constant danger again in the seas. And he continually labored and hardship He not only worked for the gospel, because Paul, one of the things about Paul is he wanted the quote unquote bragging rights. He took pride in not charging for the gospel, even though the Scriptures tell us to not muzzle an ox wallet, treads the grain, that that those who give their life to the gospel are to make their living and me and given means through the gospel there to get paid pay here, your church leaders in, in advancing and preaching the gospel and building up the church and ministering to the saints. But Paul, he he wanted this just bragging rights for him, he took pride, he did not want to do it fee, he didn't want to impose any financial burden on the church. So not only so he would be a tentmaker. And he would actually do his trade to make ends meet. And then he would minister the gospel. So he's double working night and day. I mean, I'm sure he's he's really, he's really gone. Many days and nights really without any quote unquote, downtime that us here in the West are, it's part of our the fabric of what we do, but not in the life of the Apostle Paul. And again, that would lead into the many sleepless nights, and he would gone, he had gone many days hungry and without food, and there was an account where he got almost two weeks or so without food or drink. I mean, could you imagine that eating or drinking for two weeks and being in dark and stranded at sea? You know, Paul was in despair, from whatever human circumstances or life circumstances can throw at us. But yet, feel the love that Paul had for Jesus Christ compelled him to, to endure through those trials. And as we know that it was the Holy Spirit that also gave them the empowerment to do that. And not to mention the battle, the weather, the elements, storms, cold, what have you. So if that wasn't enough, if that's not enough of Paul's credentials, he

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also okay, he worked night and day he provided for himself and he preached and ministered the gospel, free of charge. And on top of that, oh, he worried about the churches that he planted, he worried that somehow, you know, Satan might mislead them through the false teachers. And I think a lot of us, especially for us think as parents, especially the mothers, I would say, you know, I think mothers, you know, generally this this nurturing instinct within them, are they just a nurturing part of mothers, you know, when they're children, or even adults. And let's say they were to go off on the college, or they're to go off and move out and live on their own, and they're to go out, and they are out drive and be out there in the world. That, you know, I think mothers struggle with just worrying. I'm not saying fathers don't either. But I would say more so mothers, just because of the nurturing, and you know, they were connected at the womb, you know, they gave their life to this child, they there there is a special bond relationship between the mother and child, and then when that child is now an adult, or to be an adult and being out there, that there's this constant worry that they're going to be okay. Well, in that same sense, the apostle

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Paul, again, these are his spiritual children, he was their spiritual father. And he would look at them again as their spiritual children. So not only would he minister them, and then go to somewhere else, but he would always worry about them. Now, that's the heart of a true apostle, it's one thing you know, to come in and say, You're an apostle, get what you want, and you kind of move on with your life, not with Paul when he gave his life, and he and he would pour his life into you, you are now part of his life, he will remember you constantly in his prayers. And that would include, you know, the anxiety you might have, but he would lift up, you know, himself and yourself into prayer. Again, that's the heart of a true apostle,

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and that's who Paul was, his love for his church is just off the charts.

Pastor Alex Catarroja

It is. And even when I'm talking about like, I thought, I love Paul a lot. I love them even more, because everything that I'm telling you, again, we're learning more about this author who wrote the book of Romans and the 13 other books of the New Testament, and we're seeing his heart and his credentials, and Lord willing, we would respect and appreciate his labor of love in the ministry because as you'll see, it's bearing fruit and we are part of that Let's just talk about the date and place in writing of the book of Romans. And the book of Romans was likely written around 55, or 56. Ad. Another thing is when, when you try to come up with a timeline, and sometimes you know, we have historical sources, and it's hard to really be dogmatic on this is the precise date that the these were written. But there's a general consensus, and oftentimes, you'll see, it's within a certain period, that this is likely when the books are written. So when I'm presenting these to you, as well, again, this is likely the dates you know, we can't know for certain from historical documents that we can tell of the actual month and year, but we can have a pretty good idea. So as far as the book of Romans, when Paul or as you say, 30th, as you remember, in our first session, that he was the one who's transcribing it, when this letter was Trent was transcribed and written, it was likely around 55 to 56 ad. And there are some, you know, great biblical resources out there, you know, a lot of us are visual, in that, we need to see something. So I definitely encourage you, if especially when you're starting to get serious into Bible study, look for Bible resources, that try to put things together, whether it be charts, or you know, something in a user friendly format, that we can at least able to have a framework of things.

Associate Pastor Jeremy Preece

A lot of study Bibles include those timelines, which are very helpful, as you kind of see how things break out. And it makes sense when you're reading the scripture in context, of course,

Pastor Alex Catarroja

yes, so those resources are huge, because again, when we open up our Bible, we don't see pictures, and we don't see charts and stuff like that, we just have the ancient text. So the solid biblical resources, where they really try to stay true. And really, you know, really, in good faith, try to put the put the scripture together, try to put the timeline together, you know, try to put things in an organized manner, so that we could better understand it. So one, for example, it's

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called Bible then and now maps, they have a lot of great historical resources. And what they did was they attempted to take Paul's writings, and they tried to put it in the order from, you know, the first of his epistle written to the last. And according to this resource, Galatians was written first. And that will be around 49 AD. And then first, and first and second, Thessalonians was written next. And that was around 51 AD. And then he wrote First and Second Corinthians, which is around 56. AD. Then he wrote this letter that we're about to study the book of Romans, and that was around 57 AD. So by the time Paul wrote, The Book of Romans, so far, he's had five of his 13 in the bag. And now this is number.

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If he wrote this after second Corinthians, he had already gone through all these trials. So there may have even been more suffering he has gone through to write the remaining epistles.

Pastor Alex Catarroja

But do you see what you just brought out there? By no understanding the order of which these letters are written, it will also not bring the life Well, what I just read and went through Paul's credentials in Second Corinthians, and he's defending his apostleship. Well, he wrote Romans after that. So that kind of tells you the timeframe, and, and also, also understanding the orders of when the books were written. And not just Pauline letters, we're talking about even you know, the other New Testament books, it'll also come into play when we get into serious Bible study. And especially when we're looking at doctrines, and trying to reconcile maybe some contentions or debates within the church, a good, what's also a good factor is to understand the order of the books. And also the fact that the Canon was still open, you know, those are factors that need to be considered. Because if the canon of Scripture is still open, then there is still this need or opportunity for other, you know, gifts or ministries within the church to for further divine revelation. So for example, New Testament prophets, for example, you know, speaking in tongues and languages, you know, those type of gifts and sign gifts, there was a purpose still for it, because we also need to consider the timing in which it was written. But also we need to consider that the Canon was still open a still,

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it's so important to have that background because if you take it out of order, and you think, Well, this was the last thing he said about this, and you carry it forward to today. Now you've, you've created error,

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yes. And that's the last thing we want to do and, and that's what we will try to be sensitive to do as we go through our study. Further more things about the date and place of writing. Again, I mentioned that he, he wrote this probably around 55, or 56. And he likely wrote this also at the end of his third missionary journey. So as I mentioned earlier, Paul had, at least for missionary journeys, so after or towards the tail end of his third missionary journey is around the timing that he penned the book of Romans. And here's something that was interesting as I was going through, you know, the, again, the resources that I have, and the charts and timeline, there was this one resource that pretty much depicted the timeline of Paul. And according to this resource,

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Paul was probably born around five ad. And by the time that Steven was martyred, and that was around 35 ad, and that's around the time Paul Saul was converted, he would be around 30 years old. And, and coincidentally, that was around the age that Jesus began His earthly ministry. So I thought that was interesting, in terms of if you're wondering, how old was Saul, on the road to Damascus, he was likely around 30 years old. And, and also, you know, was also helpful in this timeline, is it really does help kind of document a lot of the key events surrounding Paul's life. Of course, not only him writing his epistles, but a lot of the key events that occurred in his life. And you know, what that, you know, Paul again, likely wrote this, towards the end of his third missionary journey, while he was in Corinth. And another good indication of that, that would be supportive of this when you read Romans towards the end, he named three people that were associated with the church in Corinth, and they were Phoebe, Gaius, and rastus. And, you know, for those for those of us who want some brownie points, if you were asked a question in some Christian trivia, or what have you, and the question was, okay, remember, one of them could have been, who wrote the book of Romans? Or who transcribed it, it was courteous. Another another, I think, a neat little trivia question here is, who hand delivered the book or this letter to the believers in church in Rome? And that that? The answer is it was Phoebe out of those three as Romans 16. And that's Romans 16, verses one through two. And let me kind of read that to you here. You know, Paul, Commander, there he starts off and says, I commend to you again, he's he's commending to them, the believers in rooms, our sister, Phoebe, who is a servant of the church, which is at scent Korea, which is in the region of Corinth, he says, that you receive her in the Lord met in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matters she may have need of you, for she herself also has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well. So here pulsing Phoebe's coming. And when she's coming, he's commending to them, that they that they love on her when she comes. And it's likely that she had also that letter that was being delivered to them. So that's just a little a little that

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It had to be amazing for them to to get that letter and I am sure his relationship with them was so intimate and loving that they were probably just accepting that with open arms and, you know, just wrapping their arms around Phoebe even to say, oh, my goodness, I can't believe we get to hear from Paul again.

Pastor Alex Catarroja

Yeah, and you know what, and we're gonna get into that actually, as we get further because up to this point, they haven't gotten any scripture. And the fact that here we have Phoebe gonna deliver the book of Romans. And within, you know, the the gospel the full gospel message. Yeah, as you said, I'm sure the that here, they were hungry, and they were excited. And now that they, they can confirm what their understanding of the gospel is, and get a lot of the missing pieces. So with that, I'd like to actually let's, let's end it there. As you can see, again, there's still there's still a lot to cover. And but I like to end here, and what we'll do is in our next session, we'll pick up in our introduction of Romans, trust me, I mean, I know that this is this could take a little time to get through the introduction. But again, the goal is let's let's let's lay this foundation, let's lay the groundwork to the best we can. I'll do my best not to get too much into the weeds, but enough where we at least have that good backdrop. So then when we open up the book of

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Romans with all this backdrop, and Lord willing will now see that the Bible will come to life because now we were exposed and engaged with, you know, the information and historical settings and backgrounds that came with this marvelous letter. So what we'll do is we'll end here, and then we'll open up our next session. And if not, we'll now focus on the audience. Okay, who is Paul are writing to in Rome. And for that, you'll find there's actually a couple of very distinctive groups there. And we'll call that out as we go further in this study.

Associate Pastor Jeremy Preece

That's great. Thank you so much, Pastor Alex, it's, it's always so entertaining and informative to find this stuff out. But who, what, when, where and why the epistle is written. Thank you so much. Thank you so much for joining us today. Join us next week and you can find out more about us at Truth matters church. Thank you so much for listening to this week's truth matters church podcast. We would love to connect with you. You can find us on Facebook or our website. Truth matters. church.org if the Lord has put it on your heart to support this nonprofit ministry, you can do that at our website. Truthmatterschurch.org/give. And you can listen to our podcast on amazon music, Apple Music, Spotify, and even on your Amazon Alexa device. Simply ask Alexa to play the truth matters church podcast, and don't forget to subscribe to our YouTube channel by searching for truth matters church contending for the faith one verse at a time. This is truth matters church