





**Martin Luther** painted in 1528

A monk in the Mediaeval Tradition, trained in earning God's forgiveness and favour by gifts of money to the church and a life of good deeds.

Reading the letter to the Romans he discovered God's free gift of salvation based on faith in the work and person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus set him free!



This began  
the Protestant Reformation.

Luther believed that the letter to the Romans is the Apostle Paul's theological treatise, explaining the central teaching of "Justification by faith".

This is the general view held today amongst protestant Christians, and usually found in some form in the commentaries on Romans.

## Some problems

1, Chapters 2, and 9 -11 are downplayed or even dismissed as not part of Paul's main point in the letter.

2, Luther had a poor view of James' letter which appears to speak of "justification by works". He called it 'an epistle of straw'.

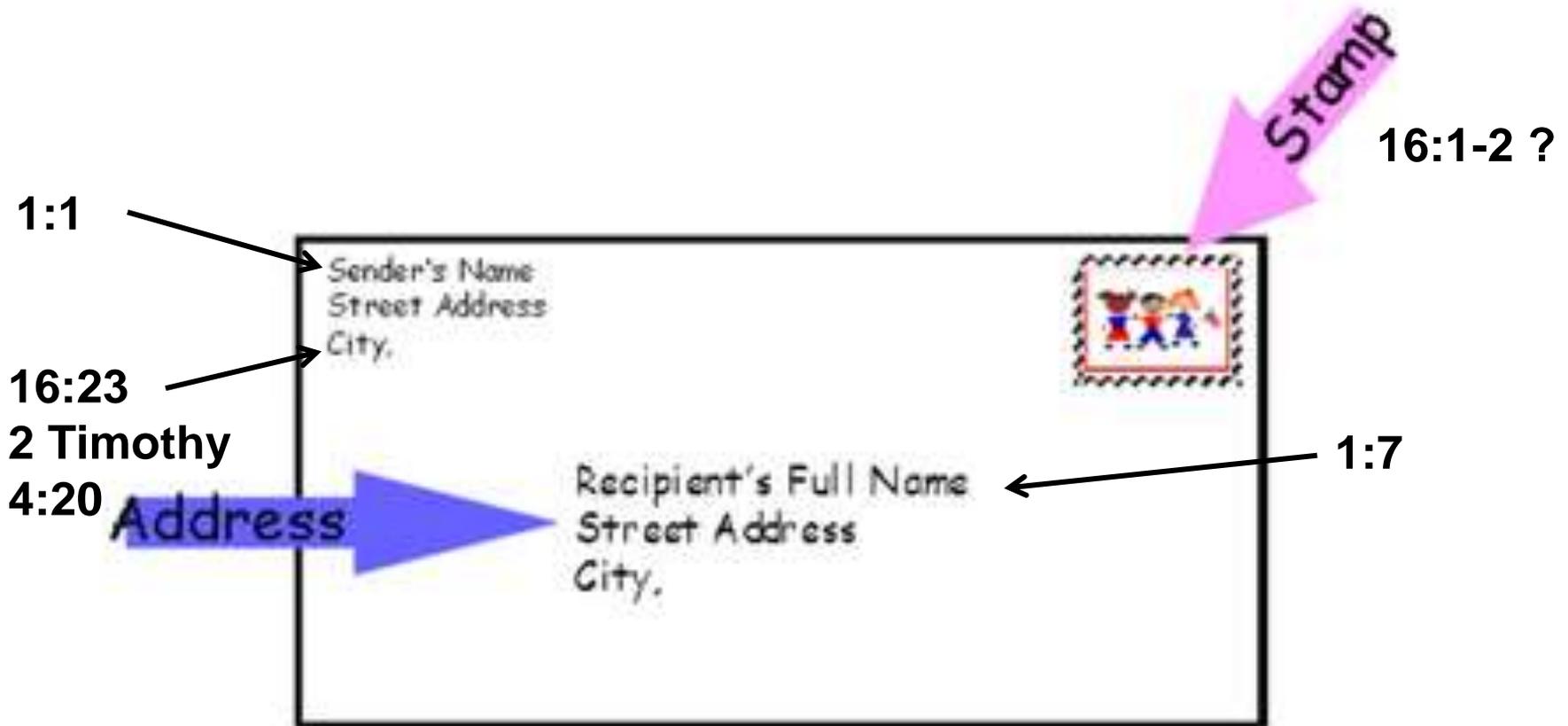
3, When Jews didn't accept his views he wrote very anti-semitic articles eg. "On the Jews and their lies". These provided a large degree of support for German anti-semitism.

**Something is not quite right.**



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- 3, The group of Christians consisted of Jews **and** gentiles (origins ?? Acts 2:10. cf. Acts 11:19-20)
- 4, The 'church' would be originally based in the **synagogue** cf. Acts 17:2



## So Paul wrote to them, to prepare them for his visit

1, The Synagogue would have had a mix of Jews (some Messianic, some not), possible gentile converts to Judaism, and God-fearers (gentiles).

**– a potential problematic mix –  
Wise instruction needed!**



## So Paul wrote to them, to prepare them for his visit

2, The atmosphere in Rome could be strongly anti-Jewish  
**Cf. Acts 18:2 with Emperor Claudius** (Had the church in Rome been under gentile control for a while before the exiled Jewish believers returned to a less than warm welcome?)



A danger of gentile arrogance cf. 11: 19 - 21

## So Paul wrote to them, to prepare them for his visit

3, Paul's desire was to reach his fellow Jews through fulfilling his call to preach the gospel to the gentiles, (without the gentiles making it more difficult than it was already).

**see. 9:1-4, 10:1, 11: 13-14**



## So Paul wrote to them, to prepare them for his visit

4, Paul's desire was to promote unity and harmony in the whole church in Rome. Perhaps he saw what would develop in the next decades as the church became more gentile.



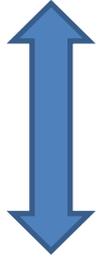
Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God-- the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead.. Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him and for his name`s sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints.. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 1: 1 – 7 (NIV)

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God-- the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead.. Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him and for his name`s sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints..  
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Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus,



slave



**A slave  
didn't just  
do the work  
He was  
owned by  
his master.**

# What does the term “the gospel of God” mean?

## God’s gospel

The good news that God gives



## The gospel of God

The good news about God – who He is and what He has done.

Contrast our western way of thinking and “rabbi” Paul’s

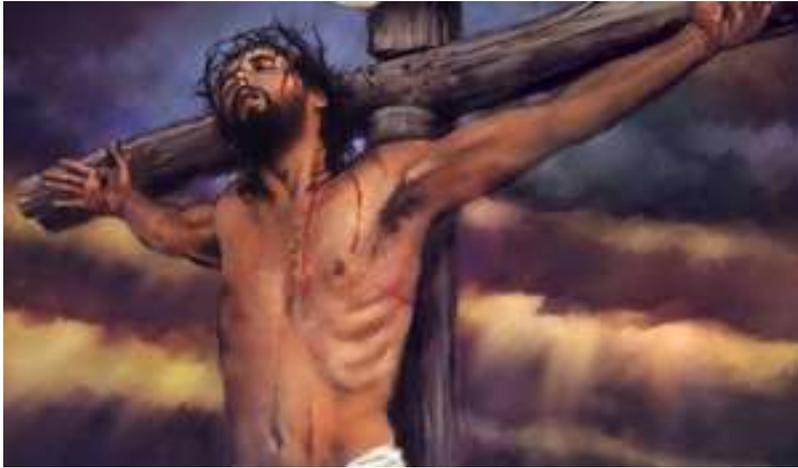


or



He thinks with “two hands”

.. his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David,



and who through the **[Spirit of holiness]** was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead..



**This is the solution to Jesus' question in Matthew 22:45**

# Jesus Christ our Lord.



## The obedience **[that comes from]** of faith.

**Faith leads to  
obedience**

***“If you love me,  
keep my  
commandments”***



**Faith is obedience  
to God's call.**

**Submission to  
the Lordship  
Of Christ**

***“God commands  
all men  
everywhere  
to repent.”***

***“Repent and  
believe the good  
news”***

loved by God and called to be saints..



## Grace and peace



Surely goodness and \*\*\*\*\* will follow me all the days  
Of my life....

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His \*\*\*\*\* endures  
forever.

Grace and peace to you from  
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