

his epistle to the Christians of that city, their faith was spoken of "throughout the whole world." * The Apostle wrote from Corinth, and the date of the epistle was about the year A.D. 58. It was intrusted to the care of Phœbe, a deaconess, who lived at Cenchrea, a port near Corinth. She carried it to Rome. From St. Paul's words in the beginning of the sixteenth chapter, we gather that Phœbe was a rich lady of influence, who devoted her time and wealth to the service of Jesus. The design of the Epistle to the Romans was chiefly to settle certain differences which existed between the Hebrew Christians and the Roman or Gentile Christians, and to prove the important doctrine of justification by faith.

The First Epistle to the Corinthians was written at Ephesus † about the year A.D. 57, during the feast of the Passover, as may be inferred from the remarks of the writer in the fifth and sixteenth chapters. When Paul left Corinth he committed the care of that Church to Apollos, who, you will remember, was instructed at Ephesus by Aquila and Priscilla. After the departure of the Apostle the members of the Church in Corinth became divided, some saying they were of Paul, and others of Apollos. False teachers also crept into the Church, and many of the Corinthian converts became affected by very loose notions of morality. Paul was informed of these things, and wrote to them an earnest and affectionate letter, full of love, reproof, and instruction, promising to visit them when he passed through Macedonia. But he delayed doing so longer than he had intended, partly from a wish to hear how they had received his epistle before seeing them. After leaving Ephesus he went to Troas, hoping there to meet Titus and learn from him tidings of the Corinthian Christians. He was, however, disappointed; he says, "I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia." ‡ There Titus met his spiritual father, whom he cheered by his account of the manner in which he had been received

* Rom. i. 8.

† The subscription which is found at the end of each of the epistles is not in every case to be relied upon. They did not form part of the original epistles, but were added, it is supposed, about the fifth century.

‡ 2 Cor. ii. 13.