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PAUL'S THREE THEREFORES.

A SERMON

BY REV. JAMES FLECK, B. A.

"Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."—Rom. v., 1.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."—Rom. viii., 1.

"I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."—Rom. xii., 1.

The Epistle to the Romans is the Gospel according to Paul. Twice in the course of the Epistle, once at the beginning, and once at the close, the apostle makes use of the expression "according to my Gospel." Up to the time of writing Paul had not been at Rome. He had no opportunity, therefore, of preaching the Gospel there. He hopes to have sometime. But lest he should not, he takes advantage of Phœbe's going thither, and of his present comparative leisure for three months at Corinth, to write the Roman Christians a letter. It is such a letter as will contain the Gospel of Jesus Christ as Paul had received and believed it, as he would preach it, and teach it, if personally with them.

The Christian Church at Rome was composed of earnest, thoughtful