

Living the Gospel

Romans 1:14-17 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. ¹⁵ So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

❖ Intro

➤ **These are very challenging verses...**

- These are verses, that when we read them... we should walk away asking for God's help
- We should be praying... give me this same heart oh God...
 - These are verses that challenge us to walk in a more worthy manner

➤ **Here we see the heart of a man who was in love with Jesus...**

- And his love for Jesus and his fellow man was compelling and clear for all to see
- Through the Gospel Paul had found and all encompassing Joy and Satisfaction in God

➤ **Let Me Pose a Question...**

- How many of you in here consider yourself smart?
- **How many consider yourself not smart enough to understand a book like this?**
 - I am not going to tell you that you are smart enough...
 - ◆ Because being smart is not how you understand the Bible
 - ◆ Because only God can open your eyes to understand many of these things...
 - ◆ The Bible is understood spiritually through the help of the Holy Spirit
 - You can absolutely gain a very good understanding
 - ◆ Of the doctrines of grace and salvation and justification plus more...
 - ◆ If you set your heart through prayer... in faith and in diligence... to understand

➤ **Please do not enter into this study lightly...**

- Prepare yourself weekly to be met by God in His Word...
- Let God begin to challenge you and shape your mind...
 - Write notes... Write questions... ask God questions... search for answers... know God Better

➤ **That is my intro... now for a little background**

❖ Background

➤ **Paul the apostle writes this book to a church in Rome...**

- It is likely that this church had a large gentile section...
- So... I say... in that way they are much like us...

➤ **Paul is writing to a church where many of the members were not Jewish...**

- Although there were plenty of Jewish members...
- We know this because Paul spends a lot of time, it seems... trying to unite the two groups...

➤ **There was a difference b/w the two...**

- **The Jewish people** grew up under the commands of the Mosaic Law...
 - And they felt compelled to keep as many of them as they could...
 - And they felt like the other members of the church should do the same thing
- **The Gentile** people grew up with no strings attaching them to the mosaic law...
 - So, they were free in almost every aspect from the law of Moses...
 - And this is a huge divide...

➤ **There, is no need to go deep into the divide between the two...**

- But, knowing that will help understand why Paul argues certain points
 - Therefore... you understand better what is going on

❖ One Overarching Idea in the Book of Romans

➤ It is about the Gospel of God, For the Glory of God

- This book is about God...
- **The gospel**, which is the good news concerning Jesus coming, death and resurrection...
 - Which in turn makes it so that men can follow Jesus and attain eternal life...
 - The Gospel is how God is glorified...

➤ God's Glory is The most important thing we could see:

- God's Glory coming first, is the key to unlocking good toward men...
- It is to God's glory that we are offered mercy and grace to come to God...

➤ So, What is this book about?

- God being Glorified in the Gospel

❖ What Are Some Things We Will Learn

➤ In this book He is going to explain clearly what salvation is...

- How salvation can be attained...
- How it was made possible...

➤ Paul is going to explain what righteousness is...

- And how we can have it

➤ He will explain the importance of Faith...

- And it's link to Grace...

➤ Paul explains what Grace is...

- and how it is possible for us to attain the Grace of God...

➤ All this and much much more...

- The Book of Romans is unlike any book in the new testament...
 - It offers so much to us in understanding how God has worked in us
 - And it offers such a behind the scene look as to why God worked the way that he did

➤ It is such an amazing book, that you would do well...

- If you took your time and read it over and over and over again...

➤ That is a little bitty bit of background for you... Let's lay a foundation before getting to the verses

❖ A Little Ground Work First

➤ What is the Gospel... and What is Salvation...

- Before giving you a definition of both...
- Let me ask you a question...

➤ Our First Big Question of the Day: What is man's greatest danger?

- What is it that man rightly worries about the most
- What is it that should keep people up at night the most...
 - When I was growing up I never had any nightmares...
 - ◆ I think I kind of had one... but it was fun all the way through until the end
 - When I got shot in the back...
 - And woke up to a picture having fallen off the wall onto my back...
 - **But... I had friends that had nightmares...**
 - ◆ And they were afraid of Freddie kruger, or Jason... or spiders or snakes... or whatever...
 - ◆ And it would keep them up at night worrying...
 - Maybe you have fears about how it feels to die... or cancer, or a heart attack...
 - Or a terrorist attack... or the dentist...
 - All of these things pail in comparison to our greatest danger...
 - **Maybe you would say...**
 - Our greatest danger is Satan... and how following him leads to death...

- Oh yeah... Death... that is our greatest danger... or Sin...
 - ◆ Can I change my answer to sin? Sin is the greatest danger...
- Wrong on all accounts....
- **Our greatest Danger is the Glorious, Almighty and All Holy God...**
 - ◆ Moses says in **Deut 4.24** “the Lord your God is a consuming Fire, a jealous God”
- **Our Greatest Danger is the Wrath of God...**
 - Of all things we ought to fear... it ought to be the God of all creation
 - That should keep people up at night...
- **Everyone considers God to be their friend...**
 - And that He would never do anything to hurt someone
 - He would always forgive and be kind...
 - But do not mistake God’s kindness with weakness...
 - ◆ Or make Him out to be someone who can be trifled with...
 - Trifle means treating Him insignificantly...
 - **God’s kindness** isn’t a license to be or do whatever... it has a another purpose all together
 - ◆ **Romans 2:4** “Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?”
 - **Because: Our Next set of verses**
 - ◆ **Romans 1:18** The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men...
 - And... all men have sinned...
 - And all men are unrighteous...
- **The Greatest Worry for Men should be...**
 - The wrath of Almighty God... for it is God you must contend with when you leave this earth
 - ◆ It is God you must answer to...
 - **So many people think it is the devil or demons that we need to be worried about...**
 - ◆ And I am not saying that is without warrant...
 - ◆ But it is clear as day... God ought to be feared FIRST and Foremost...
 - ◆ Jesus himself said, “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” – Matt 10:28

❖ What is Salvation

- **Let’s put it plainly ok...**
 - It is not just that we are saved from eternal death... although we are...
 - It is not just that we are saved from sin... although we are...
- **Our Salvation is being Saved from the wrath of God...**
 - Do you hear that this morning... please hear and understand...
 - That if you sit here today untouched in your heart by the Holy Spirit...
 - If you sit here having never repented of your sins and trusting in Jesus...
 - You sit under the wrath of God upon your pitiful soul...
- **Salvation is Salvation because it saves us from God!...**
 - You wonder... am I wrong? Am I crazy? Is this blasphemous... It is not!
 - Read your Bible...!
- **What is Salvation?... again... Being saved from the wrath of God...**
 - Why are all men at some point deserving of the wrath of God...
 - Paul will answer that in
 - **Romans 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

❖ What is the Gospel?

- **The Gospel comes to us in our most desperate Condition...**

- Standing in the truth of **Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**
- Standing in the truth of **Romans 6:23 for the wages of sin is death...**
 - And this is not just dying... there is a second death coming...
 - ◆ Where all unbelieving people will find themselves cast into a lake of fire...
 - ◆ **To be consumed by the wrath of God throughout eternity...**
 - ◆ This is where the gospel meets us...
- **The Gospel offers us Mercy... it offers us grace...**
- **The Gospel tells the story of Jesus...**
 - The Gospel explains to us that Jesus is God the Son of God
 - And that He came into this World to save sinners... he lived a perfect life...
 - And Jesus died on the cross... and He bore the punishment for our sins in His body
 - Jesus took the wrath of God for sinful man...
 - Then He Rose from the grave and eventually ascended into heaven
- **The Gospel tells us that God will give the righteous nature of Jesus**
 - To everyone who trusts in the Person and Work of Jesus...
- **The Gospel though... is not just saving us from the wrath of God...**
 - It is not just giving us heaven... because what if heaven is no fun?
 - It is not just removing our sins from us and forgiving us...
 - The Gospel is not just making people right with God...
- **The Gospel offers so much more...**
 - Because the Gospel offers us the greatest of all joys... it does not just save us from punishment
 - **It replaces that with unending satisfaction and Joy in the God of the universe...**
 - Repeat... write that down
 - **Now... that is for you to mature in... For you to grow in...**
 - Is the gospel working in you to create joy in you knowing of Jesus more and more...
- **Ok... Now that we have laid a little groundwork... and taking up almost all our time...**
 - Let's dig into these verses this morning...

❖ **Point #1: Obligation To Preach the Gospel**

- **I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.**
- **Paul says he has a debt... that is what he means by obligation here...**
 - He is in debt to... essentially all men here...
 - And from the following verses... you will see His debt is that He must preach the gospel...
 - He has an obligation to Preach the Gospel...
 - Preach means... To tell the good news... to bring the good news...
 - ◆ It doesn't mean to stand behind a pulpit or with a megaphone...
- **Our Second Big Question of the Day:**
 - **Why is Paul Obligated to Preach the Gospel... and are We in Debt to preach the Gospel as Well?**
- **Paul is in debt to Preach the Gospel Because:**
 - Look back at verse 5... **"We have received grace"**
 - Now... notice... it is not God that He is indebted to... although it is God through Christ Jesus
 - ◆ Who had given him grace...
 - The Debt: It is to the greeks and barbarians and wise and foolish
 - **Also... He is not in debt to God for the grace because then it would not be grace...**
 - ◆ Grace by definition means that you did not earn it... it was freely given...
 - ◆ Let me give you a verse to prove that...
 - **Romans 4.4 ⁴ Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵ And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,**
 - So understand... His debt to preach the gospel is not to God in this sense

- **I am not saying Paul thinks we have not been in debt to God...**
 - We were... because of our purposeful rebellion...
 - Which is why we needed the grace... right?
- **I am also not saying that Paul Doesn't think He ought to tell the gospel to others**
 - because of what Jesus has done for us.
 - Because He ought to... he should feel compelled to do this...
- **But here in this verse... that is not what is going on... Rather...**
 - Paul feels like He owes it to the rest of mankind...
 - Since he has received free grace... salvation from the wrath of God... and joy in Christ
 - He says... who am I to withhold it from anyone...
 - **Illustration:**
 - ◆ **The other night here at this church...**
 - Joanne came in with some chocolate covered Macadamia Nuts...
 - And she gave me a whole pack... which Lia promptly stole from me
 - Then she gave it back after taking a few...
 - But then I heard that Marise wanted some...
 - And there were a few left... And they were given to me...
 - so they were now my chocolate
 - ◆ **But, I felt compelled to share with Marise more than she even asked for...**
 - Why... I said... because I had been given it freely... Joanne had asked for nothing
 - And she graciously gave me a whole pack of yummy goodness
 - ◆ **Now... what kind of person would I have been...**
 - If I kept the whole pack to myself when I knew that Marise wanted a few
 - She didn't take them from me like Lia... who apparently didn't trust me to share
 - What if I had said... they are mine... I deserve them and not you
 - Joanne chose me because I am nice to her... because I have a beard
 - Because I have been a better friend to her
 - I follow the rules better
 - Because I am this or that...
 - **I would have been Selfish and extremely vain...**
 - Also... I think I would have lacked an understanding of a free gift
 - I wouldn't have understood grace...
- **Paul Understood grace...**
 - So He wanted to share how God had taken away His sins...
 - ◆ How God had given Him a righteousness that was not His own...
 - ◆ And this was only through Faith...
 - **He wanted to share that with the people around him...**
 - ◆ He felt obligated to do this...
 - ◆ No matter who they were...
 - because He considered himself on level ground with them all
- **Are We too in debt to preach the gospel...? A Resounding Yes!...**
 - Have we not received the same gospel
 - Have we not received the same grace
 - Have we not received the same righteousness from Jesus that was not our own...
 - If indeed we have...
 - **Therefore... We too are obligated to tell the gospel to all people...**
 - How are we doing?

❖ **Point #2: Eagerness to Preach the Gospel**

- **15 So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.**

- **Not Only was Paul obligated to tell the gospel...**
 - He was also Eager...
 - Eager meaning... he was willing and ready and had a desire to do this...
- **Before we go too much further...**
 - I want you to understand that Paul is not only referring to Evangelism...
 - ◆ Just explaining the gospel to the unbeliever
 - ◆ Which I do believe He has that in mind...
 - **But it seems from the text he also wants to encourage believers with the gospel...**
 - ◆ And this will become more and more clear as we continue...
 - **But, look back for a moment... He wants to come preach the gospel to them...**
 - And He is speaking to many believers here in this church in this letter...
 - And back in verses 11 and 12 he says he wants to **encourage** them
 - and be **encouraged by** them... and he wants to **strengthen** them...
 - **And the reason he wants to tell the gospel... explain it... expound on it ... to believers...**
 - Is because they must continue in the gospel if they want to be saved...
 - They must continue believing... so it is important that he come and encourage them...
 - ◆ More on that point next week...
- **Here in lies one of the reasons he was eager...**
 - Not only was he excited to see people believe the gospel...
 - He was also excited to see people continue in the gospel and be strengthened in the gospel
 - **There is a principal here you must learn: Write it down...**
 - You should be prepared to encourage your fellow believers in the gospel...
 - You should be prepared to strengthen others with the gospel
- **This begins to lead us to the main reason He was eager to preach the gospel...**
 - Look forward to verse 16 He says... I am eager to preach to you in Rome
 - **16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,**
 - If you look in that verse... you see Paul **believes** something about the gospel
 - ◆ More than that... he **knows** something about the gospel
 - ◆ **It is the power of the God for salvation to everyone who believes...**
 - **It is the Power of the Gospel that feeds Paul's eagerness to preach**
 - To preach to unbelievers... but also to believers
- **Big Question #3: Why aren't we more eager? What can help create a stronger desire in us to tell the gospel...?**
 - Maybe we need a fresh and intimate experience with the Power of God for salvation...
 - **And what I mean by that is this:**
 - **One:** We need to recognize our sins before a Holy God and come to Him for the first time
 - **Or Two:** We need to live daily shaped by the truths of the gospel...
 - ◆ Meaning we meditate on it, read about it, and live it... then see how God shapes us
- **We See Paul is Eager to tell the gospel... And We should be the same way...**
 - But we need to be shaped by it...
- **Now... Let's look at Paul's attitude about the Gospel...**

❖ **Point #3: Unashamed to Preach the Gospel**

- **16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel,**
- **What does it mean to be ashamed? And are you Ashamed?**
 - To be ashamed means you are embarrassed
 - **Illustration:**
 - When I was growing up...
 - ◆ my dad did not believe in spending a lot of money on shoes and clothes...

- ◆ Therefore... I always got my shoes from payless
- ◆ And I hated it... I hated it, not because they were not fine shoes...
- **Because when I went to school... all my other classmates wore name brand shoes...**
 - ◆ I do not know how they could afford it, but they had them...
 - ◆ And they would make fun of me for my cheaper shoes...
 - ◆ So I would try to walk so they couldn't see them...
 - ◆ Or keep my feet under my desk so they didn't stand out...
 - I am serious... telling the truth... shoes were a big deal...
- **I was embarrassed because I was not proud of my shoes...**
 - ◆ I did not like them... because they were of little value...
- **Now... there was this one time I got some hand me down Air Jordans from my cousin**
 - ◆ And they were Red... They looked something like this... (show picture)
 - ◆ To my dad, they were the most hideous thing he had ever seen...
 - ◆ He wore boots everyday... As a matter of fact... I do not think I even saw him in a pair of sneakers till I was like 15...
 - So he didn't like them...
 - ◆ But to me... they had the sweet fragrance of coolness to them...
 - Even though they were used...
- **I loved those shoes...**
 - ◆ Why? I knew their value... and I also knew my classmates... who obsessed over shoes...
 - Would think they were cool...
 - ◆ I wore those shoes... literally until they almost fell off my feet
 - And I showed them off... and I stuck my feet out in the aisle for others to see
 - ◆ I was not ashamed of the Air Jordans... I knew their value...
 - It did not matter to me what my dad thought about those shoes...
- **Paul was Unashamed of the Gospel...**
 - The Gospel had saved him
 - The gospel had transformed his life
 - The gospel was continuing to save him and continuing to transform his life...
- **An Aside... Let's Separate the gospel from past church experiences...**
 - Or legalism... or health and wealth ism
 - Or hatreds and racisms etc... These things make us ashamed of "church" sometimes
 - The gospel of God is not what some people in the church have twisted it to be...
 - Do not make the mistake of being frustrated with following God over man's sin in the church
- **Now... what drove Paul to being so Unashamed of the Gospel?**
 - Because you can look at his life... He did not care what anyone said...
 - He was going to preach the gospel...
 - **They could beat him, whip him, torture him, stone him, arrest him, steal from him, lie to him, leave him, shipwreck him, starve him...**
 - **They could shame him every day...**
 - But He would never be ashamed of that gospel he held on to so dearly all his days...
 - Because Jesus had given the murderous Paul undeserved Grace!
- **#4 Big Question: Are you ashamed of the gospel? If so, Why?**
 - You really need to ask that question
 - **Do you not see the value of Jesus?**
 - Do you not remember what He has done for you?
 - Do you not remember from where you have come?... who you were?... what you did?
 - Have you ever even experienced the salvation that comes from the gospel...
 - **For many of us, We have wondered away from the warmth of God's promises in the gospel.**
 - Therefore we need to get real close and spend some extra time there

- We need to remember what God has done for us... and let that feed our life...
- **This is Explained greatly for us by Luke in Luke 7 (I love this snippet from Jesus' life)**
 - The scene is Jesus has come to the house of a Pharisee
 - And there was a woman who heard that He was there...
 - And in the text Luke says, "there was a woman in the city who was a sinner"
 - ◆ Now... we assume she must have been pretty bad to have that label in town...
 - **But she came to the dinner with a perfume bottle...**
 - ◆ And she poured it all over Jesus feet, and she wept over them and wiped his feet with her tears...
 - ◆ And she was kissing his feet...
 - ◆ When the Pharisee saw this, it seemed as if he were appalled that Jesus would allow it
- **So Jesus spoke to the Pharisee**
 - Luke 7:40-48 ⁴⁰ And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher." ⁴¹ "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷ Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." ⁴⁸ And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

➤ **Also in Luke we see Jesus healing ten lepers**

- Luke 17:11-18 On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." ¹⁴ When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."
 - Notice here... Jesus was gracious to all of them... but only one came back to thank Him...
 - ◆ Do you see the avenue of His healing... it was his faith... in Christ...
 - ◆ Which we will see next week...
 - Faith is the avenue to receiving and accessing the grace the gospel offers

➤ **Who are you? Who am I?**

- Once you answer that honestly... you can then move forward...
- And begin to look at the depth and the wonders of the gospel of Jesus

➤ **And... this moves us to where we will pick up next week...**

- And this is why Paul had such unwavering confidence and unashamedness in the gospel
- There was power in the gospel

❖ **Point #4 The Power of God in the Gospel**

❖ **Invitation**