

Living the Gospel 2

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."

❖ Recap

➤ Background

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

➤ **So, What is this book about?**

▪ God being Glorified in the Gospel

➤ A Little Ground Work First

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

▪ Our Greatest Danger is the Wrath of God...

➤ What is Salvation

➤ **Salvation is Salvation because it saves us from God!...**

➤ What is the Gospel?

➤ **The Gospel comes to us in our most desperate Condition**

• The Gospel offers us Mercy... it offers us grace...

➤ **The Gospel tells the story of Jesus...**

• The Gospel tells us that God will give the righteous nature of Jesus

• The Gospel though... is not just saving us from the wrath of 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...**

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

▪ **Paul is in debt to Preach the Gospel Because:**

▪ Look back at verse 5... **"We have received grace"**

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

▪ **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...

• 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

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

➤ **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...

▪ **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"**

❖ Point #4 The Power of God in the Gospel

- **For it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes**
- **Let's Look closely at the construction of this verse and what Paul is trying to tell us...**
 - And let's ask the question... Is it really important that I dig into this verse and unlock it
 - **To get into Paul's mind...**
 - What does he mean... that the gospel is the power of God for salvation...
 - ◆ **To everyone who believes...**
 - And... why is it so important for me today...
- **Let me make a logical argument... I will presume something today as I make...**
 - What I believe is a very logical argument...
- **My Argument...**
 - **First... I assume... that as you read these verses...**
 - And you hear or see Paul write: **"I am obligated... I am eager... to preach the gospel..."**
 - ◆ I assume that you ask yourself the question... Do I feel obligated as well?
 - ◆ Am I eager to tell the gospel as well?
 - I assume that you probably ask that question...
 - **Secondly... You also probably come to the conclusion...**
 - I do not feel obligated like Paul did... And I am not eager like him either...
 - And it is probably not even a close comparison...
 - **Thirdly... You probably ask the question....**
 - Why don't I? Why am I so unlike this man of God...
 - Don't I believe the same gospel...
 - Haven't I been born again by the same spirit...
 - **Finally... I hope you all then say...**
 - What needs to happen to me to make that change...
 - I want to be like this.... I just do not know how...
 - I want to be more open and vocal about my belief in Jesus
 - I want to help more people gain eternal Life in Jesus...
 - **Now... I am not promising I can create that in you today...**
 - I am asking the same thing... I am desiring the same thing...
 - **But, I do think the answer is in the text...**
 - Paul is going to bring you in on why He is so eager to preach the gospel...
 - And I think if we look closely... what Paul desired... we too can begin to desire...
 - ◆ With the help of the Holy Spirit ...
 - ◆ **Let's dig in...**
- **Remember.... He is eager to preach the gospel...**
 - And then... He is going to give us the reason why...
 - **We get to look behind the scenes a little bit as to why He is so eager...**
 - Already He has told us one of His reasons...
 - ◆ In verse 5... **"We have received grace"**
 - **Also...** He is longing to be encouraged by them and to encourage them with the gospel...
 - ◆ But... He is about to let us in on why He is so confident in doing this...
 - **Paul's Eagerness was born from his confidence... (write that down)**
- **Paul's confidence was in the Power of God....**
 - Look closely at what he says... after saying... **I am not ashamed of the gospel...**
 - **For it** (the gospel) **is the power of God for Salvation...**
 - **Remember the gospel is... The Story about Jesus...**
 - But not just the story of Jesus... it is not just a story
 - ◆ But this story built from who He actually is, what He did and what He said...

- **In this gospel... or good news...**
 - There was a power... and not just any ol' power... The power of God for Salvation...
- **God is a powerful God...**
 - **By the very word of God...**
 - All matter came into existence... All matter is sustained
 - The earth was created... the sun was created... the billions of galaxies...
 - ◆ With their trillions of stars...
 - **God's power builds up nations...**
 - And it tears them down... It brings shepherds into kingship... And reduces kings to slaves
 - **God's Power can cause the earth to stop moving...**
 - God's power can shake the earth...
 - It can separate water from water
 - It can heal the sick and deaf and blind and dumb and lame...
 - **God's Power sustains our life**
 - It can start the beating of a heart... Or maintain it, or stop it...
 - It can make men's lungs continue to fill with air... or it can stop it...
 - **If you do not believe me...**
 - **Read the Bible... it is all in there...**
- **Paul knew a powerful God...**
 - He knew Him because He spent time with him in His Word and Prayer
 - What is your God like??
 - **We can conclude so far...** that Paul's Confidence was in God... **(write that down)**
 - Are you confident in God?
- **So... Paul sees the gospel in such a way... that He calls it the power of God... for salvation...**
 - Notice the verse : **Not ashamed of the gospel for IT IS the power of God**
 - **IT IS** indicates that there is an equality...
 - In math... we write $4+4=8$... we say 4 plus 4 is 8
 - Those two numbers equal the one number...
 - We can reverse it too... 8 is 4 plus 4...
 - **The Greek word for IT IS...** actually means... **Identical**
 - The reason for Paul's confidence in God... and eagerness to preach the gospel...
 - Is because he equated the gospel with the power of God...
- **Now... There is a purpose to this power of God in the gospel...**
 - It is directional... it is purposeful...
 - ◆ The gospel's power is not used to create the world here...
 - ◆ The gospel's power is not used to set up worldly kingdoms
 - ◆ **It is a targeted... it is targeted like a missile locked in on an enemy target...**
 - **Remember man's greatest danger...**
 - Not just dying... or sin... or satan...
 - Rather... man's greatest danger is the wrath of God...
 - **The Gospel's Power... is focused in on the wrath of God...**
 - It is Awesome to see that... to be saved from the wrath of God...
 - ◆ *One must have access to the power of God in the gospel...*
 - **(Write that down)**
 - And Paul seems to be **extremely confident** in the Gospel's ability to save people...
- **Now... Let me try to illustrate this for you...**
 - When David heard Goliath challenge the nation of Israel and God himself...
 - The king at the time was Saul... and He was very afraid... as well as the rest of the nation
 - **But, David prepared himself to go up against Goliath**

- 1 Samuel 17:26 For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"
- **David's confidence** was in something besides himself...
 - 1 Samuel 17:32-37 And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." ³³ And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth." ³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. ³⁶ Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷ And David said, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!"
 - Moses had this same confidence in God
 - Much like David and Moses... Paul had seen God's deliverance for himself and many others
 - ◆ in the power of the gospel
- **Now... Let's consider This Salvation...**
 - **It is not just someone converting to a religion... or way of thinking**
 - Where they start coming to church... and serving a little here and there...
 - ◆ Where they are convinced in their minds they are right
 - There are so many religions that have converts...
 - ◆ Converts just need to be persuaded in their mind to follow a certain religion
 - **Salvation** goes way beyond making a convert...
 - Salvation saves a person from the righteous wrath of almighty God
 - Salvation transforms the person
 - Salvation born from the power of the Gospel is rebirth...
 - **Salvation** actually takes a rebellious sinful person (as we all are)...
 - And it causes something like a Metamorphosis...
 - ◆ Anyone know what a metamorphosis is?
 - It comes from two greek words meaning a change in form...
 - It means transformation...
 - Like a caterpillar that spins a cocoon and emerges as a butterfly...
 - ◆ And it looks totally different...
 - It has a change in form... It has a change in its habits... It has a change in its behavior
 - **This Salvation is a little different though...**
 - Whereas the Butterfly is made up of the same things as the caterpillar...
 - ◆ It only underwent a physical change...
 - ◆ The caterpillar had everything it needed within itself to become the butterfly...
 - **The Salvation of God is something slightly different...**
 - ◆ Rebellious man did not have everything he needed within himself...
 - ◆ Instead of a metamorphosis of form...
 - ◆ God gives the rebellious man an alien transformation...
 - Not like the outerspace aliens that do not exist... My opinion!
 - ◆ The saved person is given an outside source of transformation
 - **The Salvation of God saves men from the wrath of God...**
 - ◆ By giving the person the righteous nature of God...
 - It is **imputed** to us... his nature is given to us
 - ◆ The righteous nature of God is the nature of Jesus... given to us by faith

➤ Repeat... (Then write this down!)

▪ **There is more to this Salvation... (Do not Miss this!) (Write it down)**

- It is not only a saving from something... namely the wrath of God...
- It is also a saving TO something... or FOR something...
- We are saved to have joy and pleasure in God...!
- Isaiah 25:9 It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."
- John 15:11 "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

➤ **Have you experienced the power of God in the Gospel for your Salvation?**

- Look at the next point... Who gets to experience this power of God in the Gospel?

❖ **Point #5 Everyone Who Believes the Gospel**

- to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

➤ **Everyone who believes...**

- Before I dig into that statement (everyone believes)
- Look at the last phrase... to the Jew first, and also to the Greek...
- There is probably a lot to be said there...
 - I will **simply** note that the gospel came first to the Jews, and then to the rest of the world
 - There is no distinction made here as to the importance of the one over the other...

➤ **Everyone who believes...**

- This is a very important phrase... Paul is directing the gospel to everyone who believes...
- **Previously** He has said that the gospel is the power of God for salvation...
 - And this is awesome... unless it is not for me....
 - But Paul clears that up quickly when he says...
 - It is for everyone who believes... but that is not everyone...
 - ◆ Rather... only those who are believing....

➤ **Let's examine how Paul writes this...**

- When He says it is for "**everyone who believes**"
- **First**, He is using words to indicate... there is an active believing going on by the subject...
 - The believing is being done by the person...
- **Secondly** the believing is ongoing and continuing with no thought of completing or ending
 - That is the **present tense active voice**...
- **So, to put it again...** Paul is saying that the gospel is the power of God to save those
 - Who continually and actively believe...
- **There is no sense in this verse of only a past event...**
 - Believing the gospel is not seen as simply a past event...
 - Rather, the believing is seen as present and continuing...
- **So... Paul is saying here that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation**
 - To everyone who is believing...
 - ◆ Do you see the distinction...

➤ **Paul's Eagerness to Preach is tied to this statement...**

- **If you remember back to :**

- Romans 1:11-13 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— ¹² that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. ¹³ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.

- ◆ Impart to them spiritual gift... strengthen them... be encouraged by them, to encourage them, reap some harvest among them...
 - This is all going to be possible if he can come and preach the gospel to them
- **Although I have no doubt He wants to see unsaved people saved with the Gospel**
 - He is also wanting to tell it and preach it and share it with the believers...
- **Why is Paul wanting to share it with believers... who have already heard it?**
 - Here we are again at verse 16...
 - “for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes”
 - It seems in Paul’s mind that the Gospel keeps people believing...
- **Can You See Why You Are So Important in the Church?**
 - Because... if you dig in and get into the Word
 - And you understand what God has done to you and others
 - **You can keep people walking with God... through you understanding of the gospel**
 - And your continually telling of it...
 - You refer to it... you let it guide how you make decisions among the church
 - You let it shape the way your relationships are formed and continued...
 - **Can you say today that the Gospel is shaping you so that:**
 - Every relationship you have is molded by the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
 - **What a responsibility we do have...**
 - What a blessed responsibility to help keep others walking with the Lord...
 - Are you helping? Or are you the one who always needs the help?
 - ◆ (Write that down)
 - *John Piper said, “And I fully believe that the reason he does is that when believers know and love and live on the meat of the gospel, we will be so gospel-filled and gospel-shaped and gospel-dependent and gospel-driven and gospel-hoping and gospel-joyful that no one will need to tell us why we need to share the gospel or how to share the gospel. We will be so thankful and so desperately, day-by-day dependent on the gospel for our own hope of eternal life, and our own sanity, and our own stability, and our own marriages or singleness, that it will be impossible not to know that people need the gospel and why they need it and how it relates to their biggest needs – because we know we need it, and why we need it, and how it meets our biggest needs day by day.”*
- **Also... note... that the power of the Gospel for salvation... is unlocked by believing**
 - **To everyone who believes...** we have noted that this is a continual and present believing...
 - And we make this distinction because of the danger for people to fall away...
 - ◆ **One verse that teaches this is:**
 - **Romans 11:22** ²² **Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God’s kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.**
 - So... He is speaking of people who continue in their believing...
 - But this also presumes there was a time that they began to believe...
- **Believing is the “how” a people are saved by the power of the gospel...**
 - Believing simply means trusting...
 - When a person believes the gospel... they are **trusting** in the truthfulness of it
- **What is Trust...**
 - The dictionary defines it like this
 - 1) belief that someone or something is reliable, good, honest, effective, etc.
 - 2) : an arrangement in which someone's property or money is legally held or managed by someone else or by an organization (such as a bank) for usually a set period of time
 - **Let’s say for example... tomorrow you inherited the lego empire...**
 - I know you kids would like to inherit that.... And so would us adults...

- The lego empire is probably worth over 10 billion dollars...
 - ◆ Its yearly revenue in 2013 was 4.7 billion dollars...
- **Ok... so you inherited this awesome company...**
 - ◆ What are you going to do now...
 - I assume you do not have a whole lot of experience running this kind of company
 - You wouldn't know where to start...
- **You would create a trust with someone else to manage your company and assets...**
 - ◆ When you do this, you are trusting that person or organization to handle your huge empire for your benefit...
- **Let's bring this back to you and the gospel...**
 - What is it that you have right now that is of the utmost importance to you...
 - Is it not your very life... your soul... your eternal future?
- **Believing the Gospel means that the person has placed His Life in the trust of Jesus**
 - Believing means you have trusted Jesus with your life...
 - You believe He is reliable and good and honest and effective...
 - You believe He is God as He said He is
 - You believe that He was perfect as the scriptures say He is...
 - You believe that His perfect life was laid down for you on the cross
 - You believe that what Jesus did on the cross removed God's wrath from you
 - You believe that Jesus took on that wrath for you
 - You believe that what Jesus has done brings forgiveness for your sins...
 - You believe that you have sins that need forgiveness
 - You believe when Jesus said you must repent or perish
 - You believe that after Jesus died He rose from the dead
 - You believe He is the resurrection and the life...
 - You believe that Jesus has the power over death
 - You believe that you too will be given life after death
 - **You have entrusted your very soul to Jesus**
- **Now answer me this question?**
 - What does a person that continually believes all that look like? **REPEAT**

Next Time we are together...

- ❖ **Point #6 God's Righteousness Revealed in the Gospel**
 - **17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."**
- **So far... we see the gospel has produces and obligation in Paul**
 - It has produce and eagerness in Paul to preach the gospel
 - The gospel has created a feeling of boldness and shamelessness
 - The Gospel is the power of God for salvation
- **Next week we will begin to look at how: In the Gospel...**
 - Out of the Gospel... God's Righteousness is revealed...
 - We will see that the Gospel itself opens us up to understand the Righteousness of God...
 - We will see how God's righteousness and Man's Righteousness intersect... or converge...
 - See verse 17 **For in it (the gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed**
- **Then... the next part of that verse will be discussed...**
 - God's Righteousness is revealed from Faith for faith... or faith to faith...
 - What does He mean here?
 - **Then... we'll see it is Faith that is the avenue by which a person receives the Gospel...**
 - So we will need to understand what Faith is...
 - And how we get it