

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."

❖ Introduction

➤ We will be dealing with verse 17 today

- 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

➤ The first part of this book teaches us that Paul is the author

- It teaches us that he is writing to the church in Rome...
 - We also see that this church had a very big gentile population... like us...

➤ Verses 1-7

▪ Paul writes that God has set him apart to be an apostle

- And particularly an apostle of the gospel... which God had promised through the prophets
- He briefly summarizes the gospel in verse 3,4
 - ◆ Romans 1:3-4 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,
- He tells his readers that He has received grace from Jesus
- This grace is leading him to take the gospel to others so that they will come to believe

➤ Verses 8-13

▪ He tells them that their faith is being proclaimed around the world

- And He thanks God for that...
- Then he tells them that He does not cease making mention of them when he prays
- And He was constantly asking God if He could come and see them
- He tells them he wanted to impart on them some spiritual gift
- And He wanted to strengthen them... and be mutually strengthened by them...

➤ Verses 14-17... 5 points so far...

- Point #1: Obligation To Preach the Gospel
- Point #2: Eagerness to Preach the Gospel
- Point #3: Unashamed to Preach the Gospel
- Point #4 The Power of God in the Gospel
- Point #5 Everyone Who Believes the Gospel

❖ Let's start today with The Gospel

➤ For in it.... In what... in the gospel

▪ What is the gospel?

- The word means good news...
 - ◆ There is good news for the entire world... good news for a world full of dying people
 - Look around... everyone is dying... and uncertain of their fate after death
 - And God offers the good news of the Gospel

▪ And if I were to tell someone the gospel

- And I only had a few minutes... because there are many things you could say...
 - ◆ Which shows the depth of the gospel...
- But I only had a few minutes...
 - ◆ I could do it... because there is a simplicity to the gospel as well...

- ◆ Simple enough that a young child can understand
- **I would say...**
 - **Look around you... there is death everywhere... everyone dies...**
 - ◆ And we die because we have all sinned...
 - and death is our penalty for rebelling against God
 - ◆ And that is what sin is... it is rebelling against God... even when we do not know it
 - **But God is kind and gracious... and He has not left us alone**
 - ◆ Although God is Holy and Righteous and there are consequences to sin
 - ◆ He offers a way of Salvation...
 - ◆ And we need salvation because all men stand guilty before God
 - ◆ And they stand under that wrath of God...
 - **So, God sent His only Son Jesus into the world...**
 - ◆ And although Jesus has existed with God the Father throughout eternity
 - ◆ Jesus became a little baby... so that he could be come like a man
 - **Jesus did this so that He could serve men...**
 - ◆ He lived a perfect sinless life.
 - ◆ He fulfilled hundreds of prophecies written about him hundreds and thousands of years
 - ◆ He taught many wonderful things
 - ◆ **He raised people from the dead, and healed the blind and deaf and lame...**
 - He cast out demons and did many amazing miracles...
 - And to prove their truthfulness... even his enemies did not deny them
 - They just would not believe who He said He was
 - **But, Jesus did not just come to live a perfect sinless life and teach people things...**
 - ◆ Jesus came to offer himself up as a sacrifice... Jesus came to die
 - ◆ Jesus came to place himself in the place of sinful man...
 - ◆ So that anyone that believed on Him... would be granted forgiveness of their sins
 - ◆ And eternal life
 - **So, Jesus is drug out before the leaders of the day and they decide to execute Him**
 - ◆ Because he claimed to be God...
 - ◆ So He is hung on a cross after being beaten and mocked and spat upon...
 - ◆ And He takes it all...
 - ◆ And in that act of being executed He was also bearing the wrath of God for man
 - ◆ He put himself in our place, for our sins...
 - **Jesus then dies....**
 - ◆ But that is not the rest of the story...
 - ◆ Three days later He raises himself up from the grave and appears to hundreds...
 - ◆ People see Jesus perfectly fine after being tortured to death
 - **Jesus is resurrected in Power...**
 - ◆ And Jesus hangs around 40 more days before heading back to heaven
 - **And Jesus promises Eternal Life to all who believe in Him**
 - ◆ In what He said, what He did and who He is...
 - ◆ That is the gospel....
- **Now: There is power in that!**
 - There is power to save the hardest of hearts in the gospel I just shared...
 - ◆ If the Holy Spirit works to convince as I share those words...
 - **and I do pray that He does...**
 - ◆ Then God will convert someone and give them eternal life...
 - ◆ When the person places their faith in the gospel
 - That is what Paul means when he says that **the gospel is the power of God unto salvation**

- **The great evangelist Dwight L. Moody commented that the gospel is like a lion.**
 - All the preacher has to do is to open the door of the cage and get out of the way!
 - And we all have the ability and calling to share this gospel with others...
- **Then what response can we have to the gospel**
 - We can trust in and believe the gospel
 - We can be undecided... which means we do not believe
 - Or we can reject it in unbelief... being undecided and rejecting are essentially the same

❖ **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
 - And we have look at a brief summary of what the Gospel is...
 - And here Paul goes on to argue that in it... that is in the gospel
 - The righteousness of God is revealed...
- **The Righteousness of God is revealed...**
 - **Back in the 1500's there was a catholic Monk named Martin Luther**
 - Many of you are familiar with him...
 - And if not, you should be...
 - He is considered the Father of the Reformation
 - **Martin Luther was a good monk...**
 - Although he did not think so... but he worked his tail off
 - And he deprived himself of so much...
 - **Luther saw God as Holy and righteous...**
 - And that He had to work to be commended before God...
 - So, when He cam across this verse...
 - The righteousness of God is revealed... He saw it as more of a burden... He hated this verse
 - **Luther knew man's greatest danger was the wrath of God...**
 - Remember we have discusses this...
 - We are in danger of the wrath of God... Why?
 - Because He is Holy and Righteous...
 - ◆ And a being as Holy and Righteous as God, can not overlook sin...
 - **But there were some things that Luther did not see yet...**
 - That when He did... it would spark a freedom inside of Him... And birth a Reformation...
 - So, lets look at what Paul means here
- **The Righteousness of God is revealed in the Gospel...**
 - **There are some verses we should consider first, so we gain a greater understanding...**
 - **Romans 3:23-26 ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**
 - **Notice what Paul is teaching...**
 - All men have sinned... they fall short of God's glory
 - They are made right with God by God's grace... and that is a gift....
 - But this gift of grace is given... through the redeeming qualities of Jesus

- **Whom... Paul explains... was put forth as an appeasement by his blood...**
 - ◆ Meaning... that Jesus blood quenched the wrath of God toward sin
 - ◆ Paul says... this showed God's righteousness...
 - What Jesus did was a display of God being righteous...
- **Then He explains it even more...**
 - ◆ He says it shows that God is just...
 - Why? Because God did not overlook sin... rather Jesus himself was offered
 - ◆ It also shows that God is the justifier of the one who has faith...
 - Meaning God justifies or makes right... the person who has faith...
- **God shows His righteousness in the Gospel...**
 - **It is revealed....**
 - **Which suggests that is was previously not revealed...**
 - Not to say that God had not declared Himself to be righteous
 - Or even shown his righteous qualities...
 - **It wasn't until the Gospel that man could fully understand God's righteous nature**
 - The Gospel reveals it...
- **Why is this so important?**
 - **Because... the revealing of God's righteousness shows us something**
 - It shows us how we are saved...
 - First, Paul says that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to all who believe...
 - And believing is what we must do...
 - **But, the Gospel also shows us how God can save us...**
 - He saves us by revealing His righteousness....
 - ◆ Which is given to us because of what Jesus did...
 - **The very thing we must have to enter into heaven...**
 - We are given freely by God through Faith...
 - The author of Hebrews says that without Holiness no one can see the Lord...
 - ◆ And here we see the answer is that God makes us Holy...
- **Also.... It is a continual revealing of God's righteousness...**
 - **Remember how the gospel is the power of God unto Salvation to all who believe**
 - And we looked at the tense of that verb... And how it means...
 - ◆ the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to all who continue believing...
 - Meaning the person must continue believing...
 - But more importantly... the gospel keeps them believing...
 - **Here Paul uses the same tense with the word reveal...**
 - For in it (the gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed....
 - ◆ Right now in the present and continually...
 - ◆ So it is continually being revealed
- **The Gospel.... Continues to reveal God's righteousness.....**
 - So... day after day we are reminded of the Righteousness of God!
- **How is it revealed?**
 - **From faith for faith...**
 - Many have tried interpreting this little phrase... but it seems best to understand it like this
 - It is through faith that God's righteousness is revealed...
 - ◆ Faith is the origin... the starting point of seeing God's righteousness...
 - ◆ And receiving it as our own...
 - **From faith for faith.... Or from faith to faith...**
 - ◆ After our original starting point of Faith...
 - It leads to more faith...

- **The righteousness of God being revealed...**

- ◆ Leads to continual growing in faith

- **Restate:**

- From faith to faith means:
 - ◆ God's righteousness is revealed in the gospel by our faith...
 - ◆ and it continues to more and more faith...

- **Let's look briefly at the last part of verse 17**

- ❖ **Point #7 Faith the Avenue to Receiving 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."**

- **This is a quote from Habakuk 2:4**

- At the time of habakuk Israel had fallen away from God...
 - And God was sending the Babylonians to bring judgment on Israel for unrighteous ways...
 - But, there is always a glimmer of Hope...
 - **And Habakuk quotes God as saying the righteous shall live by Faith...**
 - So here, in the old testament God is offering hope to the people of a fallen nation...
 - He reminds them that even though the world is falling around them...
 - Their faith in Him will lead to Life...

- **Faith is the Avenue to receiving the gospel**

- The righteous person shall live by faith...
 - Here what he is not saying... He is not saying the righteous person shall live by his good works..
 - When He says live... he does not simply mean... continue living in this world...
 - Paul is referring to life after death... He is referring to eternal life...
 - The same thing Jesus says in
 - **John 11:25-26 ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"**

- **It is Faith and not your good deeds that make you righteous...**

- **Paul says**
 - **Ephesian 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

- **This opens our eyes to understand all the men of old who were thought to be righteous**

- They were righteous because of their faith...
 - Not because they never sinned...
 - God's righteousness is revealed in the gospel...
 - That it is through Faith in the Works of Jesus that we are made Righteous in the eyes of God
 - Because God makes us righteous...
 - He provides what we need to escape the wrath we deserve

- **But... We must receive the Gospel in faith...**

- **John 1:12 ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,**

- **Faith is:**

- It means strong confidence and reliance upon something... it is understood as trusting
 - The Bible defines it like this in
 - **Hebrews 11:1-2 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.² For by it the people of old received their commendation.**

- ❖ **Invitation**

- What is your faith in?