
Romans: Gospel People

Midweek Bible Study

Week 2 - Romans 1:1-17: The most powerful message in the World



Quotes about Romans

“...really the chief part of the New Testament, and ...truly the purest gospel.”

“It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul”

Martin Luther

“If we have gained a true understanding of this epistle, we have an open door to all the most profound treasures of Scripture”

John Calvin

“The principal and most excellent part of the New Testament, and most pure Euangelion, that is to say glad tidings... and also a light and a way into the whole of Scripture”

“...the more it is studied, the easier it is; the more it is chewed, the pleasanter it is”

William Tyndale

“...a timeless manifesto, a manifesto of freedom through Jesus Christ. It is the fullest, plainest and grandest statement of the gospel in the New Testament”

John Stott

1:1-17 Suggested structure (John Stott)

Paul and the gospel (1-6)

Paul and the Romans (7-13)

Paul and evangelism (14-17)

1:1 Paul's call

Servant - gk. *doulos*, lit. slave

Apostle - gk. *apostolos*, also messenger, from verb *apostello* - to send

having been set apart - gk. *aphōrismenos* - similar root to Pharisee ('separated one')

Gospel - gk. *euangelion*, glad tidings or good news

1:3-4 The gospel... regarding his Son

Jesus is both the rightful King of Israel through his earthly ancestry (v3) and King of Kings, King of the universe, through his eternal status as Son of God (v4)

Verse 3	Verse 4
a descendant/who has come of David/from the seed of David	was appointed/declared Son of God in power
as to his earthly life/according to the flesh	through the Spirit of holiness...by his resurrection from the dead

1:1-7 Paul's call and theirs (ours)

Paul	Romans (us too)
v1 - called	v6,7 - called
v1 - servant/slave of Christ Jesus (<i>doulos</i>)	v5 - obedience, v6 - called to <i>belong</i> to Christ
v1 - set apart	v7 - holy

1:11-13 Paul's reason for wanting to come to them

“so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift”

“that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith”

“that I might have a harvest among you”

1:14

obligated - gk. *opheiletēs*, lit. a debtor

non-greeks - gk. *barbarois*, lit. barbarians

1:16 The gospel is for everyone

v5 - 'we received grace and apostleship to call **all the Gentiles...**'

v7 - 'To **all in Rome**' (often Paul addresses 'the church in...')

v13 - 'as I have had among the other gentiles'

v14 - 'I am obligated both to **Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish**'

v16 - '...salvation to **everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.**'

1:17 Righteousness by faith

Luther on righteousness

"I had greatly longed to understand Paul's letter to the Romans, and nothing stood in the way but that one expression, 'the righteousness of God', because I took it to mean that righteousness whereby God is righteous and acts righteously in punishing the unrighteous... Night and day I pondered until... I grasped the truth that the righteousness of God is that righteousness whereby, through grace and sheer mercy, he justifies us by faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise." 1515

is (being) revealed - gk. *apokalypsetai* - from which we get apocalypse, this revelation is ongoing and has a future fulfilment (eschatological)

"The righteous will live by faith" - Habakkuk 2:4

Some questions for discussion

In what way do you identify with Paul's call, in what ways do you not?

What spiritual gifts do you have? How often do you minister to others using your gifts/
benefit from the gifts of others?

Do you sense a God-given obligation to share with others? In what way?

What are the biggest barriers to you sharing the gospel with others?