

Romans 1:1-7

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle (Eph 4:11-16), set apart (or devoted to, 111 times in the Bible, Numbers 6) for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 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, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, 6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. Theme

A. We talked about the man Paul:

1. Wrote the letter to Romans from Corinth
 - a. Hope to travel to Spain by way of Rome but had to stop off in Jerusalem to drop off the scrolls (Rom 15:19-32, Acts 19:21)
 - b. Romans 16, Paul gives a shoutout to Phoebe who served the church nearby to Corinth (v1) who more than likely delivered the letter
 - c. 16:23 Gaius let Paul shack up during his stay in Corinth... more than likely the same Gaius who lived in Corinth (1 Cor 1:14)
 - d. Two early manuscripts had some footnotes or subscriptions that said the letter was written from Corinth

B. We talked about the overview of Romans:

1. Overview

- a. 1-8 Doctrine on...
 - i. What is sin? 1-3
 - ii. What is salvation? 4,5
 - iii. What is sanctification? 6-8
- b. 9-11 Dispensational: what of Israel... how are they included in all of this
 - i. Past 9
 - ii. Present 10
 - iii. Future 11
- c. 12-16 Practical or so what? how does this affect me?
We live it out in love

Faith, Hope and Love

2. On a small scale: Paul wanted the church in Romans to include both Jews and Gentiles: hence we have the phrases Jew and the Greek, the Jew first also to Greek, etc.

C. Finally we get into what Romans is all about

1. Gospel according to Paul

a. the more we dive through Romans, we will know how this is how God is both just and merciful. That we have a holy God that cannot abide by sin but is so wonderfully loving that He has come to save those who simply call upon His name, Lord Jesus Christ.
or... God's Righteousness At Christ's Expense

b. most complete plan of redemption
c. God did not send Christ to die just so we can be good. He came and died so that we might *live!*

2. v1 - notice what this book if not the entire Bible is about:

- a. servant of Christ Jesus
- b. called to be an apostle by whom?
- c. set apart by whom?
- d. what for? for the gospel of God

3. By this very verse. Paul is:

- a. ruled by
- called by
- delivered by
- equipped by
- whatever by
- e. for the good news that God reigns and He is so loving and merciful and He has come to save us from this broken world. We will be cared for but He will be glorified.

Paul acknowledges his own statement of servitude to God best when he says in ***Galatians 1:10 how can I please man and not God? If I am trying to please man, then I cannot be a servant of God***

3. To lest we mistaken that Paul is doing this on his own.

Romans 15:18 For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed,

1Peter 4:11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

a. if this is by Christ, of Christ through us then God will get all the glory and we will get none for ourselves. He is lifted high upon all the earth. He is the only one in control. He is the only one who heals, forgives, redeems, restores.

b. But if this servitude is of Paul's power, of his will, for his glory, then Paul will be given all the credit and Jesus just so happen to gets a shoutout.

It is like a football player or the actor or singer who always gives thanks to God. Thanks God for giving me this gift so I can be rich and wealthy and not have to worry about anything here on earth. Thanks, God... you rock!

But what if that same person was all of sudden homeless, sick, dying, no talent, can't work? Does God still get the shoutout?

c. Let me put it another way: what if we took Paul and think: oh my, Paul was this holy guy that pleased God by writing most of the new testament, planting churches, baptizing Christians, then how is it possible for me to serve Christ at the level and capacity. NO! It is only by words and deeds, everything that we do that God be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong all the glory and dominion over creation forever (Daniel 7). Amen!

4. Robert's Sermon: This understanding hopefully gets us to closer on what it really means to be Closer to God and truly God Centered:

a. If God is my Lord, my Master, my King, my Saviour, my Redeemer, my Shield, my Sword, my Strength and my Endurance, then my joy, peace, my existence, my provision, my will is by God and of God and from God through me. I am just a conduit. I am just a waterpipe. Nothing more.

b. Let me put it another way: if I am seeking out fulfillment in things of this earth to please me and satisfy me, then do I really look to God as my Lord and Saviour?

Let us keep going...

What does Paul say about the gospel of God?

II. Planned gospel

Romans 1:2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,

A. Despite the namesake, Christianity is not a new belief or new religion but it is the completion of a very old faith.

1. We have two testaments:

Old Testament is the New Testament concealed; New Testament is Old Testament revealed.

2. This is a faith that is just a completion of old faith

3. Law was set in the OT, Jesus came to fulfill that law in the NT

4. That is why we should be so desperate to the Jew first to turn their lives to the Messiah who has come and sits on the throne of David and rules over the kingdom here on earth. Their faith is already completed in Christ Jesus.

5. It was laid out in Isaiah 53 in detail

B. Why do we have the words Holy Bible on the spine of your bible:

Romans 1:2

1. There are nothing like them because they are from God.

2. What God promised through his prophets in the holy Scriptures

3. Not by prophets, not of prophets but through prophets.

4. Or as Paul said:

1 Corinthians 2:13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

5. Or as Peter put it:

2 Peter 3:15-16 15 ... Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

6. It is upon these scriptures... these living words of the the Living God are the only authority I have to teach. To use any word (written spoken or otherwise) as authority or

III. gospel is about the Son of God:

Romans 1:3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh

A. God did not pick some dude to be Jesus Christ. The Son of God always existed before beginning of time that became flesh.

John 1:1-4 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the

Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

B. Christ is God

Romans 9:5 ... the Christ who God over all, blessed forever

Colossians 2:9 For the fullness of the whole deity (the whole God, not part of God) dwells bodily or dwells in the flesh

C. Descended from David according the flesh

1. His throne will last forever:

2 Samuel 7:12-16 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, 15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

Psalm 89:3-4 3 You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:

4 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.”

Psalm 132:12 If your sons keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, their sons also forever shall sit on your throne.”

Isaiah 11:1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Isaiah 11:10 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

***Branches - Rod, Staff symbol of authority Numbers 17:1-8 where Aaron's staff bloomed and blossomed and bore almonds**

Look at

III. God rules over all: creation, heaven and hell, life and death

Romans 1:4 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

A. Based on the contents of verse 4, something incredibly tragic happened.

1. A Messiah was born (yay!)
2. A Messiah died
3. But.. we can go on about Christmas how wonderful it felt when those who believed in the King who would reign forever was born. These are good times.
4. But these same people saw this very King died.
5. All kings come and go. All leaders rise up and fall. All men die. They die because what they rule over is a bit of dirt or some people or some money. They rule with some notion or even a misconception that they are in control. But they will die, just like the men before them.

God promised David that his throne would rule forever. Solomon knew this promise, was given wisdom and riches beyond our wildest imaginations. To sum up Solomon thoughts in Ecclesiastes, "I have more money than anybody who ever lived. I am the wisest person who ever lived. I have more sex than anybody who has ever lived. I have built the temple of God. My house is bigger than the temple of God. I have more mansions than I can count. But I see my two sons and know that they will undo my work here on earth.

The people at that time wanted someone who would rule over all, overthrow and conquer the Romans and everybody will rejoice

No!

Jesus rule over much more than your puny Roman empire. I rule over the hearts and minds of people I have called to be saints. Only God is eternal. Only God reigns supreme and over all and forever. Jesus rules over life. Jesus rules over death. His resurrection is rock solid proof that not even death can hold Him down.

IV. Closing

We should absolutely never forget that the gospel of God is not

a series of moral code

a lawbook

a way to live a good life

a step by step plan to please God so that he will let us go into heaven and keep us in hell

But the gospel is all about God. That God is good where evil seems all around you. God is just when injustice rules. God is order when chaos ensues. God is holy when the demons of hell seem to beat down your door. God is righteous when you are drowning in sin and

despair. God is love when hearts are twisted and warped by hate. God is life when you are dead.

***Isaiah 35:10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.***