



THE ROMANS

12.6.2019

Romans 1:1-15

1. THE THEME OF THE ENTIRE BOOK (“THE GOSPEL OF GOD”)

ROMANS 1:1-15 {GREETING} 1 Paul, a *servant* (*doulos*=*slave*) of Christ Jesus, called to be an *apostle* (*apostle*=*saw/* *commissioned by the resurrected Jesus*), *set apart for the gospel of God*,

- **The word gospel means “good news that brings joy”** — and that’s what Paul’s entire letter is about! Now, Gospel doesn’t mean everyday good news, as in, “I got a promotion!” or “I passed my test!”
- Gospel is announcing something that changes your world. If you believe a Gospel it changes EVERYTHING.
- Around the time of Mark and Jesus there was a document that started with, “The beginning of the gospel of Caesar Augustus” **BIRTH, LIFE, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, & RISE TO POWER.
- Kingdoms would win a war and then send Evangelists to proclaim a gospel! *Standing on a platform so all may see, lifting his voice so all may hear*, the Evangelist would proclaim something like, “Your King has fought for you and won! Your enemies have been defeated! You now have peace. You’re free to enjoy yourself in the Kingdom!”
- **Q.** Do you feel the weight of the word “Gospel” especially as we read Paul say, “The Gospel of God”? 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,

2. WHY WE SHOULD CARE ABOUT THE GOSPEL (“BELONGING TO JESUS”)

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,

- **Q.** Why do we gather for worship? Why do we devote ourselves to a CG? Why do we read the Scriptures individually? Why do we tell people about Jesus? Why do we give generously to the church & to the poor of the money God has given us? Why do we support missions efforts in places the gospel is -non-existent or scarce? Why do we plant Churches?
A. **The end of v.5 is the answer!** And if “For the sake of His name among the Nations” seems like *Meh* to you, then do you even know him? No! **Q.** Christian, wouldn’t it be great if Jesus’ name was praised&prized among ALL the Nations?
- **Consider how happy it would make you to see Jesus praised and prized by people who as of right now haven’t even heard of Him:** If you’re a Christian—If God has saved you through faith in Jesus—you are part of exactly what Paul is writing about. And one day, you’ll meet Paul. Imagine how happy he’ll be to meet someone from the US.
- 6 *including you* who are called to *belong* to Jesus Christ,
- **HERE ME RIGHT NOW:** No matter what kind of week you’ve had, no matter how badly you’ve blown it or almost blown it; no matter what terrifying things you’ve had to face within or without yourself, if you are in Christ or would come to him through faith now, there’s good news for you.
- Good News that was *promised beforehand declared in power concerning God’s Son, Jesus*. If God has “[brought] about the obedience of faith” in you that means “he’s called you to BELONG to Jesus Christ”—and Jesus is terribly stingy concerning who does what with His belongings.
- **THE WORLD** wants to lure Jesus’ people away into myths or lusts or idols that always promise but never deliver, the world wants to lure us away to devote ourselves to idols which always break the hearts of their worshippers. But Jesus will not let His people’s affections roam too far without again revealing His utter beauty to them and capturing their hearts again and again!
- “[He] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.” **HEBREWS 1:1-3**

- **OUR STILL INDWELLING SIN** wants us to set our feet on fire, drink poison, or lie down in a grave if idleness—for that's what we're doing when we sin! We are our own worst enemy. O but Jesus!
 - 11 “[Jesus] has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.” **TITUS 2:11-14**
 - **THE DEVIL** wants to have Jesus' people and sift them like wheat, mulch them like grass, chop them like wood, but Jesus intercedes for His own and their faith will not fail.
 - “A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; 21 and in his name the [Nations] will hope.” **ISAIAH 42:1-3**
 - The world, the flesh, & the devil want to own us. But, Christian: we. belong. to Jesus.
 - **Q.** What is our only hope in life and in death? **A.** That we are not our own but belong to Jesus.
 - **Q.** Now what does it specifically look like to “belong to Jesus”? **A.** Look at verse 7!
- 7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God** (parents, do you know how it feels to look at your child when they're obeying as they should? That's how God feels toward us in Christ! Do you know, at your best moments, the lengths you'd go to provide for and protect your children? God's love is so pure even our best examples of love are but evil) **and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

3. WHY WE SHOULD HEAR THE GOSPEL REPEATEDLY: v. 14

{**LONGING TO GO TO ROME**} 8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. 9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you 10 always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. 11 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. 14 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.

- As long as I have strength in my bones and air in my lungs—as long as the LORD let's me be your lead Pastor—every. single. week. A man will stand in the midst of our worship gathering and He will **PREACH THE WORD; HE WILL DO THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST—**
- On a platform so all may see, lifting his voice so all may hear, “Your King has fought for you and won—He died your death for sin and arose from the dead, declared in power! His name's Jesus. Your enemies have been defeated! Their names were Satan, sin, and death. You now have peace! Peace with God, others, and yourself. You're free to enjoy yourself in the Kingdom! Free from sin, free to delight in Jesus by trusting and obeying Him ‘for the sake of His name among the nations.’”