

Title: The Gospel of God
~~What is the Gospel~~

Text: Romans 1:1-7

Take your Bibles, please, and turn with me to the book of Romans. I would like to begin a new series of message, today. And God has lead me to the book of Romans. Paul's wonderful letter to the church at Rome.

The book of Romans is basical about two words. The word "righteous", and the word "faith." Paul looks at "righteousness" not so much as a process but as an act of God whereby He declares each one who receive Jesus as being "perfect" or "righteous." It is a declared position that Christians enjoy because of the second word, "faith." We are declared righteous because we have placed our "faith" in something that Jesus did for us on the cross. So, the book of Romans is telling us that there is something we must believe in order to experience a righteous and holy life.

(18) Now, the introduction of this letter --verse 1 thru 17-- Paul ~~tells~~ ^{one sentence in Greek} with the question: WHAT IS THE GOSPEL? What really is meant by the word "Gospel." That is what Paul deals with in these first 17 verses. Now, we will not look at all 17 verses this morning. But, let's begin with the first 7 on the subject: THE CHARACTER OF THE GOSPEL.

(Read 1:1-7)

(PRAYER)

(18) Now, the character of the Gospel is described in these first seven verses, And all seven verses are really one single sentence in Greek.

(19) Let's look, first of all, at the ^{person} man who ^{shares} preaches the Gospel. This description is found in Vs 1. And there are three things that I would like you to see in Vs 1, about the ^{person} man who ^{shares} preaches the Gospel.

(19) Number one, his attitude. It is important, dear friends, that we have the right attitude in ^{sharing} preaching the Gospel. Paul says that he is a "bond-servant" of Jesus Christ. This word "bond-servant" comes from a Greek word meaning "to bind." Many translate the word "bond-slave." And I like that. Because it really describes our relationship to Jesus Christ. We ^{are} bond-slaves.

You see, when a slave was bought by an individual, he lost all of his rights. He had no rights of his own. He was owned by the master. So, Paul is saying that, likewise, we don't have any rights. We were bought by Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 6:20 says that "you are bought with a price, therefore, glorify God in your body."

Jesus has bought us with a price. The price was his death on the cross. And the moment you believe in Christ, you become a "bond-slave". Not by your own voluntary choice, but by a birth. A new birth that happens when you ask Christ to forgive you of your sins and to come into your life. And when you are born-again, you become a bond-slave of Jesus.

Dear friends, oh, how we need the proper attitude. And the correct attitude will cause us to share the Gospel.

(2) Secondly, I notice His authority is mentioned in Vs 1. Paul writes: "Called as an apostle." The word "apostle" simple means "the sent one." The word has the concept that someone with a higher power than you, gave you the authority or the mission that you are performing. An Apostle was an official delegate or representative of a higher power.

Authority where does our Authority come from?

Now, in that basic meaning, you and I are also apostles. We have been called by God and sent out into the world to share Christ.

Now, I also know it refers to the 12 disciples, but in the basic meaning of the word, it is referring to you and me as amabassords of Jesus Christ.

(3) Third, I notice about the man who shares the Gospel is his appointment to this task. Paul says in Vs 1 that "he was set apart for the Gospel of God." Now, the words "set apart" comes from two Greek words One, the preposition "before", and the other word "horazonal"

met

Now, as we look at a horizon, we see the sky and the land. There is a boundary line marked out on the horizon. The word "horizon" means "a marked out boundary."

Paul is saying that I have been marked out from others by boundaries that God has set in my life. I have been selected ahead of time. The question is: WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN? WHAT IS HE REFERING TO?

Turn, please, to Galations chapter 1. The book of Galations chapter 1. Here Paul gives us some insight into his appointment to the task of preaching the Gospel. He was appointed to this task. He says I was marked out before hand. I was marked out from others. I was selected by God for a unique task, a unique role. When was it? (Read Galations 1:15-16a)

So, Paul is saying that he was selected or separated or marked out from the time of his mother's womb.

And it occurs to me that most of us have a light view of what God is doing in our lives. Paul is saying that even when I was an unbeliever I want you to know that I was under divine appointment by God. As early as the moment that I was conceived in my mother's womb, God had already selected me. When Paul was persecuting the Church, when Paul was saying all kinds of evil against the christian and against Christ, it was all a part of God's plan. All of his history before salvation was a part of God's plan.

And friends, that is true about you and me. God has already marked out the boundary line for your life and for mine. He has already marked out His plan. God knows what He is doing.

Would you turn to the next book, please. The book of Ephesians chapter 1. Chapter 1 and notice verses 3 and 4.....(READ 1:3-4)

Now, when did God choose us?Answer: Before the foundation of the world. It isn't by accident. It isn't even by your choice. God choose you....

Now, if you are a ~~new~~ Christian, you are very much aware that you received Jesus into your life. And we praise God for you. But, I want you to know that God has already choosen you. You didnt chose him. ^{Now} ~~And~~ when did he do this? Before he even created the world. He had us all marked out.

He has your task, your ministry, your life marked out.

*are you fulfilled, that's that
that's what!*

and
You say, "if that is true, I don't have any responsibility." Oh, yes you do. The Bible says we are responsible. ^{you} But, if God has it marked out already, then how am I responsible?".....I don't know...I really don't. I have no idea. I just believe both truth....And even though I know something about the Bible, I do not know ~~how~~ how my responsibility to God is correlated with the fact that He knows already what I am going to do. But I ~~do~~ know that if He is God He has to know what I am going to do. And I also know that He instructs me to respond to him in faith. But he knows what I am going to do.....

and
You say, "Well, why did God do this to man?" Did he do it so that we would be confused? How can I be responsible to God and all the time He knows what I am going to do?

Answer: The grace of God...God tremendous grace. That is why! Grace means: "that which God gives to me which I do not deserve." There is no work involved in this at all. It is all by grace.

When you get to heaven you are not going to go around telling folks "Häy, have you heard about the wonderful decision that I made.".....

and
When you get to heaven you will realize, finally, if you haven't already accepted it by faith, that God choose you b#fore you were ever born. Before the foundation of the world was laid, God choose you...

WHY?...So, that we would praise His name for ever. Did He accept us because we were worthy?....NO.....We weren't even born then....He accepted us out-off his divine soverign will to deminstrate his love and pure grace. That man doesn't deserve to be in heaven. It is only through the grace of our Lord J.C. that any one of us will be ~~there~~ *there*.

That is why it is so stupid for people to assume that somehow they could earn their way to heaven.

My friends, if you think that by the things you do ⁱⁿ your life, that are good in you eyes and the eyes of others, that you will somehow be in heaven, you will be in for a great awakening someday. The Bible teaches that ~~it~~ is by grace that we are saved. It is through faith in Jesus Christ.

There isn't any other way. It is God who brings us to himself. And if God has been so ~~very~~ gracious to bring you to a hungering and a knowledge that you want Christ as saviour. Then accept it from God. And respond to him. For we know that God is working in our lives.

It is not an accident that you are here, today. You ought to be grateful to God that He has given you another opportunity. It is all the grace of God that brings us to himself. So, Paul was under divine appointment. ^{and}

(20) Now, ^{out} let's come back to Romans chapter 1. And I would like you to notice in Vs 2-4, how Paul brings before us the message that is contained in the Gospel of ~~Christ~~. ^{God} WHAT IS THE ~~GOSPEL~~ ^{message about God} ~~of God~~. ^{contained in the Gospel of God.}

^{The Gospel} ~~is~~ ^{is} good news. But what is it? What is it's message?

(15) First of all, its promise. Vs 2 says "which He promised before hand ~~thru~~ through His prophets in the holy Scriptures."

The word "promise" simple means "to declare." "To declare beforehand." "To announce something." And it is very interesting that it is used in ^{The middle} a voice in the Greek language that means "it does it, itself!" (~~itself~~)

This is important because according to this verse the prophets in the O.T. had announced the gospel. And this happened before Paul ever lived. ~~Or, before Christ came into the world.~~ So, the gospel was in the O.T. It is an everlasting gospel.

But the prophets were simply channels and communicators of it. But the gospel ~~was~~ was actually announcing itself.

And all of a sudden it dawned on me why that is true. Because in the Word of God, itself, is the power necessary for salvation.

Many of us as ~~believers, as witnesses for the lord~~ ^{Christians} get the idea that it is our talents, our abilities, our methods that bring people to Christ. No, it is not... If anyone is brought to Christ, if they are truly born again, it is because the WORD, which is power, in an of itself, brings people to Christ. The power of the Holy Spirit working on a persons' heart is using "the Word." In Vs 16 of Romans chapter 1 Paul says "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God."

NOT

The Power of God

The Power of God

Not "it becomes"...But, "it is"....It already is....The Bible sitting up here in this pulpit is the power of God. The written word of God

Vs 2 of Romans 1 says "the holy Scriptures"...Many people argue that the word of God, that which God intended and inspired is not necessarily that which is written. That is ridiculous.....The Word of God which has power in and of itself to save you and to save me is that which is written. It is the Holy Scriptures. The Holy writings. And they can save you.

Romans 10:17 says that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. You don't become a Christian because you felt like it....You become a Christian because you place your trust and your faith on a written record message that is in the book. Believe the book and you will be saved. The Bible teaches that. There is the power of God.

Therefore, the gospel announced itself through the agency of the prophet who proclaimed it in the Holy scriptures.

(2E) Now, in Vs 3, we find that the message not only as to its promise was in the O.T. but as to the person of Christ the whole ^{Gospel} message is Jesus. ^{The Gospel is Jesus}

If you are hearing any other gospel, you are hearing the wrong one. The Gospel ^{of God} ~~is~~ is Jesus. It is about Him. ~~Vs 3 says concerning His son.~~ Vs 1 says "the gospel of God". And Vs 3 says "concerning His son." I like that

The gospel of God is concerning His son! Jesus Christ. The words "Jesus Christ our lord" appears at the end of Vs 4. And this tells us the ^{message} meaning of the Gospel.

Now, I would like you to know from these verses three things as to the person of Christ. We want to look at his name....his humanity...and his deity... All found in Vs 3 and 4.

(1E) First of all, his name. There are four primary names given here. Each of which is tremendous in meaning.

(1F) First, we have the name "SON." It is found in Vs 3 and 4..."SON"... This refers to the unique ~~position~~ position of ~~Jesus~~ Jesus as God. People often say, "Well, if he is the son of God, he couldn't be God." What you mean by that is that ^{now believe} the word "son" means ~~is~~ "little born one" or "little child of God."

Now, the Bible does not use that word in speaking of Jesus. It uses the Greek word "Huios"....For example, if you were a slave in Roman times. And your master loved you so much that he wanted you to be free and receive all the inheritance. He could adopt you as a son. ^(Huios) The Bible speaks of believers as adopted sons of God. You see, Jesus Christ is a son because of his unique position. He is the one who will receive all the inheritance. He is the hier of the universe. And the Bible says that when you become a christian you are a joint-heir with Jesus Christ.

So, the first name is "Son." ^{refers to} His unique position.

(2F) Number two, we have the name Jesus. This refers to his person. ^{Angel named To Joseph}

The name "Jesus" was given by the Angel in Matthew 1:21. It says "You shall call his name Jesus because he will what?.....SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.

The name Jesus means "Jehovah Saves".....Jehovah, the primary name of God in the O.T. He is going to save his people. Well, when Jesus was born the angle said: "THERE, JEHOVAH SAVES."....

Luke 19:10 says that the son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost...The Gospel is Jesus. The one who has come to save. ^{you} That is his purpose. He wants to save you, ~~also~~ I hope He will, right now.

(3F) Number three, we have the name Christ.

The word "christ" is the Greek word for "Messiah". And this is saying that Jesus is the Messiah of the O.T. prophecies.

And we christians when we say "JESUS CHRIST" are making a declaration that we often forget. We are declaring that Jesus is the Messiah of the O.T. who will one day rule the world.

^{and} I hope you believe that when you say "Jesus Christ." I hope you believe that he is the coming king who will rule the Whole world...

(4F) Well, the fourth name is even stronger. Because Paul uses the word ^{the} Lord.

And notice, in Vs 4 Paul uses the personal pronounce "our"...OUR LORD... He could have said, "Our Jesus...Our Christ....But it was at this point that he said "OUR LORD." And this is referring to the pre-eminence of Jesus. He is above all. Lord of Lords....There is no higher power. JESUS IS OUR LORD.

Do you feel that way about Jesus? *Car* you say, "HE IS MY LORD."...Do you believe that?

In his names we see that the Godspel deals with Jesus.

(2~~E~~) Then notice his humanity. ~~Two things about his humanity~~ In Vs 3. It says "who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh."

~~First, his humanity is supernatural in its beginning?~~ Now, this is taking about the supernature birth of Jesus from the standpoint of his background. Because it says that it was of the seed of David. Now remember: Joseph was in the line of David through Solomon. He had the royal rights of the throne. But Joseph was not the human father of Jesus. Because the Holy Spirit placed the seed within the womb of Mary.

But remember, Mary was also in the line of David through ~~Nathan~~ *Nathan*. Now, think of it. God caused Mary and Joseph to fall in love. And each of them were in the line of David. The mystery of mysters. With all the Jews living in Palestine, Yet, Joseph and Mary were in the direct line of David. It is a wonderful thing. They fell in love. And Joseph loved Mary so much, the Bible says he was going to put her away privately. But the Angel of the Lord told him that her pregnancy was of the Holy Spirit. This is so wonderful in its background. *A wonderful fulfillment of mystery*

Jesus is the seed of David. Which means He is the messiah who will rule

(3~~E~~) Then third, his diety. In Vs 4 it says, "Who was declared with power to be the Son of God.

There is an interesting play on words here that I want you to notice. The word "delare" in Vs 4 is the same root word as the word "set apart" in Vs 1. Paul said, "I was ~~marked out~~ *set apart* for the gospel of God."

And in Vs 4 Paul says that Jesus was ~~marked out~~ *set apart* as the Son of God. *He is*
It was all according to the plan of God.

OK. ~~How~~ *set him apart* how did God ~~mark him out~~ as the Son of God? He did it according to Vs 4 "by the resurrection from the dead."

The resurrection. *my* friends, Jesus is alive. He has arisen. He is not in the grave.

~~How did God mark out Jesus as the saviour?, the one who can save you and me.....~~ *How?*

~~By the resurrection. Listen, dear friends, Jesus is not dead. He is~~
 alive. And he is coming back to this earth. And it behooves everyone of
 us to ask ourselves: AM I READY TO MEET GOD? Because when Jesus comes
 again there will be no more time to repent. It will happen in a moment...
 in the twinkling of an eye says I Corinthians. 1 Thessalonians says that
 the dead will be raised first. Then we who are alive and remain will be
 caught up to be with the Lord forever....PRAISE GOD.. *are you ready to*

~~I wonder: do you believe the Gospel? The whole Gospel is Jesus. There~~
~~is no other Gospel. There is no other means of salvation. And salvation~~
~~is possible because of the resurrection.~~

(3D) Now, let's come to Vs 5 and the mission of the Apostle Paul. What ~~wa~~
 was the mission God called Paul to perform? It involved ~~three~~ ^{two} principles.
Are those principles apply to us

(1E) In Vs 5, It involves the reception of the message of the Gospel. The
 reception ^{is} ~~of~~ the challenge on the part of Paul to take this Gospel to
 everyone. This is indicated when Paul says in Vs 5 "through whom we have
 received."

You see, it was through Christ that we received the Gospel. (1E) That
 is the MEANS by which it was received

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(251) He also tells us the manner in which it was received when he says in Vs 5 "through whom we have received grace. You see, it is by God's grace that any of us receive the message of the gospel.

Grace means: that which God gives, ~~to~~ to you that you do not deserve. So everything is a result of grace.

Ephesians 2:8 says "for by grace are you saved through Faith. And that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God."

And so you see, Grace gives us the message of ^{The Gospel of God} Grace allows us to receive it. It is grace that pronounces us righteous. All the way through, it is grace that allows us to be in heaven.

And grace, friends, is the opposite of works. Paul teaches in Romans that if works are in any way a part of grace, it is no longer grace. Because Grace is the pure love of God giving to you what you don't deserve. And friends, that is good news. No matter how sinful we are, God loves us. And he wants to give to us salvation. That is grace.

(252) Now, also, in receiving this message and the challenge to preach it, the Apostle Paul tells us of the method that God used in his life. And the method according to Vs 5 is Apostleship.

It was necessary when the church was established to have Apostles. They are not like missionaries today. Apostles had delegated authority from a higher power. And Paul is saying that I have authority to proclaim this message. He gave this message in a day when they did not have the N.T. All they had was the O.T. And the Jewish believers did not know whether or not this gospel was from God unless the one giving the message had delegated authority from the Apostles. So Paul wrote in Ephesians that Apostles and Prophets were the foundation of the church.

(253) Now, ^{the reason} ~~another~~ thing I notice in Vs 5 is the reason behind this mission that Paul was given to ^{share} ~~preach~~ the gospel. Paul says in Vs 5 "to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, for His name's sake."

Three ideas here: ^{to} First, Obedience to the faith. You see, what Paul understood his mission to be was to get everybody to obey the faith. Not to obey works...not obey deeds whereby they thought they were acceptable to God.

But to obey the faith.

(2E) Secondly, he believed the outreach of the Gospel was to all nations. All nations were to receive the good news. The Gospel is a world wide message to everyone.

(3E) And the third thing I notice concerning Paul's reasons in Vs 5 is that it was for His name's sake. The motive by which Paul was sharing the message of Christ was not "self glory." But, because of Jesus Christ. It was for His name's sake. And that is a very important thing to realize. Our object in all that we might do around this church is that we become ambassadors for Christ. We go in His place and on behalf of His name.

(4C) Now, the ^{recipients} ~~responds~~ to all of this is found in verses 6 and 7. Paul ~~calls these christians by two names.~~ ^{Paul} In Vs 6 he refers to believers as the "CALLED OF JESUS CHRIST." *Then he calls them by two names*

(1D) And in Vs7 he says "CALLED AS SAINTS." Meaning...you are not going to be a saint. You already are one. Isn't that neat? If you are a believer, you are a saint.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A SAINT? Well, the word means "HOLY" or "SET APART" The Bible teaches that the moment you believe in Jesus Christ, God pronounces you a saint: one who is Holy..one who is set apart. PRAISE GOD.

(2D) And the second name, found in Vs 7, "beloved of God" means that we are loved by God. Isn't that wonderful? "God so loved the world". We are beloved of God.

Oh, deard friends, ~~do you believe the~~ wonderful Gospel of Jesus Christ? ~~DO YOU?~~ You know, there is salvation in on one else. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. And we come to God the father through the Gospel through belief and faith and trust Jesus.

Let's close in Prayer