

Romans 1:1-17

The **Gospel** has been seriously misunderstood. For that matter, **God** has been seriously misunderstood. Therefore, feeling the need to explain Himself better to this confused and needy human race, God enlisted the Apostle Paul to write the Book of Romans. The Book of Romans is:

The Gospel from God's Perspective Read Introduction 1:1-17

Paul Who is he?

A **Bondsman** (Slave) of Jesus Christ (1:1)

A **Called Apostle** one sent out, ambassador, missionary (1:1)

A **Debtor** to [Everyone] – He Owed Them the Gospel Message (1:14-15)

Jesus By being fully human, Jesus made God known to us as never before.

- The incarnation was the act of the preexistent Son of God voluntarily assuming a human body and human nature.
- Without ceasing to be God, he became a human being, the man called Jesus. He did not give up his deity to become human, but he set aside the right to his glory and power. In submission to the Father's will, Christ limited his power and knowledge. Jesus of Nazareth was subject to place, time, and many other human limitations.
- What made his humanity unique was his freedom from sin. In his full humanity, Jesus showed us everything about God's character that can be conveyed in human terms.

(from New Bible Commentary)

The Gospel Good News

The Good News is a message about Jesus Christ. Here Paul summarizes the Good News about Jesus Christ.

(1) The message of the Gospel was predicted by the prophetic Scriptures of the Old Testament. They foresaw the coming of Jesus and the New Covenant that He would implement between God and His people.

(2) He came as a human by natural descent.

(3) He was part of the Jewish royal line through David.

(4) He died and was raised from the dead.

(5) He opened the door for God's kindness (grace) to be poured out on us.

(6) The Gospel (the message itself) is the power of God to salvation. People are not saved by preachers. They are saved by believing the Gospel. Therefore a person can be saved by faith in Christ even if the messenger is a loser, hypocrite or false teacher.

The book of Romans is an expansion of these themes. (from The Handbook of Bible Application)

Outline of the Book

Introduction	1:1-17
I. The Wrath of God	1:18 – 3:20
II. The Grace of God	3:21 – 8:39
III. The Plan of God	9 – 11
IV. The Will of God	12 --16

Our Identity (1:7) Called Saints (Holy Ones) Living Christians not dead heroes.

- If you are a believer in Jesus God calls you a saint (1:6-7). He gives you the title first, then helps you live up to it. Are you submitting to His will by allowing Him to make you holy?

Our Benefits (1:7) Grace and Peace – the Greek and Jewish greetings

- Grace God's favor given without reference to merit God's Riches At Christ's Expense

Titus 2:11-14 (NKJV) ¹¹For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹²teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

- Peace Peace with God is ours, the Peace of God is available

Romans 5:1 (NKJV) Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Colossians 3:15 (NKJV) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Paul's Identity A Slave

- I wonder how many of us are humble enough to consider ourselves slaves of anyone, even of Jesus, as Paul did?
- Paul humbly calls himself first a “slave” of Jesus Christ and then an apostle, “one who is sent”.
- For a Roman citizen—which Paul was—to choose to be a servant was unthinkable. But Paul chose to be completely dependent on and obedient to his beloved Master.
- What is your attitude toward Christ, your Master? Our willingness to serve and obey Jesus Christ enables us to be useful and usable servants to do work for him. This is true regardless of who are boss is here on this earth.

(adapted from The Handbook of Bible Application)

*Colossians 3:22-24 (NKJV) ²²Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. ²³And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; **for you serve the Lord Christ.***

Paul's Focus Separated to the Gospel

- Not simply separated from things, but separated to something – as in a marriage.
- The whole passage of 1:8-15 reveals Paul's commitment to his ministry.

Paul's Boldness Not Ashamed of the Gospel (1:17-18)

- How often are we ashamed of God's good news to the human race?
 - Is it because we feel inadequate? The message itself is powerful.
 - Are we afraid of how people might react? Jesus says if they react badly toward us for His sake then we are blessed.

Matthew 5:11-12 (NKJV) ¹¹"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹²Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- Describing the Gospel Message:
 - Its source is God.
 - Its character is powerful.
 - Its purpose is salvation.
 - It is potentially for everyone, but its limit is "everyone who believes".
 - The result of believing is righteousness.

The Book of Romans

- The message of the Book: The righteousness of God for this unrighteous race of people

"The just shall live by faith" – quoting the OT prophet Habakkuk.

Faith = Forsaking All I Take Him

The Gospel from God's Perspective

Romans 5:8-9 (NKJV) ⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Romans 6:22-23 (NKJV) ²²But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.