

ROMANS 1:1-17 INTRO

(I) INTRO:

A) The Book of Romans has transformed people's lives throughout history.

1) It will transform ours!

B) Throughout the history of the church the book has influenced leaders and spurred movements.

C) John Chrysostom (means golden throat) had it read to him weekly for 18 years!

D) Augustine picked up a New Testament found Romans 13:13-14

"Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature."

1) After reading that passage he read the whole book and then got saved! He went on to be one of the most influential leaders of the church!

E) Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation

F) John Wesley and the Wesleyan Revivals

G) Chuck Smith and the Jesus Movement

H) Chuck Swindoll says "*Every Christian needs a grace awakening!*"

I) For many of us grace is going to awaken our hearts by the time we finish the Book of Romans!

J) What we will look at today:

1) Paul: The Person God Use to Write This

2) Paul: His relationship to the Believers in Rome

3) Paul: His Message

(II) PAUL: THE PERSON GOD USES TO WRITE THIS LETTER

A) The absolute right person to write - NOT author - the Book

B) PAUL: his life before Christ first

1) He was extremely religious!

a) Jewish by Birth, Culture, Religion & Choice!

b) He was so zealous for his religion that he tried to stamp out what he perceived to be a threat to first century Judaism: Christianity.

c) Instead he gets converted!

d) Philippians 3: "The Good Religious Person"

(1) What we will learn from this is that religion and human goodness are not enough!

3) PAUL: Roman citizen, which gave him a life of privilege.. dual citizenship Israel and Rome!

4) PAUL: was a scholar and trained under the finest teachers of his day...

C) IN CHRIST

1) SERVANT (verse 1) A SLAVE

a) A Willing Slave (ear to the wall)

a) Subject to the will, use and the disposal of the Master!)

b) Devotion & Subjection

2) AN APOSTLE (verse 1)

a) Is this any better, higher or nobler than being called to be a chef, a chemist, a construction worker or concrete worker?

b) Apostle means "sent one" which would be similar to what we refer today as missionary...

(1) But Paul had authority beyond what we would consider normal for missionary today

c) Set Apart Gospel (Gospel described)

d) Promised before in the Scriptures (vs 2)

(1) 300 prophecies

(2) Promises to Abraham's family tree

(3) Pictures (Passover Lamb)

(4) History (Exodus)

(5) Feasts of Israel

THE GOOD NEWS IS OLD NEWS!

**(6) The Dual Nature: Humanity / Divinity
(verse 3)**

**(1) In His Humanity: Identification
with us**

**(2) In His Divinity: Worthiness to
our place in receiving the
punishment for our sins**

**(7) Declared to be the Son by the Power
of the Resurrection**

(8) Receiving the commission to bring this message to all nations (peoples) everywhere

(III) PAUL: His Relationship to Rome

A) He had not started the church in Rome, but he wanted to go there

1) He knew many of the believers that were there in the city Rome, meeting them in other places, but people were constantly

2) Rome was a an important city... All roads lead to Rome, Jon Courson says,

"Paul understood that all roads could flow from Rome as well, making it a strategic city."

B) (verse 8) He was thankful for them

1) One of the things he was thankful for was how the message was going out all over the world because of them

C) He prays for them (verses 9-10)

1) He says he prays for them constantly

(a) How do you pray constantly?

(1) Pray on the spot!

(2) Pray isn't a physical position, but a condition of the heart!

2) Paul also prays for himself... that he can go there!

D) He wants to encourage them and be encouraged!

E) He's in debt to them! (verses 13-14)

1) We have a message that everybody needs

2) Why preach the Gospel to believers?

(a) We need to constantly remember!

F) He was eager to see them

(IV) THE GOSPEL (verses 16-17)

A) This MESSAGE is the power of God to save us!

1) Power of God's Salvation

2) Salvation meaning deliverance, safety

B) It is for all people.

1) All categories regardless of birth, economics, locality, family tree, education.. for all people!

C) What is it!

1) It is a "righteousness of God revealed."

D) Righteousness is:

1) An aspect of God's character

2) It's a standard of behavior

3) The Bible tells us that none of us are righteous. No not one!

Romans 3:10 As it is written: "*There is no one righteous, not even one*"

4) So if none of us are righteous, how do we get right with God?

E) IMPUTED RIGHTEOUS

1) What's that? "*Imputed righteousness is the Christian doctrine that a sinner is declared righteous by God purely by God's grace through faith in Christ, and thus Christ's merit and worthiness alone rather than one's own merit and worthiness.*"

2) DECLARED righteous on the basis of the work of Christ, not on what we did!

3) It is important to note that God forgives us on the basis of Christ's work and does not just wink at sin

a) Jesus paid the price for us on the Cross

4) Imagine if in your neighborhood the police began to just wink at crime, violence and murder... You would be out of there!

a) God does not wink at sin, it's not possible for Holy God to do that!

b) He does find a remedy, a solution for it when He sent His Son, Humanity and Divinity, to die for our sins and take our place

5) On what basis does God DECLARE or IMPUTE righteousness to us?

a) You cannot earn this righteousness

b) You cannot work for it

c) You cannot be religious enough - Which is why Paul writing this is so powerful.
HE WAS RELIGIOUS!

6) FAITH: Our righteousness is imputed to us on the basis of faith...

7) What's FAITH?

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not. This is what the ancients were commended for.

8) IT BEGINS AND ENDS WITH FAITH..

It's all about Jesus and what He has done for us!!!

"God does not ask people to behave in order to be saved, but to believe. It is faith in Christ that saves the sinner. Eternal life in Christ is one gift that is suitable for all people, no matter what their need may be or what their station in life." Wiersbe