

SUNDAY SCHOOL

07/11/2021

Power of the Gospel Romans 1:8-17

Section Preview

Faith and Salvation

- In this section, we will explore key principles of the Gospel through the book of Romans
 - The Intention or the Why
 - The Example
 - How does it work?
 - How to receive?

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Background

- The Roman Church was most likely started by Jews who are at Pentecost. It was mostly of Gentile (Greek and non-Greek) believers and a few Jewish believers.
- At the time of the writing, the Apostle Paul made several missionary trips throughout the region yet had never visited Rome.
- Various obstacles prevented his visit to the city, but at the time of the writing, there had been an apparent breakthrough and the letter was to have been anticipatory in its nature of his coming
- Paul's original mission after his conversion was to minister to the Jews but their rejection of the Gospel made him the Apostle to the gentiles (**Acts 13:44-49**)
- The Book of Romans gives one of the most definitive and detailed discussions of the center of the Christian faith

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Lesson Text

Romans 1:8 – 12 (NKJV)

Desire to Visit Rome



⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. ⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve ^[b]with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers, ¹⁰ making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you. ¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established— ¹² that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

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Commentary: Even feeders need to be fed

- Paul is clearly passionate and convicted about preaching the Gospel and although he did not start the Church in Rome, the reports of their faith has given him the desire to visit them to both encourage and to be encouraged.
- The Christian faith is based on a personal relationship with Christ, but it is also a communal faith. It should not be practiced solely in isolation. We are to build each other up with the different gifts God has given us.
- We may not always receive blessings IN KIND, but what's needed encourage us (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12)

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Lesson Text

Romans 1:13 – 15 (NKJV)

Desire to Visit Rome



¹³ Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles. ¹⁴ I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. ¹⁵ So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.

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Commentary: Duty Bound but Desiring

- As mentioned in the commentary, Paul desired to preach the Jews first as Jesus emphasized that salvation was of the Jews ([John 4:22](#)) to be a light to the Gentiles. Paul was also a Jew himself who loved his people ([Romans 9:1-5](#))
- After several attempts to reach his people, he turned his attention to the Gentiles and got a new commission from the LORD ([Acts 22:21](#))
- Rome was a metropolis compared to other cities he visited during his missionary trips. While his commission was sure, he desired to preach to a much larger and diverse audience that was found in Rome. His success on a smaller scale gave him confidence he give even greater impact on a bigger stage.

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Lesson Text

Romans 1:16 – 17 (NKJV)

The Just Live By Faith



¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel ^[c]of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

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Commentary: The Gospel in a PC World

- As our world becomes more pluralistic and accepting of people of all faiths and lifestyles, many shy away from boldly proclaiming the Gospel so as not to offend anyone
- That does not however lessen the need of the message to be preached to the world. The human condition is still fraught with ills that only the Gospel and a relationship with Jesus Christ can solve
- We do harm to the Gospel when we either add more to it than needs to be or live lives that do not align with the faith that we profess
- We still should be bold in our desire to share God's love to the world but act wisely in how we present it (e.g., Acts 17)

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Commentary: Epilogue

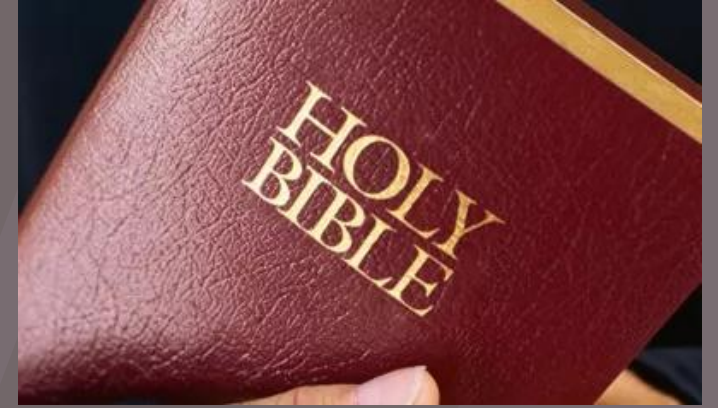
- Paul did eventually go to Rome, but not in the manner that he desired (Acts 23-28)
- He remained a prisoner for the remainder of his life and ultimately executed (62-64AD)
- People were allowed to visit him at his captive home, and he presented the Gospel and understanding to them. Some believed and some didn't, yet his zeal for the Gospel never waivered

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Scripture References



Hebrews 11:6

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Church School Creed & Benediction

CREED

Our Church School must grow & grow
And we must help to make it so
Every member a **Christian**
Every Christian a **worker**
Every worker **trained**
A worker that **will not be ashamed**
This we ask in Jesus' name

-AMEN

BENEDICTION

We have come
We have studied
We have learned
So until our next coming together
To study God's word
May His rich blessings reside with you
And may His Grace be eternally yours

-AMEN