

"The Theme of Romans"

Romans 1:16-17

Introduction: In our study of Romans we have been looking at the introduction to the letter and in the introduction, we have been looking closely at Paul and how he presented himself to the believers at Rome.

I. The Apostle

A. Paul was a Thankful Apostle.

Romans 1:8

B. Paul was a Willing Apostle.

Romans 1:9

C. Paul was a Longing Apostle.

Romans 1:9-12

1. He longed to walk in the will of God.

Romans 1:10

2. He longed to exercise his gifts to edify the church.

Romans 1:11, 13

3. He longed to have fellowship with the believers at Rome.

Romans 1:12

4. He longed to see fruit from his ministry.

Romans 1:13

Last week we looked at verses 14 and 15 and it was in these two verses we could see two of the "I am's" of the Apostle.

D. He was an obligated Apostle. (I am debtor)

Notice Romans 1:14

E. Paul was a READY Apostle. (I am ready to preach the Gospel)

Notice Romans 1:15

Last week in our study we looked at how the first "I am" showed Paul's concern for mankind. He had within him the message that would set people free from sin, it would save people from eternal torment and it would bring man into a relationship with his Creator so that man could find true contentment and joy. Knowing the Treasure which was entrusted to him Paul could in no way keep the Gospel to himself. He carried with him a great burden for the souls of all mankind.

1 Corinthians 9:16

¹⁶ For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

Paul knew that without the Gospel of Jesus Christ people were without hope and therefore he was ready to go to Rome to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now as we continue tonight we will step into two verses that contain the theme of the letter and in these two verses we will see the third "I am" of Paul.

F. I am not ashamed (I am confident).

Notice Romans 1:16

In verses 14 and 15 we looked at Paul's concern and his willingness. Here we can see Paul's confidence. Paul knew the power of the Gospel for it had changed his life. He was transformed from a terrorist to an Apostle of Jesus Christ who was now willing to die so that others could be saved.

It was the Gospel of Jesus Christ that had forever changed his life and he was not ashamed of the Gospel. The power in the Gospel is often forgotten by the average Christian. Let us walk through a list of things which take place in a person's life when they accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. We are born again/we pass from death into life.

John 3:5-6

⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

2. We are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13-14

¹³ In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

¹⁴ Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

3. We are baptized into the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:13

¹³ For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

4. We are completely forgiven of all sin.

Hebrews 10:14-17

¹⁴ For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

¹⁵ Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,

¹⁶ This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

¹⁷ And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

5. We are given eternal life and secured in Christ.

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

6. We enter into a personal relationship with our Lord.

John 17:3

³ *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

7. We are covered in the righteousness of Christ.

Romans 3:22

²² *Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*

8. We are given spiritual gifts.

Ephesians 4:7-8

⁷ *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*

⁸ *Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*

9. We become members of the family of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:16-17

¹⁶ *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

¹⁷ *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

10. We are submerged into the grace of God.

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

² *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

11. We are granted access into the presence of God.

Hebrews 4:15-16

¹⁵ *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

12. We are given power over sin in our lives.

Romans 6:5-8

⁵ *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

⁶ *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

⁷ *For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

⁸ *Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*

13. We are given the hope of the rapture.

1 Corinthians 15:51-54

⁵¹ *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

⁵² *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

⁵³ *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

⁵⁴ *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

14. We are given a new perspective on life.

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

This list could continue but from this list we can see why Paul says the Gospel is the POWER of God unto salvation. There is nothing in this world that will change an individual's life like the Gospel. When someone places their faith in the Gospel their lives are forever changed. Rome was much like the United States in the sense that it was a world super power. They had a powerful military and they were politically powerful. But there was much

immorality within the Roman Empire and as powerful as they were they could never do what Jesus had come to do.

Luke 4:18

¹⁸ The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel for he knew it was the power of God and if he could reach the streets of Rome he knew the Gospel would change the lives of those who would believe.

Notice Romans 1:16 again.

There are several points to be seen here concerning the Gospel.

1. The focus of the Gospel.

It is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

² By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

2. The power of the Gospel.

It is the power of God. There is no greater power.

3. The purpose of the Gospel.

It is to provide salvation to mankind. Salvation is in three tenses:

- a. We have been saved from the penalty of sin.

- b. We are being saved from the **power** of sin.
- c. We will one day be saved from the **presence** of sin.
- 4. **The availability of the Gospel.**

It is available to **everyone** who will believe it.

- 5. **The simplicity of the Gospel.**

It is received by **faith**.

Notice Romans 1:17

The word FOR introduces another reason why Paul is not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He tells us therein, meaning in the message of the Gospel the righteousness of God is revealed. The question is, "How is the righteousness of God revealed in the Gospel?"

The "RIGHTEOUSNESS of God" is **who** He is **what** He demands. The Gospel of Jesus Christ reveals how God views sin and what it is that God demands for the forgiveness of sin. There are many people today who believe our good works will gain us entrance into heaven. But when we look at the Gospel of Jesus Christ we see that God in His perfect righteousness demanded a sinless blood sacrifice for the payment of all our sins. He sacrificed His Own Son as the payment for our sins.

Isaiah 53:4-6

⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

*⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and **the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.***

Not only is the righteousness of God revealed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we see the sacrifice of the Son of God but it is also revealed in another way.

Notice Romans 1:17 again.

God's righteousness is revealed in the believer's life as we go from Faith (the initial act of saving faith) to Faith (living faith). The more we grow in faith the more of Jesus Christ is seen in our lives and He is the righteousness of God.

Conclusion:

Romans 1:16-17 set the context for what we are about to step into next week. For we will step into the Doctrine of Condemnation and the answer to the problem presented in that Doctrine will be the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In closing let us never forget the POWER of the Gospel. The Gospel is the answer to the problems that are in our world today.