

BOOK OF ROMANS
THE GOSPEL AND OUR DEPENDABILITY
ROMANS 1:16-17

Introduction

We have seen the last two weeks:

Vs. 14– THE GOSPEL AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

We are DEBTORS to get the GOSPEL to a lost world!

Vs. 15– THE GOSPEL AND OUR AVAILABILITY.

We are to be ALL-IN when it comes to sharing the GOSPEL.

We are to SANCTIFY ourselves unto what the LORD has

SANCTIFIED us to! We are to be READY to share the GOSPEL!

Tonight we look at:

Vs. 16-17-THE GOSPEL AND OUR DEPENDABILITY.

The **GOSPEL** is what we depend on to do its work in people's hearts!

These two verses actually express the theme of the book of **ROMANS**, which is—**THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST AND THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD!**

How one responds to the TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL determines their ETERNAL DESTINY!

To reject the **GOSPEL OF CHRIST** is to **remain in UNBELIEF** and we know what **JESUS** said about that in *John 3:18*— "*He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*"

To remain in UNBELIEF is to remain CONDEMNED!

Romans 1:16-17 summarizes the **GOSPEL** that **PAUL** explains in detail in the rest of the book! As I mentioned in a previous message we see how **PAUL**, in *CHAPTERS 1-3* begins the next section by establishing that **ALL** are **SINNERS—BOTH JEW AND GENTILE ALIKE!**

And because **ALL ARE SINNERS**, then **ALL ARE IN NEED OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD!** He then shows **JESUS CHRIST ALONE** to **BE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD** for us and therefore **THE ONLY REMEDY FOR SIN!**

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Last time we saw that the APOSTLE PAUL'S life, after he was saved on the DAMASCUS road, was one of UNASHAMED BOLDNESS as it relates to the GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!

PAUL was **JAILED** in **PHILIPPI**, **CHASED** out of **THESSALONICA**, **SMUGGLED OUT** of **DAMASCUS** and **BEREA**, **LAUGHED AT** in **ATHENS**, **CONSIDERED A FOOL** at **CORINTH**, and was **DECLARED a BLASPHEMER and LAWBREAKER** in **JERUSALEM**. He was **STONED** and **LEFT FOR DEAD** at **LYSTRA**, but **HE DID NOT QUIT!** He was not easily intimidated!

PAUL saw the matter of **PREACHING** the **GOSPEL** to be a debt...an **OBLIGATION** if you will! (*Vs 14*)

PAUL was **both READY and EAGER** to **PREACH** at **ROME**, which was not only the **CAPITOL** of the **ROMAN EMPIRE**, but was also a **CAPITOL of SIN and PAGANISM!** And **PAUL** wanted the **BELIEVERS** in **ROME** to know that though he had not been to **ROME** yet, he was **NOT ASHAMED of the GOSPEL OF CHRIST!**

The **GOSPEL** was and still is repulsive to the lost man who thinks he's OK just the way he is! The **GOSPEL** exposes **his SIN, his WICKEDNESS, and his DEPRAVITY!** Therefore, when we **PROCLAIM** the **GOSPEL**, we are going to face **STRONG OPPOSITION**, especially in this world that calls for **TOLERANCE** of every religious position but the one who says **JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY!**

A fellow by the name of Geoffrey Wilson wrote. "*The unpopularity of a crucified Christ has prompted many to present a message which is more palatable to the unbeliever, but the removal of the offense of the cross always renders the message ineffective. An inoffensive gospel is also an inoperative gospel. Thus Christianity is wounded most in the house of its friends.*"

What is the **GOSPEL**? The word itself literally means "**good news**" or "**good message.**"

BOOK OF ROMANS
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ROMANS 1:16-17

PAUL defined the **GOSPEL** in *1 CORINTHIANS 15:3* as the **DEATH**, **BURIAL**, and **RESURRECTION** of **JESUS CHRIST** for our **SINS**.

Here in ROMANS 1:16-17, we see four words that are critical to understanding the **GOSPEL OF CHRIST** and what it is!

1. Power 2. Salvation 3. Believe 4. Righteousness

I. POWER!

1:16 "...for it is the power of God..."

The word **POWER** is translated from the Greek word "*dunamis*" which is where we get the word "*dynamite*" from.

The **GOSPEL'S POWER** comes from the **OMNIPOTENCE** of **GOD WHO ALONE** has the **POWER** to **SAVE** the **LOST** from the **POWER** of **SIN** and to give them **ETERNAL LIFE!**

Now understand **people don't like to be called LOST!** And people don't normally want to **CHANGE**. They have to be convinced that **CHANGE is NEEDED** and that **CHANGE is POSSIBLE!!** Especially when they have to rely on **SOMEONE ELSE** for that **CHANGE!**

Man wants to feel better about himself and so he comes up with **SCHEMES** to **CHANGE HIMSELF**, but **man has NO real POWER** to remove his **SIN** which is the real problem!

The **BIBLE** makes it clear that **man cannot be CHANGED** by any **WORKS...not even** by **KEEPING GOD'S LAW!** That's because the **LAW** was given to show man his **EXCEEDING SINFULNESS** and to drive him to **GOD'S PROVISION OF SAVING GRACE THROUGH CHRIST!** (The **LAW** only **CONDEMNS** mankind!)

PAUL declares both **MAN'S IMPOTENCE** and **GOD'S GREAT POWER** through the **GOSPEL** here in this book and his other books.

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Romans 5:6—"For when we were yet without strength, in due time, Christ died for the ungodly."

Romans 8:3—"For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:"

1 Corinthians 1:17-18,23-25

Jeremiah 13:23—"Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil."

It is NOT within MAN'S POWER to CHANGE HIS NATURE, to OVERCOME his SIN, or to make himself ACCEPTABLE to GOD!

But SCRIPTURE testifies over and over again of GOD'S POWER:

God Has CREATIVE POWER! (Genesis 1)

Jeremiah 10:12—"He hath made the earth by his power..."

2 Corinthians 5:17—"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

God Has GLORIOUS POWER!

Listen to what Moses said:

Exodus 15:6—"Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy."

God's Has MIGHTY POWER Or GREAT POWER!

Job 9:4—"He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?"

Psalms 147:5—"Great is our Lord, and of great power:..."

BOOK OF ROMANS
THE GOSPEL AND OUR DEPENDABILITY
ROMANS 1:16-17

God Has INCOMPARABLE POWER!

Psalm 89:8—“O LORD God of hosts, who is a strong LORD like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about thee?”

Psalm 33:8-9—“Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.”

THAT GOD is the GOD WHO has the POWER to SAVE and it is manifested in the GOSPEL OF CHRIST!

II. **SALVATION!** “...it is the power of God unto *salvation*...”
The greatest manifestation of GOD’S **POWER** is in providing for MAN’S **SALVATION**, transforming man’s nature, and giving man **ETERNAL LIFE!**

SALVATION carries the idea of **DELIVERANCE**, or **RESCUE**.

Psalm 106:8 speaks of ISRAEL’S **DELIVERANCE** from EGYPT, “Nevertheless he saved them for his name’s sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known.”

But listen, GOD has **GREATER POWER** than what it took to **DELIVER ISRAEL** from EGYPT! HE can **DELIVER** the SOUL from the **POWER OF SIN and DEATH!** The **POWER** that SIN has over the SOUL is **DEATH!**

By HIS OWN **POWER** GOD **RESCUES** SINNERS from the **PENALTY** of SIN— that **PENALTY** being **DEATH**, **SEPARATION** from GOD for **ETERNITY** in the **LAKE OF FIRE!**

By HIS **POWER** GOD **RESCUES** SINNERS from the **POWER** of **SIN!** The grip that SIN has on **SINNERS!**

SALVATION through CHRIST by THE GOSPEL is GOD’S **POWERFUL HAND** that HE has let down to lift men up.

BOOK OF ROMANS
THE GOSPEL AND OUR DEPENDABILITY
ROMANS 1:16-17

There is a song that says “I was lost and undone without God or His Son when he reached down His hand for me.”

GOD’S SALVATION is DELIVERANCE from...our LOSTNESS and HOPELESSNESS ...our SIN and its WAGES...the WRATH of GOD...SPIRITUAL DARKNESS and IGNORANCE!

But listen, **SALVATION** is only for those who **BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST TRUSTING HIM AND HIS FINISHED WORK ON CALVARY!**

That brings us to the third word...

III. **BELIEVE!** “...to every one that *believeth*...”
When the **SCRIPTURE** speaks of “**BELIEVE**” or “**FAITH**” it means “**TRUSTING IN**” or “**RELYING ON!**”

ETERNAL LIFE comes to us **BY GRACE** (a **GIFT** that we don’t deserve) ...**THROUGH FAITH** (**TRUSTING IN** or **RELYING on** what GOD did for US through HIS SON JESUS CHRIST!

Ephesians 2:8-9—“8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

GOD does **NOT** ask us to **BEHAVE** and then **BELIEVE**. The **BEHAVING** is the **PRODUCT OF SALVATION** **NOT** the **MEANS** to it!

ALL who **BELIEVE ON CHRIST...TRUSTING IN HIM AND HIM ALONE... SHALL BE SAVED!**

IV. **RIGHTEOUSNESS!**
“For therein [the Gospel] is the *righteousness* of God revealed...”
The word **RIGHTEOUSNESS** is used over 35 times in **ROMANS!**

FAITH activates the **POWER OF GOD** that brings **SALVATION!**

BOOK OF ROMANS
THE GOSPEL AND OUR DEPENDABILITY
ROMANS 1:16-17

When one **BELIEVES** on **GOD'S SON JESUS** and what **HE** did for us on the **CROSS of CALVARY**, **GOD** imparts **CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS** to them!

Not only is **HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS** revealed in the **GOSPEL** but it is **RECKONED** to those who **BELIEVE ON CHRIST!**

Philippians 3:8-9—“Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:”

Romans 3:21-24

Conclusion

The lost world looks at the **CROSS** and sees **WEAKNESS** and **FOOLISHNESS!**

Those of us who have been **SAVED** though, have been to the **CROSS** and have experienced and known the **POWER** of the **GOSPEL** because of what it has done for them!

Have you **BELIEVED** on the **LORD JESUS CHRIST?**

If not, why not you put your **FAITH** and **TRUST** in **HIM** today! **HE** is the **ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE YOU!**

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.