



# BEULAH FIRST BAPTIST

Rev. Felix L. Cole, Senior Pastor

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**Focus:** Rooted – A Study Through Romans

**Week 1:** “Rooted in the Gospel”

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**Introduction:** Romans is not simply a book to be read, but a foundation to be rooted in. Before the Apostle Paul ever addresses sin, salvation, grace, or righteousness, he begins by grounding believers in the gospel itself. Paul writes to a church living under cultural pressure, moral tension, and political power, reminding them that lasting faith must be established before it can grow.

Before Paul ever addresses sin, salvation, grace, or righteousness, he begins with:

- **Who he is**
- **Whose he is**
- **Why the gospel matters**

**Roots determine resilience:** If our roots are shallow, our faith collapses under pressure. If our roots are deep, we can stand through storms.

## Key Scriptures

- Romans 1:1–4 – Paul’s identity, calling, and the gospel of Christ
- Romans 1:5–7 – Grace, obedience, and belonging
- Romans 1:8–12 – Mutual encouragement through faith
- Romans 1:13–15 – Purpose and responsibility to share the gospel
- Romans 1:16–17 – The power of the gospel and living by faith

**1. Rooted in Identity – (Romans 1:1–7):** Paul introduces himself not by his accomplishments or credentials, but by his relationship to Jesus Christ. Before Paul explains what he does, he clarifies who he belongs to.

Paul calls himself a servant of Christ Jesus. The Greek word used here is *doulos*, meaning a bondservant or one who belongs fully to another. This is not a position of weakness, but one of complete devotion and surrendered allegiance.

## Truths to See

- *Doulos* reflects willing surrender to Christ’s lordship.
- Identity in Christ comes before assignment for Christ.
- Being set apart for the gospel shapes how we live within the world, not away from it.

## Biblical Examples

- Moses described as the servant of the Lord (Deuteronomy 34:5)
- Joshua serving faithfully before leading (Joshua 1:1)
- Jesus taking the form of a servant (*doulos*) (Philippians 2:7)

**2. Rooted in Relationship – (Romans 1:8–12):** Paul expresses gratitude and longing for believers he has never met. The gospel produces connection, not isolation.

#### Truths to See

- Faith is strengthened through community.
- Encouragement is mutual, not one-directional.
- Spiritual growth happens best when believers walk together.

#### Biblical Examples

- The early church devoted to fellowship (Acts 2:42–47)
- Iron sharpening iron (Proverbs 27:17)
- Paul strengthening churches through encouragement (Acts 14)

**3. Rooted in Purpose – (Romans 1:13–15):** Paul reveals a deep sense of obligation to share the gospel with all people. Grace received always produces responsibility.

#### Truths to See

- The gospel assigns purpose, not comfort.
- Faith is meant to be shared, not stored.
- Obedience often requires moving beyond convenience.

#### Biblical Examples

- Isaiah responding to God's call (Isaiah 6)
- Jonah resisting God's assignment (Jonah 1)
- Jesus commissioning His disciples (Matthew 28)

**4. Rooted in Power – (Romans 1:16–17):** Paul boldly declares, “I am not ashamed of the gospel.” In a culture that prized philosophy, power, and public honor, the message of a crucified Messiah was often dismissed as weakness. Yet Paul understood that the gospel does not need cultural approval because it already carries divine authority.

The gospel is described as **the power of God for salvation**. The Greek word *dynamis* means **active, effective power**. It is the ability to accomplish what it intends.

Paul then explains that **the righteousness of God is revealed** in the gospel. The Greek word *dikaiosynē* refers to being **made right with God**, not through human effort, but through God's gracious action. Salvation is received by faith, not earned by works.

Paul concludes, “*The righteous shall live by faith.*” Faith is not only the beginning of salvation but the daily posture of the believer's life. Christians do not move beyond faith. We grow deeper in it.

#### Truths to See

- The gospel carries God's *dynamis*, not human approval.
- God's righteousness (*dikaiosynē*) is received, not achieved.
- Salvation transforms both our standing and our living.
- Faith is how believers live daily, not just how they begin.

#### Biblical Examples

- Abraham declared righteous by faith (Genesis 15:6)
- Habakkuk trusting God in uncertainty (Habakkuk 2:4)
- The thief on the cross receiving salvation by faith (Luke 23:39–43)