

Rom 201 - **The Crown Jewel - Rom 1:1-17**

It was about **58 AD** - - The Great city of **Rome** was easily considered **the center** of the known **world**

It was the **Military** Capital - The **Cultural** Capital & the **Sensual** (Heathen) Capital

It was the **4th year** of the reign of **Caesar Nero** & the **most accepted** greeting of the day was - "*Caesar is lord*"

& **Nero** would also - soon make **Rome** the center of Christian **Persecution** & **Martyrdom**

In **64 AD** a Great **Fire** burned much of **Rome**, **most probably** at the hands of **Nero**

But **Nero** blamed the **Christians** & he **Martyred** them with **incredible torture**

Dressing them in animal **skins** & **throwing** them to the **lions**, or *wild* dogs

He **dipped them in tar** & lit them on fire in his **garden** & **he is the one** who, very probably, Had **Paul** the Apostle Executed when **Paul** finally did make it to **Rome**

But **at this point** - Paul had **never** been to Rome

He was **presently** in the City of **Corinth** on his **3rd Missionary** Journey

He was **staying** in the house
of a **Corinthian Christian** - named **Gaius**

& he **was about** to dictate a letter
to his secretary **Tuhr-shi-uhs** (Tertius)

& Greek **Christian Woman** named **Phoebe**
was **going to carry** that letter to the **Believers** in Rome

It had been **20 years** since **SAUL of Tarsus**
met **Jesus Christ** *Face-to-Face* on the **Road to Damascus**

Where he had been transformed
from **Saul of Tarsus** - to **Paul the Apostle**

& **Paul** was now writing to a **Vibrant Church** in Rome
made up of **Jews** and **Gentiles**

A church that had **probably originated** from those
described in **Acts 2:10** as "*Visitors from Rome*"

When those "*visitors*" heard the incredible
Day of Pentecost message by **Peter** in **Acts Ch 2**

& they **returned to Rome** & starting **meeting together** there
& **that** (very probably) was the **beginning** of the church

There is **no indication** that **ANY** of the Apostles (*including Peter*)
had **ever** been to **Rome** at this time

But other believers that **Paul did** know personally
had **found their way** to Rome & **become** part of the church

& now **the faith** of the **church** in Rome was **spreading**
thru all the world - as the believers **travelled** from there

Unlike many of Paul's letters - - he **did not** write Romans to **address** a specific **Circumstance** or **Problem**

But instead - Paul **dictates** to his secretary the **Greatest General Theological Document** in the N.T.

The most **Comprehensive, Systematic Statement** of the *Christian Faith* in all of the Bible

The Book of Romans - is the **Crown Jewel of the N.T.**
It is **The Fort Knox** of Christian Doctrine

It has been said that **EVERY** movement of **Revival in the history** of the Christian Church

has **been connected** with a *Renewed Teaching*, & a *Deeper Knowledge* - of the Book of **Romans**

The **Great** early **church leaders** were **revolutionized** by Romans

Martin Luther was transformed by an understanding of Romans & specifically **Rom 1:17** - where we'll end today

& it was the truths in **Romans** - that ushered in the **Great Reformation**

Augustine – whom many have **compared** to **Paul** - was **converted** reading **Romans**

John Wesley – was **saved** as he heard **Romans preached** from Martin Luther's commentary

& it was the Great Truths of Romans that laid hold of **John Bunyan** in **prison** - inspiring **Two** of his Great **Christian Classics**

The place that this book finds in the lives of the Greatest Leaders of the Church is without equal

& so - we'll call it The Crown Jewel of the N.T.

A solid understanding of the book Romans is vitaly necessary for the spiritual health of every single Christian

Martin Luther Wrote

"The epistle to the Romans is the truest masterpiece of the New testament and the very purest Gospel, which is well worth and deserving that a Christian should not only learn it by heart, word for word, but also that he should daily deal with it as the daily bread of men's souls. It can never be too much or too well read or studied, and the more it is handled the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes."

& the most incredible thing about the book of Romans is

that a brand new believer (or non-believer) can easily understand it AND - the Greatest Bible Scholar will still "stand in awe" of it

The whole book is the story of God's plan of redemption The Gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ . . .

It Clearly Defines; The need for it - - description of it implications of it - - and application of it to our lives

& if we'll get to it today
we'll see the Power of it begin to unfold

Let's Pray

The **First 7 vs's** - are Paul's **salutation** (greeting)
& we start **learning great truths** right from the beginning

Rom 1:1 - ESV

1 Paul, - he opens w/ his own name - as is customary
a servant of Christ Jesus, - 'servant' is LIT 'bond-servant' -
NLT = 'slave'

A bond-servant is one who has earned his freedom,
but still chooses to remain a slave

This was done when a slave realized that w/o his master
his life was doomed to destruction (*& would choose to remain a slave*)

Paul had well learned that **the only True Freedom** is in
being a Bond-Servant of Jesus Christ

called to be an apostle, - An Apostle (as used here) is defined as
one who was an eye-witness to the resurrected Christ

& commissioned personally by Christ - to govern the early church,
and to teach & write with the authority of God

When Jesus Christ **Arrested** Paul on the road to Damascus
He 'called' him - & 'commissioned' him - as an Apostle

AND (cont) - set apart for the gospel of God -
Set apart "In Christ" - "For the Gospel of God"

The Gospel is The Good News that God has made a way
to reconcile Sinful Man with a Holy God

The Gospel is; That God So Loved The Word

That He **Gave** his Only Begotten Son -
That **Whoever** puts their Faith & Trust in Him (*believes in Him*)
Will **NOT** Perish - But **have** Everlasting Life

& the **Apostle Paul** had been **Commission** & **Set Apart**
to take this **Good News of God** "In Christ" - to the world

Rom 1:2 - ESV

2 [the gospel of God] which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,

This **Gospel of God** - was **not new** - it was **not a fix**
it was **not a correction** of a faulty system

This Gospel was **promised** long ago
thru **the Prophets** in the Holy Scriptures

& Jesus Christ **fulfilled**
over 300 of those **Prophecies** in His birth & His life

Prophecies that were **in print**
hundreds of years before He was born

How far back has the **Good News of the Messiah** been promised ?
Since the **very fall of man**

in **Gen 3:15** - at the Fall of Man
God **1st spoke** of the **Promised Messiah** (The Gospel)

Speaking to Satan about Jesus Christ - God **said to Satan**
"you may bruise His heel - but he will Crush your head"

Cont. in Rom 1:3 → →

Rom 1:3 - ESV

3 [It is the Gospel of God] concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh

He was ***descended from*** the line of David,
according to His **Human Nature**

& then V.4 completes this thought . . .

Rom 1:4 - ESV

4 and [He] was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

As to his **Human Nature** - Jesus was **descended from David**

As to His Divine Nature;

He was **Declared** to be the Son of God, **in Power**
According to the Spirit of Holiness
BY His resurrection from the dead

Which is what makes him - **Jesus Christ our Lord**

& then V. 5 says - ESV

5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,

Paul says "**we**" (the Apostles) have received the "**privilege**" (NLT) to bring about the "**obedience of faith**"

Now this "obedience of faith" - is just what it says - backwards

It is a Faith that leads to an obedience of action

In fact - Faith is not faith at all - if it does not produce obedience

We don't necessarily like that - but the truth is;

we can serve ourselves, or this world

& be Slaves in Bondage - unto death

Or we can be "Bond-Servants" of Jesus Christ

in the "obedience of faith"

& we can be set free from the law of sin & death

& Paul heralds this "obedience of faith"

for the sake of the name of Jesus Christ - *among all nations*

& in v.6 he includes the Romans in that - "*among all nations*"

Rom 1:6 - ESV

6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

& who are these "Called" ones ?

How do you get to be one of these "Called" ones ?

Handley Moule - Commentator & Bishop of England

Defines a "Called One" - & shows both sides of the coin

Handley Moule

"The "called" man is the man who has been invited and has come; who has obeyed the eternal welcome; to whom the voice of the Lord has been effectual."

→ →

Is that you today ?

have you not only *heard* the voice of the Lord today . . . but

Have you Come to Him

Have you Obeyed His welcome

Has His Voice been effectual in your life ?

If SO - you *belong to Jesus Christ* - as a "called one"

If NOT - you *can become* a "called one" today

by hearing His voice - & receiving Him as *Savior & Lord*

& now Paul finishes his greeting in V.7 . . .

Rom 1:7 - ESV

7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

There's our word "called" again - Those who are loved by God & have responded to His Voice - to His Call

If you have - then you are A SAINT !

The term Saint is applied in the Bible to ALL believers

& then Paul finishes with his customary Twin Blessings;

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Starting in V.8 - Paul reveals both

his love for this church he'd never been to
& he reveals his heart as a Shepherd

Rom 1:8

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

Wherever Paul goes - it seems someone is telling him about the FAITH of the church in Rome

Because so many travelled to & from Rome the Faith of these Christians was being spread thru-out the world

& Paul says he thanks HIS (personal) God - thru Jesus Christ because their Faith is spreading like a Wild-Fire

& then we see the true heart of Paul as a Shepherd in V.9 & 10

Rom 1:9-10

9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son,

This is the definition of a Shepherd;

God is his witness, whom he serves in his spirit
in proclaiming the Good News of God's Son

Then, following that, we see a critical role for every Shepherd

(cont in v.9) ***that without ceasing I mention you***

10 always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.

Paul is praying without Ceasing for the church

whether in focused devoted prayers

or just having them on his heart, as he goes thru his day

Guys - we, as Shepherds (ministers), **MUST** be intercessors !

& **Paul prays** that "somehow" he may "at last"
succeed in coming to see the believers in **Rome**

But notice the Great Over Shadowing **IF** CLAUSE . .
BY GOD'S WILL

Paul is **praying** what is **on his heart**
but **always acknowledging** that it is ONLY **By God's Will**

His heart was for the **believers** in Rome
& so **he prayed** - & **trusted** God's Will - & God's Timing

& **WHY** did Paul desire to go to **Rome** so badly . . . ?

Rom 1:11

11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—

Paul's desire was to Impart a **Gift of Grace**
to **strengthen** the believers in **Rome**

But **he also knew** - that to be in the midst of such a Faithful Church
He would also be greatly encouraged

Rom 1:12

12 [not only do I long to see you, but] **that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.**

Paul longed for **he & the church** to be
Mutually Encouraged - by each other's Faith

& I **promise you** today - one of the **enemy's** Primary "Schemes" is to **Separate You** from being encouraged by other Believers

Because he knows that **Believers Mutually Encourage** each other

So if the enemy can bring a little **DISCORD** to get you **separated** from other **encouraging believers**

then he is **well on his way** - to **taking you out** completely

Paul goes on to say - in **V.13**

Rom 1:13

13 I want you to know, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.

Man, Paul wanted to **bear some spiritual fruit** among the Believers

He **wanted** to have some **spiritual harvest** among those in Rome, **& among** the rest of the Gentiles

I think sometimes we take the "**oh it's not me it's the Lord**" thing just a bit too far

Paul says "*I want to reap some harvest -
I want to bear some fruit among you*"

IN FACT - it was not **JUST** that he **wanted to** he was absolutely **UNDER OBLIGATION** to them

Rom 1:14

14 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

Paul says - I am Under Obligation to every class of man;

to **Pray** for you - **V.10**

to **Impart** a spiritual gift to you, & *strengthen* you - **V.11**

to **Encourage** you & *be encouraged* by you - **V.12**

to **Reap** some harvest among you - **V.13**

I am Obligated - Because I am A Bond-Servant of Jesus Christ

I am **His** - & so I am **Obligated** to pour my life into **YOURS** !

& there is **no more clear description**

of **what the Ministry Requires** - - than *that right there*

& then Paul **finishes his eagerness** in **V.15** . . .

Rom 1:15

15 So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

Eager - to say the least - He is Pressed, He MUST, He is Obligated

WHY - - Ultimately - on top of all else *we've heard* Paul say

WHY is he BURSTING to *Preach the Gospel* to the Romans . . . ?

The **next Two Verses** tell us . . .

& the next **2 Vs's** also **encapsulate** the entire **book**

They are the **THEME Vs's** for the **book** of Romans

Rom 1:16 - (*Why Paul is so eager to preach the gospel*)

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

No matter Where the Place - No Matter What the Persecution

Paul says - - ***I AM NOT ASHAMED*** of the Gospel

WHY ? - Because it is the **POWER** of God - **Unto Salvation**

TO WHO ? - to **EVERYONE** who believes

The Jew first & also to the Greek

Do you think The Gospel is just a Set of words

Or **just a Process** to get us "Right With God"

Notice it doesn't say "It **shows you** the power of God"

Or - "It **Points you to** the Power of God"

But instead - ***IT IS*** the Power of God - **UNTO SALVATION**

How can IT ***BE*** the Power of God ??

Because the Gospel is a Person

The Gospel is the same person that **Jn 1:3-4** says → →

Jn 1:3-4 - ESV

3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

The Gospel **IS** - the Person of **Jesus Christ** !!

The POWER of the Gospel is:

You **Receiving** "*The Righteousness of God*"

In **the Person** of Jesus Christ

Thru **FAITH** - Unto **Salvation**

The Gospel is **NOT** an **Approach**, a **Process**, or a **Plan**

The Gospel **IS** the *Person of Jesus Christ*

Follow that into the Last **Vs** for today - **V.17**

Rom 1:17 - ESV

17 For in it [The Gospel] *the righteousness of God* is revealed

The Righteousness of God is revealed

IN the person of Jesus Christ

& the Righteousness of God can only come into your life

IN the person of Jesus Christ

You CAN'T **Earn** it - You CAN'T **Deserve** it

You can ONLY **Receive** it

HOW ? - The end of **V.17** tells you

from faith for [unto] **faith**, as it is written, "**The righteous shall live by faith.**"

The **AMP Bible** says

both springing from faith and leading to faith

The Righteousness of God is **Revealed** to you
From FAITH - For (Leading to more) **FAITH**

God **ACTUALLY** gives you **His own righteousness**
IN the person of Jesus Christ - thru your **Faith Alone !**

He gives us **His Own Righteousness**
He Makes us RIGHT before Him

& the sole requirement on our part - **is Faith**
Faith (*which is Trust & Belief*) - **IN** the person of **Jesus Christ**

By God's **Grace** - & **Thru** our **Faith** ALONE

Jesus Christ Freely **Pays the Penalty** for our sins
& **GIVE US HIS OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS**

THAT is why;

*The gospel is the power of God unto salvation
to everyone who believes*

& **THAT is why** - the end of **V.17** says
"The righteous shall live by faith."

Please hear me when I say

The **Unrighteous** will **DIE** in their **Sins** - AND
The **Righteous** shall **LIVE** (eternally) by their **Faith**

Which will you be ?

Let's Pray