

The Solid Rock on Which We Stand: “What the Gospel Is”

(Romans 1:16-17)

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The Big Idea:

We are to be unashamed of the Gospel because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. (Romans 1:16-17)

Gospel – The proclamation of the good news that God has come to earth as the person of Jesus Christ and secured victory over Satan, sin, and death through His substitutionary sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection from the dead.

What the Gospel Is

1. The Gospel is powerful in its impact. (Romans 1:16)

2. The Gospel is simple in its message. (Romans 1:16)

3. The Gospel is long in its reach. (Romans 1:16)

4. The Gospel is vital in its necessity. (Romans 1:17)

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Romans 1:16-17 (study guide)

Read Romans 1:16-17

1. **The Power of Steadfastness:** Analyze how Paul’s willingness to suffer beatings, ridicule, and eventual martyrdom served as an encouragement to the church in Rome. How does the text suggest this boldness should impact modern believers?

2. **Defining the Gospel:** The text warns against "muddying up" the Gospel with religiosity or good works. Discuss the theological implications of adding to or taking away from the definition of the Gospel.

3. **Ethnic and Social Unity:** Examine the tensions between Jews and Gentiles in the early Roman house churches. How does Paul’s use of the word *pas* (everyone) address these conflicts and establish a new paradigm for community?

4. **Universal Mission:** Based on the text’s descriptions of the Gospel’s "long reach" and the vision in Revelation, construct an argument for the necessity of global missions and local outreach.