

## **Romans 1:1-15**

Well here we are in the book of Romans this morning and really Romans is probably one of the more theological books of the New Testament and that means we are going to have to work a little to bring out the truths that are contained herein.

Paul is the writer of this book of the Bible and it is thought that he wrote this somewhere around the year 57 or 58 AD and most scholars agree it was written during his third missionary journey while he was in the city of Corinth.

The book of Romans is interesting in that Paul had never actually visited this group of believers but as we read we will see that he certainly had a passion for their development and well being in Christ and it was his ambition to one day spend time with them.

Now I want to give you just a small break down here of how this book is going to roll out and I think its important to just grab the flow of what is being written about. You could say that chapters 1-3 are really an outline of the sinfulness of man and how all of humanity falls short of the glory of God...If the letter ended in these chapters it would leave man with no hope whatsoever.

Then in chapters 4-6 we learn how you and I can be justified by faith in Jesus Christ and we begin to learn that we have a new nature in our lives. No longer are we dominated by our flesh but instead we now become slaves to righteousness...Essentially there is a new sheriff in town when we come to know Jesus and it's the Holy Spirit of God. As believers we must learn to find our identity in Christ and reckon our old life to be dead.

We then in chapter 7 learn about the process of sanctification that we all go through and we learn that we can't please God based on our own strength. Paul speaks of his own struggle in life to do the right thing and he comes to the point that he says "O wretched man that I am who is going to save me from this body of death"...and then he says "thanks be to God through Jesus Christ" and then in chapter 8 we have the glorious life of the Spirit that is spoken of and how there is victory in Jesus.

When we come to chapters 9-11 we'll be talking about God's sovereign choice of the nation of Israel and how the Lord is certainly not finished with His people...and certainly we should understand that the church in no way has taken over or replaced the blessings of God or the work of God in the nation that is known as the apple of His eye.

And then in chapters 12-16 we'll have what I would call the SO WHAT portion of the letter. And Paul will really spell out that because of all that Jesus has done for us that you and I should be living a specific way as we go through life.

Today's lesson as we step into this is really going to be kind of an introduction to this book as Paul will introduce himself and the message that he lived, stood for and desired to share with those he was writing to in Rome.

With that let's look at verse 1 of chapter 1 in Romans and I would just add that Paul has an ability to create run on sentences like nobody I know as the first 4 verses are all one streamlined thought...For today we are going to go one verse at a time. So, Verse 1 says **Paul, a**

## **bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God**

We should keep in mind that when you wrote a letter and sent it in Biblical times the typical way a letter began was first to identify who it was that was writing and then speak of the person or people that you were writing to.

Paul as he speaks of himself does not introduce himself as the incredibly religious Paul, he doesn't speak of all his accomplishments or try and place himself up in a high place but instead he says that he is a bondservant of Jesus Christ...that word for bondservant is the word *duolos* and it actually speaks of someone that has volunteered to be a slave to someone else for life. The idea itself reaches back to the Old Testament and when a Jewish individual fell on hard times there was permission to enter into the service of another for a certain period of time.

If you reached the end of that time and you looked around and you said "Hey I love my master, he provides for me, they are good to me and I don't want to leave" then you could actually go before the elders of the city and you would receive a piercing in your ear and you would become a servant to that person for life.

And so Paul as he looked at his life and he had seen the Lord do so much for him he simply said I am a willing servant of Jesus...It's as if Paul would say Jesus gave so much for me and I am willingly placing myself in debt to Him for the rest of my life.

And then Paul simply says that he has been called to be an apostle and that means someone that is sent with a specific mission and

surely Paul when he met the Lord Jesus on the road had a specific calling from God that he was to be an apostle to the Gentiles.

Notice Paul says that he was called to this not that he was appointing himself to this position. Today there are no apostles in the sense that we see in the 13 apostles of the Lord that are mentioned in scripture which includes Paul. Though I would suggest that you and I and all believers are sent out with the message of Jesus Christ.

And then notice that Paul was separated to the gospel of God and that word gospel means “Good or great news” and in verse 3 we learn that the good news concerns Jesus Christ...You know the world can report on all kinds of news. They can talk about the glory of those that make lots of money, or the glory of a sports player or the incredible accomplishments of humanity but the greatest news...the goodest news as some little children might say is that Jesus Christ came and rescued humanity from the penalty of our sins. That is good news indeed for there is no other hope apart from Jesus.

Paul then let's the recipients of this letter know that this was not new news but that Jesus was a fulfillment of what the prophets said in the Old Testament. If you look at verse 2 it says <sup>2</sup>**which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,**

And so Paul is saying I don't have a new message to give here but instead I am telling you about the One that came and fulfilled that which has been spoken of.

From the very beginning just as soon as Adam and Eve fell there was a prophecy given that one day the Seed of the Woman would crush the head of the serpent. The Old Testament speaks of one that would

come who would bear our sins and forgive us of our sins, one that would be born of a virgin in the city of Bethlehem, one that would enter into Jerusalem riding on a donkey and would even do so on a specific day according to the prophet Daniel. And so the prophets of old when they spoke all spoke of the Lord Jesus and His coming.

Jesus said this in John 5:39 when He said <sup>39</sup>**You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me**

Look at verse 3 which says <sup>3</sup>**concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,**

We've just finished our study through the books of 1 and 2 Samuel and if you remember in 2 Samuel 7 the Lord promised to David that one day someone would come from his family who would sit on the throne forever...and certainly if you do the research Jesus is the only one that fulfilled this and all of that which is spoken of in the Old Testament.

We see in verse 4 the following which says <sup>4</sup>**and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.**

Jesus was declared with power to be the Son of God Paul says and I can think of two situations that came up in the life of Jesus that the Father specifically said this. First when Jesus was baptized as He came up out of the water the Father spoke saying "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

And then when Jesus was on the mount of transfiguration with the three disciples in Matthew 17 a bright cloud overshadowed them and the Father again spoke saying "this is My beloved Son, Hear Him"...

And then we see in verse 4 that Jesus kind of sealed the deal proving who He was when He rose from the dead. Now Jesus was not the first person to rise from the dead. Even while Jesus was on earth there were three that He miraculously rose from the dead being the little 12 year old girl we just talked about on Thursday and there was the widow of Nain whose son was raised to life and there was Lazarus who had been in the grave for multiple days...The real difference though is that these all rose from the dead only to die once again while Jesus when He rose did so in a glorified body never to die again and certainly this did prove who Jesus was.

I certainly appreciate what the Lord Jesus said in John 11:25-27 which says this <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. <sup>26</sup> And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

<sup>27</sup> She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

Let's move forward here if you look at verses 5-6 which say <sup>5</sup>Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, <sup>6</sup> among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

Now you might mark that word grace in your Bible because that will be a key word for our study through the book of Romans and the word grace simply means to receive that which you do not deserve.

Thus it is for us who have trusted in Christ Jesus. We have received forgiveness of sins, the indwelling of the Spirit of God, a promise of an eternity with our Lord and so much more all of which are undeserved.

Notice too though that it says that all this has been done for what? For Obedience to the faith among the nations...and Paul says you are also included in the called of Jesus Christ.

I want to take a minute here and just remind you that if you are saved, if you have placed your trust in Christ, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you that there is an expectation that you will be a changed person...that you will be obedient to the calling of God in your life which includes living a life of holiness. The very nature of the Holy Spirit that lives in you is to change your life, to make you a new creation, to change your perspective and transform you into a person that honors what the Lord has called His people to be.

I want to just share with you what the Word says over in James 2:19-20 which says this <sup>19</sup>**You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!** <sup>20</sup>**But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?**

And then over in Philippians 1:27 the Word says this of our conduct in Christ when it says <sup>27</sup>**Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,** The simple expectation for you and I is that we will live the life that we are called to.



Understand that Christianity is far more than receiving Christ in your heart and being saved from your sins. The reality is that if Christ is in you then you are no longer a slave to sin but instead you come under the control of the Holy Spirit in your life...You have a new master in your life, you have a new identity and part of growing in your life with Christ is taking the steps of not just knowing Jesus but living in His resurrection power that is at work in your life that we might be obedient to the faith that resides within us.

Let's look at verse 7 which says **7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints:**

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

We come to the end of Paul's greeting here as Paul simply says that this was written to all who are in Rome and he says that they are beloved of God...I wonder today if we really realize that we who are in Christ are the beloved of God...Sometimes I think we can fall into this lie from Satan that God does not love us or that He is angry with us for our failures...I would simply say you and I are so valuable to God individually that He went to the cross for our sins...the Bible says He thinks of us more times than there are grains of sand...and over in Romans 8:31 the Word says **31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?**

We should know that God is on our side, that He loves us, that He is concerned about what we go through in life, that He desires to be our best friend that we are of far more value than any other created thing in this world. **Yes, you are beloved in His eyes.**



Notice also that it says here that those in Rome are what? It says they are saints...I will simply say that a saint is ANYONE that finds themselves in Jesus Christ. Saint Jared is here before you today and Saint Mike and Saint Donna are here and we are all on the same page equal in Christ.

There are no super Christians, there are no special individuals that get to be called saints while others do not. Paul called himself a slave to Christ at the beginning of the letter and then he says you guys are saints. I like that for Paul never exalted himself above anyone else...In fact at one point he said this over in 1 Corinthians 15:9 and the first part of verse 10 which says <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am,

Notice also we see that word **called** once again and actually you might underline the word **called** as it is found three times in the first 7 verses...you can find it in verse 1, verse 6 and verse 7...The reality of the scriptures is that God calls men to Himself. And some people will look at that and they will say well who is it that God calls? Well I believe that Jesus calls all men everywhere to Himself and even John 3:16 makes that clear when it says <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. And then over in Acts 17:30-31 the Word says <sup>30</sup>Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” I

believe God calls all of humanity unto Himself...but I also believe and we'll see this later that you and I have a responsibility in our lives to receive that which God has offered. There is a choice that lies before us all.

One final thing here and we'll move on but look at the end of verse 7 as it says grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ...notice where it is that grace and peace come from...its from the Father and Jesus together and that just gives evidence to the fact that Jesus and the Father are one, that Jesus is indeed God.

If you have ever listened to Pastor Chuck Smith who is really the person that God began to use to start our church movement he would always say that in the Bible grace is always first and then after that comes peace.

I believe that's accurate for I have found in my life that I never experienced peace try as I might to find it until I accepted the grace of God in my life and in my heart.

And so here in these first 7 verses of the book of Romans we have what is the largest introduction to any of the letters that Paul wrote.

Now look with me at verse 8 which says <sup>8</sup>**First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.** Paul gave thanks for the believers in Rome as he had heard from those he came in contact with about their faith.

I wonder what the world would say about our faith? I would just challenge you by asking you today do you allow the Lord Jesus to

shine brightly from your life to the world around you or do you hide the faith you have?

You and I should be not only living for Jesus individually but also demonstrating him to the world and this was a church that was doing just that.

I think Paul was probably thrilled with this, for if you look at the maps that are available and you look at the road systems of the world during this time and you look at the shipping routes during this time in the world do you know what you will find about these roads? That all of them lead go through Rome. Rome was really the capital of the world at this time and to see a church not only existing but flourishing during this time was just music to Paul's ears as he gave thanks for them.

We might ask a question here...How did this church begin? Paul had never been there. We have no record of anyone in particular bringing the gospel to Rome but I do think we have just a small hint of what could have happened over in the book of Acts in chapter 2 during the day of Pentecost and this was when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples empowering them to preach the gospel and as they did so we see that they were actually speaking in other languages...Those that were present we are told were from all over the world including the city of Rome as Acts 2:10 says.

What I think may have happened is that there were those there from Rome who heard the gospel and believed and took it back to Rome and as they did so the church began...We can imagine visitors coming in and out of the city and people were hearing there was a little church in Rome that there were believers there and they would take what they heard of Jesus with them as they travelled from place to place and so

this really was a huge blessing for the advancement of the gospel to see a church established in this great city.

Look at verses 9-10 which say <sup>9</sup>**For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,** <sup>10</sup>**making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you.**

Now I think we can learn from Paul here as we can see clearly that he had a passion to pray for those who were in Rome...and I want to remind you that he did not personally know this church nor had he visited them. I do think he knew several people that were involved with the church and we'll see that in Romans 16 as he greets many of those that he was writing to but it's remarkable to me that Paul was a man that clearly had a deep concern for those in this church.

I suppose I would mention that Paul didn't just pray for this church but I think he prayed for every church and every believer that he thought of as he went through life. Over in 2 Corinthians 11:28 Paul said this <sup>28</sup>**besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.** I think that Paul was always thinking of the work that God was doing in the world.

Over in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 the Word says <sup>17</sup>**pray without ceasing.** wow, that's quite a command from Paul and yet I think Paul did not just say things to people but he put them into practice.

He even went so far as to call God as his witness to the fact that he prayed for this church...and notice what it was that was deep within

the heart of Paul...He says that he just wanted if it was in the will of God that he could come to them.

I'm not sure why Paul had it so deep in his heart to visit this city and this church...perhaps it was his knowledge of the great impact that could be had in the world if the whole city of Rome came to know Christ...perhaps it was just one of those things that God had placed with him.

I am reminded of missionaries who are called by God to go to foreign lands and sometimes I don't think that those missionaries have some great revelation of why they need to go somewhere and yet at the same time they just know that they know in their heart of hearts that they must go.

So Paul had this huge desire in his heart to visit Rome and we can see that over in the book of Acts as well...we might just stop and think about how it was that Paul actually got to Rome. You might remember that Paul when he went to Jerusalem suddenly found himself in difficult circumstances which had been prophesied and he was actually arrested and he was brought before the leadership on several occasions and really the whole situation was going nowhere.

And Paul being a Roman citizen had a special privilege or right that if he was being treated improperly that he could actually appeal to Caesar and finally after much time had passed Paul enacted that right.

And then do you remember what happened? When Paul was taken he found himself out in open waters on a boat that was suddenly passing through an intense storm and that boat actually went down eventually

and he found himself on an island called Malta...and then he was bitten by a snake which should have killed him but instead he shook it off in the fire and after this the people began to call him a God for the simple fact that he had lived and because of this Paul was able to preach the gospel to all those on the island that they were shipwrecked on.

And then finally after another boat ride he came to Rome and so finally after much difficulty Paul was there in the place that he longed to visit so much in his heart. The hard part was that now he was a prisoner and the freedom to visit others was greatly diminished.

I am reminded that sometimes the journey that we go through in life to get us where God desires that we would be can be filled with trials, difficulties and spiritual resistance and yet the Lord has a way of giving us the victory.

One thing we can learn from Paul is that he was able to persevere in his life no matter what happened...I suppose it reminds me of what Paul said in Philippians 1:21 which says <sup>21</sup>**For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.** Paul as we watch his life was certainly an example of this as he did eventually die for that which he believed in.

As I was writing this I could not help but think of Charlie Kirk and his unwavering desire to reach out to the next generation. I think Charlie would say that he was just trying to do his best to fulfill the passion and the calling that God had given him in life. I think he knew there were risks involved and he often spoke of the simple fact that he had a hope and a future in Jesus Christ.

I think we also should have a deep passion in our hearts to simply fulfill what God has made us for. And I would say if you don't know what it is you were created for that the best thing you can do is simply ask your Creator to reveal this to you...and then to submit and seek after that which God desires to do through your life.

So we can see the God given passion that was placed in the heart of Paul to visit this church and he was praying for them and desiring to see them and then look at his reasoning for it in verses 11-12 which say <sup>11</sup> **For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—** <sup>12</sup> **that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.**

I love what we see here from Paul. We might have it in our minds that Paul was some great and awesome man and he surely was as the Lord used him but notice that Paul didn't just want to go to Rome to give the gospel and minister to the saints but he also wanted to be ministered to by them...And I think this highlights the humility that can be seen in Paul's life.

Paul knew that he was not beyond learning from others. Though he had been used so mightily of God and though he was certainly a man of authority being an apostle he knew that he still had more to learn and glean from others.

May you and I have that same heart in our lives that there is always more to learn, that we can always benefit from the things that others have been through in life, that we can continue to mature and that really we never reach our full maturity in Christ until we reach that day that we move from this world into the next.



I think these verses give us a sense of the great need that we have to be together as the body of Christ. I want you to know that your brothers and sisters that are in Christ here today that they need you in their lives and that you mutually need them in your life.

I want to encourage you not to make the mistake of thinking that church is just showing up for the service and then going home. There is more to it than that. It's a great blessing that we have each other as we go through life and so I encourage you to regularly make it your ambition to be involved in the lives of those who are around you. To take the time to simply sit and listen to those the Lord has placed in your life, to build relationships with them and to seek to not only give your wisdom and experience to others but to also glean from them.

We have so much that we can learn from each other...and we do so desperately need each other in life as we fight the spiritual battles that are before us and I love it that Paul sets the example here that he not only wanted to give to others but knew that there was much for him to receive as well.

Look at verse 13 which says <sup>13</sup>**Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles.** Perhaps those in Rome thought Paul wasn't all that concerned with them but here he simply says that I planned to come to you often but have been hindered...The idea of being hindered carries with it I believe that there was some spiritual barrier that was placed in front of him...whether by the Lord and yes God can close doors and redirect our paths even when we think we

are supposed to go a certain direction **or by the enemy who always attempts** to disturb the plans of God.

But notice that Paul he just wanted to see fruit in the lives of the believers and notice Paul says that he had seen that fruit in the lives of the other Gentiles. Paul could confidently say that as the Gospel went out through his life that people had come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. I think also that you and I can see the Lord's great work as we serve Him.

Look at verses 14-15 which say **<sup>14</sup>I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. <sup>15</sup>So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.**

It's amazing really if you study the life of Paul and you watch all he went through as he sought to serve the Lord Jesus Christ and there is a sense that Paul knew he had an obligation to preach the gospel to the world.

We might wonder why Paul felt that and I believe that the Lord gave Paul this calling right away when he came to know Jesus Christ if you listen to what took place in Acts 9:15-16 and this was after Paul had been struck blind by the Lord...and the Lord spoke the following to a man named Ananias who was commanded to go and speak to Paul and lay hands on him and this is what the Lord said to Ananias it says **<sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup>For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."**

This was Paul's calling in life. Over in Ephesians 3:8 Paul said this <sup>8</sup>To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, So Paul knew his calling in life he was willing to embrace it and if you just listen to Acts 21:13 he was willing even to die for that calling...Listen to what Paul said when others were warning him of the difficulties they knew he would face if he pushed forward in his life to go to Jerusalem. It says <sup>13</sup>Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

I think it's a pretty amazing thing to watch when someone will give their life for the cause that they so greatly believe in and I believe it's even more awesome when that individual is walking in God's will for their lives and they are willing to not only suffer for the Lord Jesus but even lay down their life all to fulfill that which the Lord has called that individual to.

I wonder today as we close how deep does our faith run in our lives? How far are we willing to go to honor the Lord? How quickly will we submit to His will for our lives? For Paul there was nothing more important to him than to simply honor the one that had paid to set him free. Paul when he was brought to the truth of Jesus Christ stated that everything else in his life was like trash or dung and that knowing Jesus exceeded any other accomplishment in his life.

I simply love Paul's passion to live and walk in the truth and his passion to build up the body of Christ...What better thing is there than to give your life to the Lord Jesus Christ.

I'll leave it there for today and I believe the Holy Spirit would just challenge us this morning to consider our lives and the paths we have chosen and to ask ourselves am I really fulfilling that which God has called me to?

May we meditate on that as we worship the Lord this morning and next week we'll get into some difficult topics if you just read verses 16 to the end of the chapter.

Today if you need to give your life to Jesus if you know He is calling you deeper in your relationship with Him I just encourage you if you would like to receive prayer that you would just go ahead and come forward. Let me pray for us and we'll worship in response.

Romans 1:16-17 says <sup>16</sup>**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.** <sup>17</sup>**For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."**



Certainly the news that took place as Charlie Kirk was assassinated this past Wednesday has rocked our nation...and I would say that it has stirred the church in the depths of our hearts and I believe this especially hits close to home as we like Charlie Kirk believe and stand for the Lord Jesus Christ.

I will not stand here today and say every quote and argument of Charlie was something I would agree with but I will say with all confidence that the message of Jesus Christ that he stood for in the midst of great hatred is to be picked up and run with by those of us who name the name of Jesus.

Charlie was asked not that long before he died “What would you hope to be remembered for if everything completely went away?”

His response “I want to be remembered for courage for my faith.” He further said “That would be the most important thing; the most important thing is my faith” Charlie could have said anything to that question but the thing that drove him the most was his intense desire that all would come to know Jesus and that was evidenced in the many conversations he had.

I would say today that you and I can be known for many things in life but there is none that compares to simply be known for being a follower of the One that died to give us life and to give it to us more abundantly

As we think about our nation and our faith today The following quote was found on an Instagram post...It said “I’m sure the early church felt similar when the 12 disciples were martyred 1 by 1...Those there probably said “What are we going to do without these guys? We

needed them!” The movement only got bigger and went forward stronger. The gates of hell will not prevail. God will get the glory!

He went on to quote John 14:1 which says **“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.”**

In a day and age of hostility towards those who stand on the Lord Jesus Christ and the moral Biblical God-given principles we are commanded to follow and live for you and I must stand for truth, we must not cower in fear, we must count the cost of following Christ and we must remember that though we are here today that tomorrow may be our last day on earth...What would you be known for if you died today? If the stamp upon your life is not that you live and honor Jesus Christ I pray the Lord will convict you and bring you to a deeper trust, hope and willingness to surrender your will to His.

I believe Charlie Kirk will be remembered for his faith in Jesus Christ, his love of family and promotion of Biblical family values and his love for his country. The underlying current of Charlie’s life if you just examine his life was one that was governed by God and the love of Jesus Christ for the world.

I like many of you find this a difficult thing to walk through and work through spiritually and emotionally but I pray that you and I would be emboldened in our faith and our desire to publicly stand and live for the Lord Jesus Christ and if you are here today and even now Jesus is calling you to Himself and maybe you are here today because you desire to respond to Jesus Christ and His death on the cross I want to just let you know that today before we leave you are going to be given the opportunity to give you heart and life to Jesus Christ.



As we remember Charlie, as we grieve our nation this morning, as we seek God for His healing and revival and a return to Biblical principles I am reminded that there in One who is on the throne and He is worthy of our praise and so this morning as we grieve the loss of a brother in Christ, as we grieve for the family that he has left behind, I am going to pray for us and we are going to continue in worship and I certainly urge you that if God is working in your heart this morning that you would simply cry out to the One that can save you and He will meet you right where you are.

And so let me pray for us and we'll continue in worship if the worship team would like to come forward.