## Sermon 2: The Glorious End of the Gospel: Romans 1:1-7

**Text: Romans 1:1-7** "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ: To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ…"

**Introduction:** This morning we looked at three foundational truths.

- **Truth 1: We must magnify its message:**
    - Paul believed the solution to the Jew/Gentile tension was not to establish two churches, but rather to drive the church back to the heart of the gospel.
    - He also understood that this return to a gospel-centered focus was also the key to his desire to partner with the church to take the gospel to Spain.
- **Truth 2: We must submit to its authority: 1:1** "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God…"
    - Paul was an apostle who wanted the church to understand the authority of his message.
    - He also did not want to lift himself up.
    - He was a servant not just an apostle.
- **Truth 3: We must glory in its revelation: 1:1-3** "The gospel of God, (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord…"
    - The gospel reveals God's character because he is the object of the gospel and also its source.
    - It is a promise built on God's faithfulness to His word.

**Truth 4: We must articulate its contents: 1:3-4** "Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead…"

- **Christ is the central person of the gospel:** "Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord…"
    - **Fully man: 1:3** "Made of the seed of David according to the flesh…"

        - **John 1:14** "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory…"
        - **Galatians 4:4** "When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law…"
        - **Philippians 2:7** "Made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men…"
        - **Hebrews 2:14** "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil…"
    - **Fully God: 1:4** "Declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness…"
        - **Inherent glory:**
            - **Christ possesses the full radiance of the Father's glory: Hebrews 1:3** "Being the brightness of his glory…"
            - **He is of the same essence as the Father and perfectly represents Him: Hebrews 1:3**"The express image of his person…"
                - **χαρακτήρ** An exact representation of the Father like an image stamped into a coin.
                - **ὑπόστασις** Of the same essence or substance as the Father.
        - **Ascribed glory:** "Declared to be the Son of God with power…"
            - **His glory was temporarily veiled in the incarnation: Philippians 2:7-8** "Made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross…"
            - **The resurrection declares without qualification His inherent power and glory:**
    - **Objectively validated: 1:4** "By the resurrection from the dead…"
        - **Colossians 2:15** "Spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it…"
        - **2 Corinthians 13:4** "Though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God…"
        - **1 Corinthians 1:25** "The foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men…"

        - **1 Corinthians 15:20-26** "Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death…"
- **Christ's work is the central content of the gospel: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4** "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures…"
    - **Christ's death:** There is no resurrection without the incarnation and the physical death of Christ
    - **Christ's resurrection:** This action in history is the single greatest validation of the gospel.
- **Implications:**
    - The gospel begins with a correct understanding of Christ's nature.
    - We could not be redeemed without the miracle of the incarnation.
    - We could not be redeemed without the substitutionary death of Christ and His triumph over death by the resurrection.
    - This was the message Paul passionately proclaimed.

**Truth 5: We must rejoice in its goal: 1:5-6** "By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ…"

- **Two Critical Questions:**
    - Why did God appoint apostles to preach the gospel?
    - Why did He empower them to do this work?
- **Three basic reasons:**
    - **He wants people to submit to the gospel's call:** "Obedience to the faith…"
        - **Acts 3:19** "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out…"
        - **Acts 17:30-31** "God…now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness…"

        - **1 Peter 4:17** "What shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"
        - **2 Thessalonians 1:7** "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord…"
    - **He wants the invitation to go to the uttermost parts of the earth:** "All nations…"
        - **Mark 16:15** "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature…"
        - **Luke 24:46-47** "It is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem…"
    - **He wants to assemble a redeemed people from every kindred tribe and nation:** "Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ…"
        - **Revelation 5:9** "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation…"
        - **1 Peter 2:9-10** "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy…"

**Truth 6: We must rest in its end: 1:7** "To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ…"

- **Called in a physical context:** "To all that be in Rome…"
    - This was the most powerful city in the world at the time.
    - With that power came many challenges.
    - He planted this church in Rome to be salt and light.
- **Objects of God's love:** "Beloved of God…"
    - Despite their challenging circumstances, God loved them.
    - There was nothing they had done to earn that love.
    - It was all of God's grace and they needed to rest confidently in that love.
- **Called to a distinct walk from a distinct position:** "Called to be saints…"

    - Positionally, they were saints.
    - Practically, they needed to walk like that was true about them/
- **At peace with God by God's redemptive grace:** "Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ…"
    - This simple greeting will be a central part of what Paul will say throughout the book.
    - This position is the result of God's grace alone.
    - This position is a position of peace with God.
    - Salvation is a gift.

**Application:**

- Address trouble at the root.
- Submit to God's Authority.
- Glory in His goodness.
- Rest in His faithfulness.
- Purpose to build your life on the gospel.
- Articulate the gospel with clarity.
- Rejoice in its goal.
- Rest in its wonderful end.