

READY TO PREACH | ROMANS 1:8-17 | Pastor Mark Bofill | AUG 11, 2024

* I. Paul's Plans (8-12) | II. Paul's Position (13-15) | III. Paul's Proclamation (16-17)

INTRO: The apostle Paul just presented a long *“theological introduction”* to the church at ROME (1:1-7). In this next section Paul moves into an explanation of his intentions for Rome and his reasons for it. Within this section of scripture we'll find Paul's theme, of which he was **READY TO PREACH** *

I. PAUL'S PLANS (8-12) – As we read the text, we can sense Paul's Zeal for Rome! *He begins...*

A. HIS GRATITUDE (8) – *Was from his HEART!* – *“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ...”*

1. Paul was Thankful to God (8a) – i.e., Because they too had come to know that Jesus is Lord.
2. Paul was Thankful for their Faith (8b) – i.e., *their genuine salvation* – Their faith was a witness throughout the whole world (*Faith can be visible!*)

B. HIS ATTITUDE (9-12) – *Was an attitude of PRAYER!* – *“For God is my witness...”*

1. **Revealed in His Relationship with God (9)** – Paul Prayed for the Roman Church! He prayed for someone he did not even know YET! (*Not fake*) [*A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing*]

- a. Paul's prayer life *“witnessed by God” (9)* – Awareness *“For God is my witness”*
- b. Paul *“served God in spirit” (9b)* – devotion
- c. Paul's service was regarding the *“Gospel of His Son” (9c)* – [*Not his own message*]
- d. Paul's prayer for those in Rome was *“without ceasing” (9d)* – Constant asking! [*He who kneels before God can stand before anyone!*]

2. **Revealed His Reasons (10-12)** – *He Desired to Visit the Roman Church* – Paul's desire became a reality through the power of prayer! (*We too should pray without ceasing!*)

- a. Paul's request was that he would find a way to them (10a) – Purpose
 - i. Paul knew that it could happen any way (10b) – Flexibility
 - ii. Paul knew that it had to be the will of God (10c) – Submission
- b. **Paul longed to see those in Rome (11a)**, because he wanted them to Grow Spiritually. Specifically, he mentions his desire to impart some *“spiritual gift”* to them. **Greek: Charisma**
 - i. Paul believed that a **spiritual gift** was needed for them to be established (11b)
 - ii. Paul desired a **mutual encouragement of faith** with them (12) – [*He desired to be encouraged, and to encourage them*] – Fellowship!

P/A – *As a father imparts wisdom and direction to his son...* so, Paul wanted to do for them spiritually. (*Possibly gifts of understanding or fruitfulness, unto maturity!* – 1 Cor 1:4-5)

II. PAUL'S POSITION (13-15) – *I am a debtor..., I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.* – He was a debtor to Greeks, barbarians, wise, and unwise – Paul's Situation

A. His SITUATION (13) – *Yearned to Visit them (13)* – The apostle Paul traveled much, but his desire was to be in Rome – (Rom 1:13-15) *“Now I do not want you to be unaware...”*

1. Paul desires to go to Rome (13a) –

- a. Paul was often hindered from going to Rome (13b) – *[We set the sail; but God makes the wind]*
- b. Paul had been hindered before in ministry – (1 Thess 2:18), *Therefore we wanted to come to you--even I, Paul, time and again--but Satan hindered us.* –
- The Will of God will never take you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

2. Paul’s concern edify them (13c) – Paul already had some fruit amongst other Gentiles, but Paul also desired to have some *“fruit”* among them – *i.e. Invest in their growth which is Discipleship*

B. His OBLIGATION (14) – He recognized that he had somewhat of a debt to Rome, i.e. to bring the Good News to this worldly epicenter. – **He was A DEBTOR** in the sense that Jesus Christ saved him and committing the Gospel to him.

- He knew what he **BELIEVED** – His belief in Jesus was a priority (1 Cor 2:2) *“For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”*
- He was **NOT RELIGIOUS** *[Anymore]* – He learned that religion consisted of rules that only addressed **behavioral change** *[exterior]* – He learned that religion is not a step towards God, but a step away from God!

P/A – *Are you dedicated to the fact that Jesus Christ is the only way to God...* or are you tolerant and open minded to the teachings of Buddha, Krishna, Darwinism, or even the worship of Mary?

C. His ANTICIPATION (15) – He was READY! *Spurgeon wonders if Paul didn't use the words “I am ready”* as his motto. Almost the first words out of his mouth when he was saved were, *“Lord, what do you want me to do?”* (Acts 9:6)

- Paul was ready to **Preach and to Serve** (Rom 1:15)
- Paul was ready to **Suffer** (Acts 21:13)
- Paul was ready to do **Unpleasant Work** (2 Cor 10:6)
- Paul was ready to Die (2 Tim 4:6) – *That is what it means to be RADICAL FOR JESUS CHRIST!*

CLOSING THOUGHTS: Regardless of Pauls’ position locationally, he was always flexible to be repositioned by the Lord. – His willingness and availability to God is an example for us today!

III. PAUL’S PROCLAMATION (16-17) – *Paul NOW PROCLAIMS the theme of his letter: The Righteousness of God,* as revealed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. – *In his 1st statement we see...*

A. His DEDICATION to the Gospel (16a) *“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ;”*

1. **He was NOT ASHAMED!** – For a number of reasons, but generally because it was his Calling.

- Because it was Prophetic (v.2)
- Because it was Provable (v.4) – *i.e., Jesus rose from the dead*
- Because it was Personal (v.5) – *Jesus came to Paul personally (cf. Acts 9:3-6)*
- Because he was Aware of what Jesus declared in (Mark 8:38) **“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”**

B. Paul’s DESCRIPTION of the Gospel (16b) *“For it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew First, and also for the Gentile.”*

1. **Paul knew WHAT the Gospel CONTAINED** – The Gospel has the **“Power of God”** – The Greek word for power is *dunamis*, which denotes dynamic inherent power. **Only God Himself has this kind of power.** – We must understand that **God’s power is UNLIMITED** in contrast to human power, and it **accomplishes what human power cannot!**

- **The gospel contains the Power to Transform** a person’s intellect, emotions, and will, which can lead to a changed life, a changed family, a changed workplace, a changed community! – In context, the **“Power of the Gospel”** was in direct opposition to the power of Rome in Paul’s day. – **Paul was empowered by this Gospel (Rom 15:29)**

P/A – Unsaved man cannot understand this power (1 Cor 1:18) *“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”*

2. **Paul knew what the Gospel COULD DO** – **The Gospel brings “Salvation”**, to sinful mankind.

- **Q: What is Salvation?** – **A: Simply said, Deliverance from the Power and Dominion of sin!**
- **HOW DOES salvation deliver me from sin?** **A: Through faith in Jesus Christ only!**
- **Jesus Christ is the author of salvation (Heb 5:9)** says: *“And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him”*. – Also **(Acts 4:12)**, *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

3. **Paul knew WHO the Gospel was for** – The Gospel is **“Universal”**, for the Jew and the Gentile. He meant **“everyone”** – this is clarified in the statement **“everyone who believes.”**

- **God desires everyone to be saved, as declared in (1 Tim 2:4)**, *“...who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*
- It is offered freely to all men, but is conditioned upon faith in Jesus Christ, and repentance of sins.

P/A – In Paul’s description of the Gospel, we have seen that he was absolutely sure about what the Gospel contained, what it could do, and who it was for. This simply communicates that... Everyone needs to be Transformed by the Power in the Gospel!

B. Paul's DECLARATION of the Gospel (17) – AS A STANDARD! *“For in it the Righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘the just shall live by faith.’”* – This is in direct contrast to the phrase in (Rom 1:18), *“wrath of God is revealed”*

1. The Gospel REVEALS God's Standard: “Righteousness” This is God's Standard! – The **concept of righteousness stems from the very character of God**, which describes His Uprightness and Holiness and that the fact that He is Just and True. **God is morally and ethically right, and He acts only in keeping with what is right and just.**

- Righteousness is ESSENTIAL to His very being and **characterizes all that He does.** This theme is common in Scripture. – In (Gen 18:25) Abraham said, shall not *“The judge of all the earth shall do right;”* and (2 Tim 4:8) plainly says that He is a *“righteous judge.”*
- God EXPRESSES His righteousness when He loves the things that are GOOD and hates the things that are EVIL.
- For God to be righteous principally means that God measures up to Himself and is always all that He ought to be as God.

P/A – *In the gospel of Jesus Christ, the righteousness of God is REVEALED*, because even God could not forgive our sins unrighteously. **There had to be a righteous basis for the forgiveness of our sins.** For a judge to just totally dismiss charges against a guilty man is not righteous!

This is WHY it was necessary for God sent His Only Begotten Son to DIE in our place and PAY for Our SINS (2 Cor 5:21) – *Which bring us to the second part of Paul's Declaration...*

2. The Gospel REQUIRES MAN'S RESPONSE – “Faith!” A quote is from (Hab 2:4), where God warned of the destruction and restoration of Israel, but prescribes how his people could survive... **“THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”**

- **“FAITH,” SATISFIES** God's requirement of Righteousness (1 Cor 1:30), *“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, righteousness, sanctification redemption.”*
- Faith in Jesus Christ has to be valid – everyone who is saved, is saved exactly the same way, by faith! (cf. Rom 5:1; Eph 2:8-10) – **This is why the Gospel must be preached!**

CLOSING THOUGHTS: The Apostle Paul Understood the condition of man and **what the gospel can do for man:** This is why **PAUL WAS READY TO PREACH the Gospel in ROME!**

1. As Christians, **we are ambassadors of Jesus Christ...** Are we thankful for other believers and do we look to build them up in the faith?
2. Does your current position hinder you from ministry to others? **How can you change that?**
3. **The Gospel is the Power of God revealed...** Are you ashamed of the gospel? Are we ready to share the gospel with a lost and dying world? (cf. 1 Cor 9:16-18)