

Romans 1:8-17
For the week of September 18, 2022

Reflection

What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon?

Were there questions, comments, concerns...?

Observation (vs. 8-10)

(Note: In verse 8, Paul starts with "First". If you can find the "Second", contact the church office for a prize!)

List the things that Paul does and expresses for the church in Rome.

Interpretation

Note how Paul states "my God" in verse 8. Look at these verses where Paul uses the same expression for God...

II Corinthians 12:21

Philippians 1:3 & 4:19

Philemon verse 4

Look again at the statement of Paul in verse 9, **For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son**¹. Some have referred to this as a kind of oath. How do you define this statement?

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ro 1:9.

How is Paul praying for the church in Rome?

Application

Is your relationship with God enough to where you refer to Him as “my God”? Why or why not?

What does it mean for you to pray without ceasing? Are there people/circumstances that you are praying for without ceasing?

Observation (vs. 11-12)

What is Paul desiring within these verses?

Interpretation

How is Paul's desire to see the church in Rome tempered? Read verse 10 again.

How do you define Paul's desire to “impart spiritual gifts” and to “mutually encourage”? Read also I Peter 1:7-11.

Application

Does God's will temper your desires? Why or why not?

How do you mutually encourage other believers with your gift(s) of the Holy Spirit?

Observation (vs. 13-15)

In your own words, what is Paul saying in these verses?

Interpretation

Why is Paul "under obligation" (also meaning a debtor, bound to)?

Why do you think he uses opposites? For example, Greeks and barbarians or cultured and non-cultured. Also, wise and foolish.

How does verse 15 add to this obligation?

Application

One commentary states, "**Perhaps the best understanding of the words is to see the gospel as imposing a debt on all who receive it, a debt which calls for repayment by passing the gospel on to someone else.**"² How are you indebted to pass the gospel on to someone else?

² Leon Morris, [*The Epistle to the Romans*](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1988), 63.

Observation (vs. 16-17)

What is Paul saying here?

Interpretation

Why is it important for the believer to not be ashamed of the Gospel?

Application

Do you struggle with being ashamed of the Gospel? Why or why not?

Note:

These two verses have an importance out of all proportion to their length. The weighty matter they contain tells us much of what this epistle is about. It is not wrong to see in them a summary of Paul's theology as a whole. We have already noticed that the theme of Romans is God. This whole epistle is a book about God. But once that is recognized these verses may be held to give us the thesis of the epistle: they sum up for us what God has done to bring us salvation. Paul declares his adherence to the gospel (which he has already said is God's, v. 1) and points out that God's power is at work in it. It is a revelation of God's righteousness. Paul quotes from the prophet Habakkuk (2:4) to show that it is no new-fangled fantasy, but God's way foretold from of old through God's prophets. All these are characteristic Pauline thoughts and will be developed as we go through the epistle.³

³ Leon Morris, [*The Epistle to the Romans*](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1988), 66.