

Good News

Romans 1:1-16

Introduction:

1. **Theme of the book** – The Gospel; Specifically about what has been done for us. It is not our righteousness, but His on our behalf. He lived a life that we could never live.
2. **The Gospel** – The word literally means “good news” or “good herald.” It is the good news that Christ died, buried, and rose again according to the Scriptures (I Corinthians 15:4). Paul claims that he is separated to the Gospel of God (V.1). The Gospel is a good announcement declaring what Jesus has done for us. It is not just good advice; it is news about what Jesus Christ has done. One note is that the Gospel is of God, not Paul (V.1). This is just an observation that no one should or mess with the message of the Gospel because it is not ours. The Gospel is for everyone (Here he introduces that the Gospel of Jesus is for the Jews and the Greeks).
 - **II Peter 3:9** says, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”
 - **John 3:16** says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

- **Acts 2:21** says, “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
3. So let’s jump right into it: **Romans 1:1-16** Commentary
- I. **The Writer** – V. 1
 - Paul’s Background – He was the pharisee of the Pharisees. He felt that killing Christians pleased by God.
 - **Servant** (V. 1) – The word literally means “slave.” This is the complete opposite of what he had been going with as a Pharisee. As a Pharisee, his aim was to elevate himself over people when it came to lawful matters and religion. As a Pharisee, when he encountered people with problems, he would usually respond something like this – “Well, you are getting what you deserve. If you started living up to the law as good as me, that wouldn’t have happened.” You see, the Gospel changed everything about his life. His direction went from living to elevate himself to living to lower himself and elevating Jesus in the process. His direction with others went from pride to humility. From serving himself to serving others. The Gospel produces an entirely different spirit in us than religion ever could do. **ILLUS:** Pastor at NewSpring Church lost his wife and unborn child in a terrible accident. A EMT worker had served a shift for 24 hours and shouldn’t have been driving, fell asleep at the wheel and hit them head on. At his

sentencing (he was facing felony charges), the pastor showed up and pleaded with the judge to lessen his sentence. On the Today Show, he was asked why, the pastor responded “that’s what Jesus did for me. When I wronged him, he showed me love, brought me close, and it just makes sense that I start doing that for other people. The Gospel changes everything.

- **Apostle** (V. 1) – He was a special ambassador or messenger for the Gospel. First, because he had seen the resurrected Jesus. Second, because of a specific calling God placed on his life to tell the Gospel.
- **Separated** (V. 1) – The only thing that Paul wanted to be known for was the Gospel. When he was a Pharisee, he wanted to make a name for himself. Now, he only wants people to know the name of Jesus. I have heard it said this way before, “I’m just a nobody trying to tell everybody all about somebody who can save anybody.”

II. **The Message** – V. 2-4

- **The Gospel was prophesied** (V.2) – Jesus fulfilled OT prophecy. There are hundreds of verses in the Old Testament that tell us about the coming Messiah.
 - Genesis – He was the fulfillment of the promise God gave to Adam and Eve to give them a son who would crush the head of the serpent
 - Exodus - He was the Passover Lamb

- Numbers - He was our ever-present guide, our pillar of cloud
- Deuteronomy – The prophet coming that would be greater than Moses
- **The resurrection from the dead** (V.4) – I feel it is just wise to go with the man who resurrected from the dead. **Lee Strobel** (The case for Christ) – liberal journalist from Chicago who got sick of Christians sharing their faith with him. So, he set out to prove that the resurrection of Jesus never happened. At the end of his research, he came to the conclusion that there is no way that the resurrection didn’t happen and gave his life to Christ. **Rosaria Butterfield**, a liberal, lesbian professor at Syracuse University who despised Christians began to tackle the topic of hate that she felt Christians had to the LGBT movement. In her research, she decided that she must read the book she hated most – the Bible. She wrote her thoughts in the form of a newspaper article. After that she received tons of hate and fan mail. One letter was different. It was from a pastor of a church near her. He just asked her questions (he did not hate), and in the letter offered her dinner at his house to discuss her research. She felt that it would help her in her research, so she did. They became friends. After months of conversations, she writes this: “I was a broken mess. I did not want to lose everything that I loved. But the voice of God sang a sanguine love song in the rubble of my

world. I weakly believed that if Jesus could conquer death, he could make right my world. I rested in private peace, then community, and today in the shelter of a covenant family, where one calls me "wife" and many call me "mother."

III. The Mission – V. 14-16

- **"I am debtor"** (V. 14) – I am obligated. One pastor put it this way, "what if you were given \$1,000 to feed the hungry and you decided to keep it for yourself." That is not your money, you owe it to someone to share it. It was freely given to you for someone else. Listen, you are no more special than someone in another country who has never heard the name of Jesus. God blessed you with it not to keep it for yourself, but to bless others with it.
- **"I am ready"** (V. 15) – The word literally means "eager." I want to get the message to you. He anticipated it. He looked forward to sharing it, and he was ready.
- **"I am not ashamed"** (V. 16) – Notice, he had to say this phrase. It is because some are ashamed, and many Christians today are ashamed. We are ashamed, because the Gospel is offensive, right? The Gospel is contrary to what many in our worlds feel so we keep it to ourselves. Being "unashamed" means you recognize these things and you proclaim it anyway. I know it may be offensive, but I believe it can change your life so I am willing to be offensive with it for the sake of someone's soul.

Conclusion:

1. Paul realized a few things here in chapter one:
 - He was unworthy and undeserving
 - He believed that what changed his life can change another person's life
 - He couldn't keep it to himself
2. The Gospel is the hope of the world! Are you ashamed or are you eager to share the good news?