

Romans 1:8-17

Verse 8

I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you – Paul often began his letters thanking God for the readers (1 Cor. 1:4; Eph. 1:16; Phil. 1:3; Col. 1:3; 1 Thess. 1:2; 2 Thess. 1:3; 2 Tim. 1:3; Phlm. 4).

Proclaimed throughout the whole world – This is hyperbole meaning the whole Roman Empire.

Verse 9

I serve in my spirit = With my whole heart or with deep conviction.

Unceasingly = Frequently. They were constantly in his thoughts and prayers. This word is only used four times in the New Testament, here and in 1 Thess 1:2; 2:13; and 5:17.

Verse 10

If perhaps now...I may succeed in coming to you – Paul was arrested, spent two years in prison, and was shipwrecked before his prayers were answered.

Verses 11-13

Impart some spiritual gift to you – Paul explains in verse 12 that he means the mutual encouragement of each other by the exercise of spiritual gifts.

Obtain some fruit – In their growth and ultimately at the judgment seat of Christ.

Verses 14-15

I am under obligation – Because He was called as an apostle to the Gentiles.

Greeks and barbarians – A division by language and culture. The Greeks considered anyone who did not speak Greek as a barbarian.

Wise and foolish – An intellectual division.

I am eager to preach the gospel to you – The gospel includes a much broader concept than merely justification. It also furnishes power through Christ's resurrection for the believer to live victoriously now by the Spirit.

Verses 16-17 – The Theme of Romans! The Gospel has the power to justify and to deliver the justified to experience life.

I am not ashamed of the gospel – Paul may be thinking of unsaved Greeks who think the cross is foolishness (1 Cor. 1:23). This may also be *litotes*, a figure of speech where the negative stresses the positive.

For it is the power of God – 'Power' is the Greek word *dunamis* from which we get the word dynamite.

For salvation – This is an umbrella term for all aspects of deliverance. It includes justification, sanctification and glorification. In Romans this word means deliverance from God's present wrath brought about by sins. The focus is freeing the believer from sin's grip. It is interesting that this word *salvation* is not mentioned again until Romans 5:9.

To everyone who believes – There are no other conditions! We believe the good news about Jesus Christ, the Messiah who died for the sin of the world and offers eternal life to all who simply believe in Him.

To the Jew first and also to the Greek – God chose the Jews to be the people through whom the gospel would reach the world (Genesis 18:18; 22:18; 26:4; Psalm 67; Psalm 117; Isaiah 49:6; Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8).

In it the righteousness of God is revealed – It is the *gospel* that reveals the righteousness of God.

The righteousness of God – This expression occurs eight times in Romans and once in 2 Corinthians 5:21. It is primarily a relational concept. It is the act by which God brings people into right relationship with Himself. It is a legal declaration or judicial acceptance, upon faith alone in Christ alone, and also the means by which God bestows all believers with resurrection power through the indwelling Holy Spirit who enables us to live righteously.

It is revealed from faith to faith – Every aspect of God's salvation comes to us by faith. It begins with faith and ends with faith. God justifies the ungodly on the basis of faith from the beginning and continues to aid the believer in sanctification directed by faith to the end. ***Faith is the sole means for justification and the life-blood for sanctification.***

It is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith." - This quotation of Habakkuk 2:4 occurs three times in the New Testament: Here, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38. The context and Greek word order support the translation, "The one who is righteous by faith shall live," emphasizing that the believer who is declared righteous by faith now has the capacity to live righteously.

The gospel is the message of how a *righteous* God makes people *righteous* righteously!