

ROMANS

KNOW THE TRUTH

February 18, 2024

Series: Know The Truth

Sermon: The Power and Grace of God to Save

Scripture: Romans 1:1-17

Summary: Romans has been referred to as a manifesto on the Christian life. No other letter of Paul's is as long or covers as much. What we truly know about God comes from the Word of God (Scriptures). Jesus said, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32). From the time of his conversion and calling on the road to Damascus, Paul was under the authority of Jesus. He identifies himself as such in chapter one verse one, "I Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God." He is therefore writing the truth. Truth we need and truth we can know. God makes the truth available to everyone "not wishing that any should perish but that all should reach repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). Paul wrote Romans under the authority of Jesus to lead others to know the truth about God.

Romans 1:1-17

1 This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News. 2 God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures. 3 The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line, 4 and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. 5 Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name. 6 And you are included among those Gentiles who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ. 7 I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are called to be his own holy people. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. 8 Let me say first that I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith in him is being talked about all over the world. 9 God knows how often I pray for you. Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God, whom I serve with all my heart by spreading the Good News about his Son. 10 One of the things I always pray for is the opportunity, God willing, to come at last to see you. 11 For I long to visit you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord. 12 When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours. 13 I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to visit you, but I was prevented until now. I want to work among you and see spiritual fruit, just as I have seen among other Gentiles. 14 For I have a great sense of obligation to people in both the civilized world and the rest of the world, to the educated and uneducated alike. 15 So I am eager to come to you in Rome, too, to preach the Good News. 16 For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. 17 This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

- The Gospel is the good news that God has a plan for saving those who believe in Jesus from sin and death. (All Nations - verses 3-5)
- Proof of God is in the faith of believers. (All the World - verse 8)
- The Gospel is the power of God to save all who believe. (All Believers - verse 16)

Life Application:

1. What did Paul mean when he wrote that he was a “slave” of Jesus Christ, chosen by God, sent to preach the good news and what are the implications as we begin this study of Romans?
2. Paul captured the essence of the good news and its impact on him and those who were hearing and believing (verses 2-7). What were the benefits to the original readers of Paul’s letter to the church in Rome? Name some benefits to those reading these verses today?
3. Name individuals of any generation known for their great faith. Can you name anyone alive today in other parts of the world who has great faith?
4. Where does faith come from? How does someone get more faith? Is it possible to have the kind of faith we read about in scripture and hear about in other parts of the world today? What holds people back from vibrant growing encouraging faith?
5. What steps can we take to increase our faith? Individually? Corporately?
6. How might Paul encourage the faith of those in the church in Rome? How might those in the church in Rome encourage Paul’s faith? How can we emulate this faith encouraging in 2024 and beyond?
7. Faith is key to the Good News (Gospel) as Paul wrote, “From start to finish.” Whether in personal salvation or witnessing to others, Good News without faith is incomplete. How does the power of God work through faith in salvation? How does the power of God work through faith in witnessing?
8. PRAY: Ask the Lord to strengthen your faith and to use you as a witness to those who are lost.