

Romans 1 TITLE AND OPENING QUESTION: **“How Great is YOUR Faith”?**
Infant, mediocre, or mature....What would your friends/family say?

TODAY we will get an opportunity to see if your faith is as strong as the Romans

Rom. 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, **because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.** ⁹ For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you, ¹⁰ always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you. ¹¹ For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established; ¹² that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine. ¹³ I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles. ¹⁴ I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. ¹⁵ So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, **“but the righteous man shall live by faith.”**

This is a LOT of text and you will need your Bibles to break this down with me accurately, especially to break it down in context (**Remember: Context is King**)

Rom. 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, **because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.**

POINT: Paul considered, at this time (in HIS LIFE), the Gospel had ALREADY been preached to the whole world.

Rom. 16:25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, **according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,** ²⁶ but now is manifested, and by the **Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;**

IN OTHER WORDS, The GREAT COMMISSION was fulfilled to Jew and Gentile alike (From Jerusalem to Judea and the uttermost parts of the earth) and the Gospel was continuing through faithful believers as they join Jesus by sharing their faith...**In Other Words...Jesus was building His Church, Prophecy was fulfilled...with nothing to keep Jesus from coming back SOON!**

Rom. 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, **because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.**

Opening Question AGAIN:

Are YOU known for YOUR great faith?

- When people talk about you do they talk about your **strong faith?**
- OR when you die ☺ will people say you were known for **YOUR GREAT FAITH?**

• **Heb. 11**-Who's who of GREAT FAITH (**Not perfect, but more than saving faith, but a faith that could be seen by others**)...Will Jesus say "Well Done...."

WHY ARE YOU HERE?...To please men or to please GOD???

Heart to Heart?....God put this on my heart!!!

"Life on this earth is highly over rated!"

1. We cling to it as if it is all we have????
2. So SHORT
3. So messed up with sin and broken bodies

4. **AND, It is so easy to get distracted FROM the whole reason we are here,**

Which is to:

(1) **find Jesus**

(2) **grow up in our faith**

(3) **share the joy and hope that we have for an eternal future, with others, while making disciples or followers of Jesus!**

(4) **walking by faith not by sight,** not just professing faith once...and forgetting about it! (Like, I have my get out of jail card free)

WELCOME TO LIFE 1.0 (2.0 is on the way ☺) and if you are so consumed with escaping drama, pain, heartache and various tests and trials you will miss your purpose for being here!

James 1:1 Consider it all JOY whenever you faced tests and trials- strong faith

John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, **so that in Me** you may have peace. **In the world you have tribulation,** but take courage; I have overcome the world." Our strong faith through Christ is our means of overcoming world!

Rom. 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Eternal mindset!

I was touched by Pastor Marks sermon a few weeks back where I was reminded how seldom we pray for spiritual growth and the lost, but are obsessed with prayers of health and physical well-being.....not that those prayers are wrong, just the disproportionit in our prayer life!

POINT: If we are NOT living for the eternal life, we will miss the present JOY of this short life that is set before us....

1. Our Joy is misplaced if found in our physical comfort in this life

2. Our joy is misplaced if found in the money we have
3. Our joy is misplaced if found in the position or station we have in life
4. **OUR "ETERNAL" JOY CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN THE GOSPEL.....**
The Gospel alone is our ONLY "Future" Hope!...See Paul's Joy now-

Rom. 1:9 *For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you,¹⁰ always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you. .¹¹ For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;¹² that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.*

•**NOTE: Paul in prison** is NOT asking prayers for himself, BUT praying for others

•**Paul prays for** additional ministry opportunities (**Rome and Spain**)

•**Desire to impart Spiritual Gift....** NOT GIFTS OF THE "HOLY SPIRIT" but in context.....GIFT OF ENCOURAGEMENT, SPECIFICALLY IN CONTEXT, **GREATER FAITH FOR PAUL THE MATURE AND THOSE OF GREAT FAITH IN ROME!**

•**GREATEST GIFTS in Corinthians were FAITH, HOPE and LOVE--the very reason we come together weekly on Sunday to “build up” and encourage one another!**

Q: THIS BEGS THE QUESTION...SO HOW DOES “OUR” FAITH GROW HERE AT NORTH SUMMIT IN 2024?

1. Faith grows through **test and trials** in Rome or the USA
Rome was a perverted cesspool our country is trying to imitate
The moral decline in our world has NOT taken God by surprise!
2. Faith grows by obedience to Holy Spirit in the small things
3. Faith grows LIKE A MUSCLE with a personal trainer...
4. FAITH GROWS IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS BELIEVERS through imitation
5. Even the most mature can continue to grow in faith!
6. Our faith is the SALT AND LIGHT Jesus called us to be

**SIRI turn on my flashlight and room blackout
What an opportunity we each have right
now!**

The worse things become, the brighter our faith appears as salt and light

Jesus told us things would get this bad and worse before he comes back and yet His Church would continue to grow no matter what!

WE STILL HAVE A MORAL OBLIGATION TO VOTE-GUIDES IN THE GYM

13 I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.

The “FRUIT” or karpos in Greek in context would be other souls in Rome not yet reached with the Gospel **AND THE “FRUIT” OF FAITHFULNESS from H/S**

¹⁴ I am under **obligation** both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. ¹⁵ So, for my part, **I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.**

POINT: As a “Bondservant” (Rom. 1:1) Paul is under OBLIGATION to God!

QUESTION: Do you see yourself as a “Bondservant of Christ”...One who has willingly come under the Lordship of Christ and who sees Jesus as one you are obligated to?

1. This is not as foreign as you might think
2. All of us are OBLIGATED TO SOMETHING OR SOMEONE...
 - A. Are you OBLIGATED to a Bank for a mortgage company or a Credit Card(s), or Utility company, or school, or family and friends that you OWE and if so for WHAT?...A DEBT that will be discharged upon your death?
 - B. None of us can ever pay Jesus back for the debt we owe Him!

POINT: The Sad truth is so few Christians feel under obligation to Christ...

AFTER ALL....“It’s my life and I’ll do whatever I want with it” This is a **Post Modern thought**, after all...“You deserve it”! Look what YOU have accomplished!...***all the while forgetting without the grace of God, your very next breath, not to mention ETERNAL LIFE 2.0, WITH A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH CAN “ONLY” COME THROUGH JESUS!***

I’M SORRY BUT HEART TO HEART, I AM CHALLENGING YOU TO MAKE A DECISION TODAY TO BECOME A **BONDSERVANT** OF JESUS SO YOU DON’T WASTE ANYMORE OF THIS VAPOR OF A LIFE IN THESE PRESENT BODIES!

This means living out your faith, not just living saved by faith

This is NOT a commitment of “paying” for your salvation OR IN EXCHANGE for salvation...(You can’t EVER do this!),
What I’m challenging you to do is recognize the *obligation* every believer has to follow after Jesus, dying to SELF in THANKSGIVING to Him for the life He gave so that you might live....life now AND eternal life 2.0 ☺

Matt. 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. ²⁵ “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

LOOK AT VERSE 15 AGAIN...

¹⁵ So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

THIS IS WHY PAUL WANTED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE SAINTS IN THIS ROMAN CHURCH WHO ARE “ALREADY SAVED”.....to remind them of what Christ did for them....this is where the SPIRITUAL GIFT of “ENCOURAGEMENT” AND FAITH BUILDING COMES FROM....

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “but the righteous man shall live by faith.”

POINT: THE “GOSPEL” IS NOT the POWER OF MAN, BUT OF GOD!

• **Religion** is the “Power of Man” and it can’t save ANYONE!

- **Being a Good Person**, hoping YOU did something to save yourself is religion and again the “power of man”...worthless unto salvation!
- **There are so many people trying to please God through good works** to get into heaven who will be so disappointed when they find out their works are as “filthy rags” to God!

LOOK AGAIN AT VERSE 17...

¹⁷ For in it (THE GOSPEL) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “but the righteous man shall live by faith.”

FROM FAITH TO FAITH is how we share the Gospel with the unsaved
FROM FAITH TO FAITH is how we build each other up as followers of Jesus

FROM FAITH TO FAITH is the gift Paul wanted to exchange with the Roman

Church as Paul would share his faith with other believers and they would share their strong faith with Him....EACH ENCOURAGING THE OTHER...

THE RIGHTEOUS MAN OR WOMAN who is now made “RIGHTEOUS” BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS ARE NOW CALLED TO GROW AND LIVE OUT THEIR FAITH TO ALL THOSE AROUND THEM as long as we are in these mortal bodies all to the glory of God.....

AND SO WE PREACH THE GOSPEL WEEK AFTER WEEK...

It is NOT a creed or religion...

It is NOT a statement of faith...

It is NOT just words on paper...

IT IS AN EVENT AND IT IS FACT...Here is Paul’s description of those facts...

1Cor. 15:2-8 *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and*

that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷ then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

COMMUNION-----

This is why our pastors made a change to celebrate the Lord's Supper at the END of every service each week.....

Because Faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17)

Rev. 22:16-17 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "**Come.**" And let the one who hears say, "**Come.**" And let the one who is thirsty **come**; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

IF YOU ARE NOT A BELIEVER BELIEVE IN THE FACTS/EVENTS OF THE GOSPEL

AS A BELIEVER REMEMBER THE FACTS/EVENTS OF THE GOSPEL.....

Together as we celebrate the WORK OF GOD!

PRAYER OVER CONGREGATION

Romans 16:25-27 *Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, ²⁶ but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; ²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.*