

SCRIPTURE: Romans 1:1-17 TITLE: "The Power of the Gospel"

Intro: **A Long Trip.** Camper, one night. Easy. Just load up and go. No prep. Pull up, plug up. Enjoy. Not getting ready for a long journey. Romans has been called by **Luther**: "the chief part of the NT the purest gospel...the whole of Christian doctrine" **Calvin**: "an open door into all the most profound treasures of Scripture." **Tyndale**: "Learn it by heart. The more it is studied the more it is understood. The more it is chewed, the easier it is to swallow." **Lloyd-Jones** took 366 sermons almost 13years. **Piper** 265 sermons 8 1/2 years. **Us**: 33 sermons, to finish in one year. **Pack up. Buckle up. Let's go!**

**Thesis:** "The Book of Romans is all about the Gospel of Jesus Christ for sinners."

**I. The Purpose of the Gospel (1-7)**

- A. **(vv.) To declare the message of Jesus's Kingdom** in fulfillment of Scripture and revealed thru His life, death and resurrection. ("**concerning His Son**"; "**His Name among all the nations**").
- B. **(v.4) Jesus Christ "Our Lord". "We have no king but Caesar". Jesus is the Gospel!**
- C. **(v.4) The Holy Spirit testified/confirmed this through resurrection.**
- D. **(v.5-6) Obedience to Jesus through faith.** First and foremost our allegiance is to Jesus.
- E. **(v.7) To give/show love, grace, and peace to and through His people. Called.**

Trinity  
God-Man

**BACKGROUND: Intro to Romans. Overview. Why Rome? Why this letter?**

- Written around 57 AD. **Jew & Gentile Believers. Influential and affluent city. Capital** of Empire.
- **Diverse (nations) (Greek/Latin/Other/Barbarian).** Paul had never been but want to because of its impact and **potential. Pagan** society. Polytheistic. Idolatry. Promiscuity. Homosexuality. **Hostile.**
- No afterlife. No hope. No consequences or eternal impact.
- **Justice & Peace** (forced). **Pax Romana.** Citizenship. **Industry. Language. Travel** (ships & roads).
- Paul could've seen Rome as a **strategic place** for fulfilling the purpose of the Gospel. **Home base. Resources. Location. People. Meeting place.** So Jesus's kingdom can spread/takeover. Never been.
- Sort of Like the **Atlanta Airport.** Seems like you always have to go thru **ATL. "All roads lead to Rome!"**
- Get to know me. My **gospel/doctrine/teaching.** Also, a good place to have it all written it all down.
- Augustine later wrote City of God, because the 2 cities had gotten confused/merged. Rome falls.

**APPLICATION:** Whenever something **gets in way Jesus's Kingdom, guess whose wins? God always!**

Key themes:  
p.21 journal.  
Sin. Salvation.  
Law.  
Justification.  
Atonement.  
Sanctification.  
God. Jesus.  
Holy Spirit.  
Sovereignty.

**II. The Proclamation of the Gospel (8-15)**

- A. **v.8** Roman Church's faith & witness well known. **v.9-10.** Paul is **thankful. Prays** often for them. No personal connection or investment there. **Kingdom Minded. v.10-13.** He hopes to meet them to be **mutually strengthened and encouraged. v.13.** He wants to benefit from the fertile ground. **Fruit.** Harvest. Piece of the action! Skin in the game. Reap benefits. Participate in God's work!

**ILLUSTRATION: Deadliest Catch. Crabbin' hotspot.** (Fishing).

- B. **Apostle to Gentiles.** Part of his call is to at least visit Rome (capital of Gentile world). Make sure church is healthy. **Well taught. Organized. v.13-14.** Wants to preach! **Preachers gonna preach!**
- C. **v.15.** Preach gospel to them. Believers. The church. They need gospel too. Preaching. Word.

Hatas  
gonna  
hate!

**APPLICATION: v.14.** Under obligation. **Debtor** to all. Wise. Foolish. Educated. Non-education. Society. **Loan me money. I owe you. Someone gives me money to give to you. I owe you money. Gospel.**

**III. The Power of the Gospel (16-17)**

- A. **v.16.** Power of God to save anyone! Change anyone! Jew. Gentile. "Good" or "Bad". Unlikely.
- B. **v.17.** "Righteousness of God" through faith in the Gospel ("it"). Faith to faith. All faith. First to last.

**ILLUSTRATION: Romans conversion. Augustine. Luther.** These verses. "**the righteousness by which I will be saved, is not mine?**" It's what he called a **justitia alienum, an alien righteousness; a righteousness that belongs properly to somebody else. It's a righteousness that is extra nos, outside of us. Namely, the righteousness of Christ. And Luther said, "When I discovered that, I was born again of the Holy Ghost. And the doors of paradise swung open, and I walked through."**

- C. Faith produces change and obedience (**cf: v5**). Faith in Gospel. Which is Jesus!
- D. Paul is not ashamed to believe that. Spirit through the Gospel can change anyone. Even me!
- E. Usually someone says they're not ashamed because they're aware of temptation to be ashamed!

**APPLICATION:** Who are you ashamed to talk to about Jesus? Don't act all tough now. Really ask. Grace.