

October 11, 2026

Series: “Romans: The Gospel according to Paul”

**Sermon: “The Fellowship of the Unashamed”
Part 3**

Scripture: Romans 1:14-17

Introduction



A. In these final verses of his introduction to his letter to the church in Rome, the apostle Paul wrote about the power of the gospel to save sinners.

B. He boldly declared that he was not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ because in it the righteousness of God was being revealed.

C. The gospel is the good news that reveals how we can be right with God. The gospel is the only remedy for our sinful condition.

D. Big Idea: We should passionately proclaim the gospel because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

I. There Is a Proclamation Required by the Gospel (1:14-15)

II. There Is a Passion Inspired by the Gospel (1:15-16a)

III. There Is a Power Associated with the Gospel (1:16b)

A. The gospel is powerful in its sufficiency. (“for salvation”)

B. The gospel is powerful in its universality. (“to everyone...to the Jew first and also to the Greek”)

C. The gospel is powerful in its simplicity. (“who believes”)

IV. There Is a Purpose Involved with the Gospel (1:17)

A. We should proclaim the gospel passionately because in it the righteousness of God is being revealed.

B. There is a reference to the gospel. (“For in it”)

1. The gospel is the power of God because in “it” the righteousness of God is revealed. How is this good news?

2. What is your greatest problem? The Bible says that your greatest problem is that God is good. “Why is that my greatest problem?” Because you are not good.

3. What will a good God do with a person who is not good? How can a good God justify sinners like us and still be just?

4. The answer to this question is found only in the gospel.

5. The gospel is the good news that the just and gracious God of the universe looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that everyone who turns from their sin and believes in Him will be reconciled to God forever.

C. There is a revelation of the righteousness of God. (“the righteousness of God is revealed”)

1. It is possible to read this verse and feel hopeless. This is how Martin Luther understood this verse.

2. He understood this verse to mean the righteous character which God is in His own nature. The word righteous tells us of the moral excellence of God. He thought of the righteousness of God as God’s standard of judgment, a condemning righteousness.

3. The problem with Martin Luther’s original interpretation of this verse was that Paul meant something else.

4. How can the fact that God must punish our sins be described as good news?
 5. The righteousness of God in this verse must be a righteousness that is accepted by God.
 6. So what kind of righteousness can cover all of our sins and faulty self-righteousness?
 7. The Scriptures are clear: it is the spotless righteousness of Christ, which God Himself freely gives (imputes) to sinners the moment they believe in Christ.
 8. Martin Luther, while in Rome seeking to earn God's righteousness, came to understand that God gives His own righteousness to make man righteous through faith. His life was eternally changed.
 9. "Revealed" means to make plain or to make clear.
 10. "Revealed" is a present tense verb meaning that whenever the gospel is proclaimed, the righteousness of God that sinners desperately need in order to be made right with God is continually and compassionately made clear to them.
 11. The righteousness of God in verse 17 is NOT the righteousness that belongs to God. Rather, it is the righteousness that God bestows on the sinner who believes in Christ.
- D. There is a reception of God's righteousness by faith. ("from faith to faith; as it is written, 'But the righteous will live by faith.'")

1. God's righteousness by faith is revealed to our faith.
2. "It is only the man who has the gift of faith who sees this righteousness by faith of Jesus Christ, and he accepts it, and he rejoices in it—and in it alone" (Martyn Lloyd-Jones).
3. Ephesians 2:8-9
4. The righteousness of God that is set forth in the gospel is received by faith from start to finish. It is by faith alone.
5. The righteousness of God "becomes our full possession by means of faith alone from the beginning of our Christian lives all the way to the end" (Rob Ventura).
6. We can never earn or obtain God's righteousness because everything we do is tainted by sin. (Isaiah 64:6)

7. Righteousness is a free gift given to sinners who trust in the finished work of Christ on the cross. (Romans 3:21-22)

8. Paul quoted Habakkuk 2:4 to drive home the point that salvation by God's grace working through man's faith was always God's plan.

9. This is the first of Paul's many quotations from the Old Testament Scriptures in Romans. He quoted around sixty verses from the Old Testament.

10. Habakkuk was worried about the people of Judah. Would any survive the Babylonian attack? Would they all be exterminated? Is this the end?

11. NO. In Habakkuk 2:4 Yahweh declared that "the righteous will live by his faith."

12. "Many may put them to death, but they are still right with God, and they will go on living through all eternity....They belong to God, and nothing shall finally be able to separate them from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Martyn Lloyd-Jones).

13. If you have been justified by God, you are eternally saved. The doctrine of justification by faith is glorious!

14. We are rescued from God's judgment by believing the gospel.

15. This quotation emphasizes that saving faith is also a sanctifying faith. Saving faith is not a one-time act, but a way of life. The true believer, declared righteous by God, will persevere in faith.

Conclusion

A. The greatest news this world can ever hear came from an empty tomb outside of Jerusalem! We have good news to share!

B. Romans 8:38-39

C. We should passionately proclaim the gospel because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

D. "The Fellowship of the Unashamed"

E. The Gospel Definition