

September 13, 2026

Series: “Romans: The Gospel according to Paul”

Sermon: “The Gospel of God” Part 2

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Scripture: Romans 1:1-7

Introduction



A. Paul was a man of humility, devotion, calling, and purpose (1:1).

B. He had been set apart for “the gospel of God.”

C. The word “gospel” means good news. In one sense, every page of the Bible contains the gospel.

D. But in another sense, the gospel refers to a very specific message. It refers to the salvation accomplished for a sinful people through the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

E. As Paul wrote this letter to the church in Rome, he presented his credentials and presented an overview of the gospel of God.

F. In this letter Paul described the very core of the gospel—the justice of God, the total depravity of man, the blood atonement, the nature of true conversion, and the biblical basis of assurance.

G. Big Idea: The gospel of God is the greatest good news you will ever hear.

I. The Gospel is Given to Us by God (1:1e)

A. “Having been set apart for the gospel of God.”

B. The gospel is the message of the good news of salvation in Jesus.

C. It is the message “of” God, meaning God is both the source and theme of the gospel.

D. The gospel is the message of what God has done through His Son to save sinners.

E. As is common in Paul's writings, we see the Trinity in these verses. He mentioned "the gospel of God" (1:1e), "concerning His Son" (1:3a), and "the Spirit of holiness" (1:4b).

F. "I am not going to write to you, says the Apostle, about some human philosophy; I am not going to give you my own ideas as to how life should be lived; I am not going to tell you what man has got to do; I am going to tell you what God has done" (Martyn Lloyd-Jones).

II. The Gospel Is Promised in the Old Testament (1:2)

A. "Which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures."

B. The old, old story of Jesus and His love didn't begin in the New Testament. It is first mentioned in Genesis 3:15.

C. From Genesis 3:15 to Malachi 4:5, God has been announcing His gospel.

D. If we look at the preaching of Paul, Philip, and Peter in the New Testament, we will see that each of them pointed to and preached from Scripture in the Old Testament.

E. Where did the apostles learn this Old Testament approach to the gospel? Since their contemporaries did not read the Old Testament in this fashion, the only possible answer is they learned this approach from Jesus Himself. (John 5:39-40; Luke 24:27, 44-49)

F. Jesus saw His life as a fulfillment of Scripture and taught His disciples to view it in that way.

G. "The gospel has always been a part of the true religion of God and has always been known and believed by the true people of God (see Gal. 3:8). The gospel is not a break with the past, rather it is the continuation and consummation of it" (Rob Ventura).

III. The Gospel Is Focused on Jesus Christ (1:3-4)

A. Jesus Christ is the central subject of the gospel. The gospel at its core is the good news concerning Jesus' person and work (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

B. “This is a principal passage in which we are taught that the whole gospel is bound up in Christ, so that if anybody moves a single foot away from Christ they withdraw themselves from the gospel” (John Calvin).

C. “Concerning His Son.” Christ is God’s unique Son who is co-eternal and co-equal with the Father. He is the second person of the Trinity.

D. “Who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh.” God’s eternal Son became a man in the incarnation. He was a descendant of King David as foretold in 2 Samuel 7:11-14, as the promised Messiah had to be.

E. “Who was designated as the Son of God in power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”

F. In the days of His flesh He fulfilled the office of Messiah, and in His resurrected, exalted state He is shown to be the powerful Son of God.

G. “While Jesus was on this earth, he was the Messiah and the Son of God, but his death and resurrection inaugurated a stage in his messianic existence that was not formerly his. Now he reigns in heaven as Lord and Christ” (Tom Schreiner).

H. The resurrection marked the end of Jesus’ humiliation on the earth and the beginning of His exaltation into glory.

I. “Jesus Christ our Lord.” He is Jesus because He saves His people from their sin. He is Christ because He has been anointed by God as King and Priest. He is Lord because He is the sovereign ruler of the universe.

IV. The Gospel Is Powerful to Save (1:5-7)

A. “Through whom we received grace and apostleship.”

B. Paul was what he was because of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was through Christ that he had received grace.

C. Grace is the unmerited and unearned favor of God. Grace is received, not earned.

D. God doesn’t give us grace for keeping the Ten Commandments, being baptized, or for joining a church.

E. Grace is freely given to sinners out of God’s kind, benevolent heart.

F. Grace is getting what we do not deserve from God (pardon, forgiveness, peace, joy, and deliverance from His wrath for our sins against Him).

G. The Lord Jesus Christ called Paul to be an apostle. He was graciously called to be an authoritative messenger for Christ.

H. “For the obedience of faith.” Obedience means to “hear under or to be submissive.” This phrase speaks primarily about compliance to the gospel message when it is heard with repentance and faith.

I. We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone. Obedience is the necessary fruit of faith and saving faith implies obedient submission to the Word and will of God.

J. “Among all the Gentiles.” Here we see that the scope of the gospel is all the nations. Its scope is universal (Romans 1:16). There is only one gospel message for everybody, without exception and without distinction.

K. “For the sake of His name.” The worldwide gospel mission is first and foremost about the glory of Christ. “Missions exists because worship doesn’t. Therefore, worship is the goal and the fuel of missions” (John Piper).

L. Question one in the Baptist Catechism is “Who is the first and chiefest being? Answer: God is the first and chiefest being.”

M. The first question in the Westminster Shorter Catechism is “What is the chief end of man? Answer: The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.”

N. The gospel of God is powerful to save. Note some precious truths about this great salvation.

O. Christians are “the called of Jesus Christ.” God calls His people to salvation and to obedience.

P. Christians are “beloved of God.” That is, believers are dearly loved, valued, and treasured by God. The church is the apple of God’s eye.

Q. “Called as saints.” Because of their relationship with God through faith in Christ, they were now a consecrated people, sanctified in Christ Jesus.

R. Because they were radically changed within they were now to live holy lives. Holiness is always the consequence of salvation.

S. “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

T. “Grace” refers to all of the undeserved blessings believers have in Christ.

U. “Peace” means you’re no longer at war with God and God is no longer at war with you. (Romans 5:1)

Conclusion

A. The only people who can receive the blessings of grace and peace are those who are the called, the beloved, and the holy ones of God.

B. They are the only people who can truly call God their Father, because only they have been adopted into His divine family through His true Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

C. Christian, we should love the gospel, live in the gospel, live out the gospel, and let loose the gospel.

D. Have you heard God calling you to salvation? Are you one of His beloved saints?

E. The Gospel Definition