



ROMANS

The Gospel of God

The Gospel of Power!

Romans 1:8-17

Message #2 of 33 – S1125

Sermon given on October 27, 2024



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Gospel of Power!

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Romans 1**
- Today, we continue the series through the letter to the Romans – **The Gospel of God!**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Gospel of Power!**
 - Paul introduced himself last week as the human writer of the book of Romans.
 - Paul was writing to the believers in Rome because he was hoping to go there and spend time with them.
 - He will continue his introduction to this powerful letter in our text for the day.
 - And in this text Paul will share three reasons or motivations for coming to them.
 - He is going to remind us of their faith and then describe how that faith should influence us toward righteousness.
 - First, Paul describes how their faith is not a secret.
 - **Romans 1:8**
 - Rome was a pagan godless city.
 - Even in that hostile religious environment, their faith was known, and Paul is rejoicing in that.
 - The faith of the church in Rome was an inspiration to others.
 - Some say that faith is a personal and private thing.
 - Real faith is never private (**Matthew 5:16**).
- Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**
- Your light is your faith.
 - Faith is a beacon that shines out into the darkness of this world.
 - Their reputation of faith is one of the reasons Paul wants to come to them.

- **Romans 1:9-10**

- Paul wants to come see them.
- So, he prays and asks God to make a way.
- It was Paul's will that he go and see the believers in Rome, but God had not revealed His will in that matter.
- One of the signs of a maturing faith is choosing to wait for your will to line up with God's will.
- It is unlikely that as Paul was praying this that he imagined he would end up in Rome after being arrested in Jerusalem and falsely accused, evading a plot to assassinate him, spending two years in a prison in Caesarea, being shipwrecked, and being led into Rome in chains.
- There might be times when it seems like the Lord is not moving you toward the good He has promised you.
- Be patient (**Psalm 27:14**).

Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!

- Don't try to force your way toward your will – trust God and wait!
- While you wait, draw closer to God through His Word, prayer, fellowship, and service.
- Paul then shares the first of three motivations.

- **Romans 1:11-13**

- Paul's desire to visit them is to bestow upon them some spiritual gift.
- It doesn't specify what gift, probably because Paul doesn't know what they need until he gets there.
- Paul is expressing the benefit of community and fellowship in the church.
- Paul may be the most spiritual Christian alive at this point and he is looking forward to being encouraged by the believers in Rome.
- The New Testament has a couple dozen 'one another' verses teaching us how to relate to others in the body of Christ (**Ephesians 4:32**).

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

- Something mysterious happens when believers get together with a heart for the Lord and for each other.

- That is one of the reasons why being together here at church can be so enriching.
- It is not just about being at church - Chris and Christina had us over for dinner this week and it was awesome, it was a joy.
- The Bible tells us not to neglect coming together as the people of God (**Hebrews 10:24-25**).

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- I know that some people don't get the benefits of being with the people of God – the joy, encouragement, or spiritual blessing.
- This might be convicting to hear, but that might be because your heart is not open to it.
- Paul's first motivation for visiting the believers in Rome is to impart a spiritual gift and be encouraged by them and their faith.

- **Romans 1:14**

- Paul uses the word 'debtor' here. It is 'under obligation' in the NASB and ESV.
- Paul felt as though he owed something to them.
- 'Greeks and to barbarians...wise...unwise' – to everyone.
- Paul didn't owe a literal debt to the whole world, but this is how he defined the scope of his ministry. **R. Kent Hughes**

"We must note that his debt is to God, but his payment is to men."

- What do we owe God for saving us from an eternity in hell?
- What do we owe God for setting us free from the bondage of sin?
- What do we owe God for His unending amazing grace?
- The simple answer is that we owe God everything, our whole life and everything we can do with this life.
- We repay God through our love, worship, generosity, and service.
- Paul is saying that he wants to visit the Romans so that he can impart a spiritual gift to them because his love for God has made him a debtor to all humanity.
- Our response to God ought to be thankfulness (**Psalm 107:8**).

Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

- We express that thankfulness in everything we do (**Colossians 3:23-24**).

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

- There may come a day when I can't serve God the way I am right now.
- When that day comes I will find another way to serve God – I'll greet people at the front door when they arrive – I'll keep the coffee center clean and well-stocked – I will find some way to serve the God who saved me and gave me everything.
- Something everyone should probably do is remind yourself what you owe God and ask Him how He would like you to repay Him.
- Paul's third motivation was the power of the gospel of Christ.
- **Romans 1:15-16**
- 'gospel of Christ – appears ten times in the New Testament, only in Paul's letters.
- Paul boldly, and sometimes at great risk to himself, preached the gospel.
- He did that because within the gospel, the good news of Christ Jesus, was the power of God to bring salvation to anyone who chose to believe.
- This truth combined with Paul's sense of obligation is what motivated him to keep going.
- Most of the world rejects God and the gospel of Christ.
- Generally, people do not like to be rejected.
- So, rather than being ashamed or embarrassed by rejection, they will not share the gospel with those who need to hear it.
- Paul did not let the fear of rejection, or the fear of anything to hinder him from preaching the gospel.
- Paul then tells us how the gospel works.
- **Romans 1:17**
- We were created by God for His glory and for His purposes.
- We were also created to experience His grace, mercy, love, and blessings.

- We were also created to be in a relationship with God.
 - To experience God grace, mercy, love, and blessings we must be in a righteous relationship with God.
 - Our problem is that we are not righteous (**Romans 3:23**).
- ...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...**
- Righteousness cannot be achieved through human effort.
 - Jesus died on the cross because human righteousness falls short of God's righteousness.
 - For any human to be righteous, God must bestow righteousness upon them as an expression of His grace.
 - The vehicle God uses to bestow righteousness is faith.
 - The gospel reveals the righteousness of God to those who hear and believe it and put their trust in Christ Jesus.
 - The phrase 'faith to faith' means the revelation of the righteousness of God begins with faith and ends with faith.
 - Nothing else reveals the righteousness of God except faith, which is summarized in the quotation of Habakkuk 2:4.
 - A just person is righteous in God's eyes.
 - They don't become just by the way they live their lives.
 - They live their lives the way they do because they believe and are covered by the righteousness of God. **R. Kent Hughes**
- "It is possible for men and women to stand sinless before God. It is possible to know that one has eternal life. It is possible to be free from the frustration of trying to earn righteousness and Heaven. The sole requirement is faith. Here is the greatest news ever proclaimed."**
- To be righteous does not mean perfection.
 - If it did, no one could be called just or righteous.
 - What it means is that they believe God, have repented of any sins they know about in their lives, and are doing their human best to live out the things they believe.
 - The words holy, just, and righteous are all realized through faith.
 - If you are walking in faith and obedience and have repented of any sins you are aware of you are holy, righteous, and just.
 - You are not perfect, but as your faith grows you will grow toward perfection.
 - Paul was motivated by three things.

- First, the prospect of mutual encouragement.
- He was excited by the idea of the mutually beneficial ministry he would do with the believers in Rome.
- Second, he was motivated by the sense of debt to God and to all humanity.
- He sensed he owed God more than he could ever repay but chose to pour out his life trying.
- Third, he was motivated by the power of the gospel message.
- This challenges me to examine myself.
- What motivates me? What gets me up and going every morning?
- If Paul was motivated in these three ways, it would probably be a good idea if I had similar motivations.
- Because I am different than Paul and God has a different plan for my life than He did for Paul, these motivations will manifest differently than they did for Paul.
- We might pray these three motivations.
- First, Lord, help me to actively seek the community and fellowship of God's people that we might enjoy mutual encouragement.
- Second, Lord, help me to appreciate the immeasurable debt I owe you for what you have done for me and help me find ways to repay that debt by serving You and doing good to others.
- Third, Lord, help me trust in the power of the gospel so much that I am willing to unashamedly share the gospel with those who need to hear it.
- And then, finally, Lord, help us to walk by faith.
- It is impossible to know what God can do in the life of someone who allows God to stir in them through faith in Christ Jesus the motivations Paul outlines here.
- I think I would like to find out.
- **Pray! Last Song!**