

Title ideas:
The Gospel of Power!

Romans 1:8-17 – The Gospel of Power!

Scriptures:

Matthew 5:16 - Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

1 Peter 3:15-17 - But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. 17 For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ

for you all, that your faith is spoken of

throughout the whole world.

Notes:

The faith of the believers in the church in Rome is well known in other parts of the world. Rome was the capital city of the Roman empire. Everyone wanted to know what was going on in Rome. 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](#)). Your light is your faith. Faith is a beacon that shines out into the darkness of this world. The stronger your faith, the further your faith shines and the more people are touched by it.

This doesn't mean you have to stand on a street corner with a 'Turn or burn' sign. Walk in the faith that you have, live like you believe that God is real, the Bible is true, and Jesus saved you from your sin.

That might mean not going along with what others are doing around you. It might mean you are asked to explain why you are different than others around you. Peter says you should be prepared for that ([1 Peter 3:15-17](#)).

Scriptures:

⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with

my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that

without ceasing I make mention of you

always in my prayers,

Scriptures:
Psalm 27:14 -
Wait on the LORD;
Be of good courage,
And He shall strengthen
your heart;
Wait, I say, on the LORD!

¹⁰ making request if, by some means, now at

last **I** may find a way in the will of God to

come to **you**.

Notes:

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.

'I may find a way in God's will...' – God's will is perfect and His timing perfect. If we pray this kind of prayer honestly then we will accept whatever God's will is. 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. That was the way God got Paul to Rome. Paul probably imagined a different way.

God has a will for each of our lives. As He moves us toward His will, we must be careful not to despise the way He chooses to do it. Every step on the way is a part of the testimony He is building in us and is an opportunity for us to glorify Him and make Him known to others on the way.

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](#)). 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.

Scriptures:

¹¹ For **I** long to see **you**, that **I** may impart to

G3330 – “to apportion v. — to give out as one’s portion or share.”

Notes:

Paul’s desire for visiting 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.

you some spiritual gift, so that **you**

G4152 – from the Spirit.

G5486 - χάρισμα (charisma).

may be established—

G4711 – strengthen, make more firm. “to be confirmed (strengthened) v. — to be or become more marked by firm determination or resolution.”

Notes:

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.

Scriptures:

Ephesians 4:32 - And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

¹² that is, that **I** may be encouraged together

G4837 – be mutually encouraged.

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). 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. Chris and Christina had us over for dinner this week and it was awesome, it was a joy.

Hebrews 10:24-25 - 24 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.

with **you** by the mutual faith both of **you** and

G240 – shared faith.

The Bible tells us not to neglect coming together as the people of God (Hebrews 10:24-25). 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. If someone isn’t experiencing joy in fellowship in community, fellowship, and service with other believers, the problem is probably not the people, the church, or the service, it is probably something in their heart that needs to be given to God for healing.

me.

I love spending time with God’s people. Whether it is here at the church or in Bible studies or some fellowship gathering – it always encourages me – it always blesses me.

¹³ Now I do not want you to be unaware,

brethren, that I often planned to come to you

(but was hindered until now), that I might

G2967 –
prevented,
restrained,
stopped.

have some fruit among you also, just as

among the other Gentiles.

Scriptures:

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!

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.

2 Timothy 4:6-7 - For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

14 I am a debtor both to Greeks and

G3781 –
“obligated person
n. — a person
who is under a
moral obligation
to do something.”

to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.

G915 – non-
Greeks,
uncivilized.

Notes:

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.

“We must note that his debt is to God, but his payment is to God.” (Hughes, 1991) page 26

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

I was having a conversation with someone this week on the topic of ministry burnout. It is when someone has become so overwhelmed serving God that they need to step away from ministry. I have never understood the concept. I have served God for about twenty-five years. There have been times when I became physically tired or emotionally drained, but the idea of not serving God has never crossed my mind.

Paul served God longer than I did and experienced much more difficult ministry than I probably ever will and then at the end of his life he said something I want to be true about my life (2 Timothy 4:6-7). 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 your self what you owe God and ask Him how He would like you to repay Him.

Scriptures:

15 So, as much as is in **me**, **I am** ready

G4289 – eager, willing.

Notes:

Paul is writing to the Christian church in Rome. Why would he be excited to preach the gospel to them?

to preach the **gospel** to **you** who are in Rome

G2097 - εὐαγγελίζω (euangelizō) – “to convey the Gospel v. — to bring the good news concerning the now present instantiation of Jesus’ divine dominion and way of salvation by His death and resurrection.”

also.

Scriptures:

16 For **I** am not ashamed of the gospel of

G1870 – “to be ashamed v. — to be or become characterized by feelings of shame, guilt, embarrassment, or remorse.”

Notes:

‘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.

Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation

G1411 - δύναμις (dynamis) – “power n. — possession of controlling influence; often understood as manifesting influence over reality in a supernatural manner.”

G4991 -

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.

for everyone who believes, for the **Jew** first

G4100 – to trust in Jesus.

G4412 – before, earlier, formerly.

Paul then tells us how the gospel works.

and also for the Greek.

Scriptures:
Romans 3:23 - ...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

1 Corinthians 11:1 - Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

17 For in it the righteousness of God

G1343 -

is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written,

G601 -
ἀποκαλύπτω
(apokaluptō)

"The just shall live by faith."

G1342 - righteous, just, upright, i.e., being in accordance with God's compelling standards - be put right with, pertaining to be in right relationship with someone.

God and to all humanity. He sensed he owed God more than he could ever repay but chose to pour out his life to try. 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 have a different plan for my life than He did for Paul, these motivations will manifest differently than they did for Paul. If we want a good example of a Christian, a just man walking in faith Paul would be great (1 Corinthians 11:1).

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.

Notes:

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). 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.

"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." (Hughes, 1991) page 29

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

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