

Subject: *Living for the Gospel*

Scripture: *Romans 1:1-17*

Paul's Epistle to the Romans is regarded as the greatest and most important of his 13 letters. It is located at a strategic place in the Bible. It comes after the four gospels and the Book of Acts where you find the life and ministry of Christ, and then the birth and expansion of the church. The Book of Romans is the most complete and definitive statement of Christian doctrine. It tells us what to believe and how to live. Every major revival including the Reformation is connected to the Book of Romans. This is truth that really matters.

1. THE MAN (vs. 1) – Paul

- A. Paul was a servant of Jesus Christ
- B. Paul was called to be an apostle (one sent on a mission)
- C. Paul was separated unto the gospel
 - He was converted to Christ (Acts 9)
 - He was chosen to preach and teach the gospel

2. THE MESSAGE (vs. 2-7) – the gospel

- A. It is the gospel of God (vs. 1) – He is the source of this good news
- B. It is the gospel promised in the OT scriptures (vs. 2)
- C. It is the gospel of God's Son (vs. 3-4, 9, 16) – the gospel is about Jesus (death, burial, resurrection)
- D. It is the gospel for all people (vs. 5-7)
 - Obedient to the faith
 - Called by Christ
 - Beloved of God
 - Called to be saints

3. THE MISSION (vs. 8-13)

- A. The worldwide impact of the church at Rome (vs. 8)
- B. Paul's prayer for the church (vs. 9-10)
- C. Paul's desire to visit the church (vs. 11-13)

Paul had not yet been to Rome, but he knew many people in the church. This is clear from chapter 16 where Paul mentions 35 people by name. Paul probably had a hand in this church even though he had never been to Rome through his preaching and personal witnessing. Some of these lives he touched made their way to Rome.

Paul always had a desire to visit Rome and preach the gospel there (both to the church and to the lost). It was “the city” of the ancient world. As the saying goes, “All roads lead to Rome.” Paul knew that Rome was a strategic city of the spread of the gospel. Paul was a Roman citizen, had visited Roman colonies, was familiar with Roman laws and customs, had traveled on Roman roads and Roman ships, had met Roman soldiers, had appeared before Roman officials, and was locked up in Roman jails.

Paul found that the big cities of his day were not very receptive to the gospel. When Paul preached the gospel at Jerusalem, the religious center of the world, he was mobbed. When he preached the gospel at Athens, the intellectual center of the world, he was mocked. When he preached the gospel at Rome, the government center of the world, he was martyred.

4. THE MOTIVATION (vs. 14-17)

- A. Paul was obligated to preach the gospel (vs. 14)
- B. Paul was ready to preach the gospel (vs. 15)
- C. Paul was confident in the power of the gospel (vs. 16)

Romans is sometimes called “the Gospel according to Paul.” The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes. The gospel of Christ has the power to save us from the penalty of sin (justified), from the power of sin (sanctified), from the presence of sin (glorified), but it only has this power for those who believe.

On this Mother’s Day, I want to remind you how important it is for mothers to share the gospel with your children while they are young.

2 Timothy 3:15 *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

2 Timothy 1:5 *When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*

Timothy knew the Scriptures and the truth about salvation because he had a godly grandmother and mother who taught him the Christian faith and they taught him by example.