

“Obedient Faith in God’s Good News”

Romans 1:1-7
September 20, 2020

I. God’s Gospel (Rom. 1:1-2)

- A. “Gospel” (Gk. *euangelion*) = good news, glad tidings.
- B. This word was often used in Paul’s day to announce the birth or ascension of a new Caesar (Roman Emperor).
- C. God’s gospel was a rival announcement to the gospel of Caesar (and it still is).

II. God’s Gospel about His Son: Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom. 1:3-4)

- A. Jesus was shown to be God’s divine Son when He rose from the dead.
- B. At that moment, He was declared to be the Messiah (Christ) and Lord.
- C. “Lord” was a common title given to Caesar.
 - 1. God’s gospel announces the world’s *true* Lord.
 - 2. God’s gospel calls the rulers of all nations to acknowledge Jesus as Lord.

Psalm 2:10–12 - ¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.
¹¹ Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. ¹² Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

III. God’s Gospel and the Obedience of Faith (Rom. 1:5-6)

- A. Paul’s apostolic mission was to bring about the “obedience of faith” in the nations – which includes us.
- B. The “obedience of faith” has two aspects:
 - 1. Our initial faith which obeys the gospel’s command to believe.
Romans 10:16 - But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?”

Romans 6:17 - But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed
 - 2. The Christian obedience that flows from our faith.
 - a. That’s what Paul was hoping to bring about in the Romans, even though they already had initial faith. (Rom. 1:6)

- b. His letter opens and closes with the same concern:

Romans 16:19 - For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil.

IV. God's Gospel and Our Holiness

- A. We are called to be saints. "Saints" = holy ones.

1. We are called to the holiness that is imputed to us when we first believe.
2. We are called to holiness of lifestyle in our Christian life.
3. Or as Jesus says in the Great Commission:

Matthew 28:18–20 - ¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- B. We are called to holy living by a God that already loves us despite our remaining imperfections, who goes on granting us grace and peace.
- C. We are also preserved by the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus, who delivers us from Adam's disobedient humanity and Adam's age.