

“Mutual Encouragement Through the Gospel’s Power”

Romans 1:8-17

September 27, 2020

I. The Roman’s Remarkable Faith (Rom. 1:8)

- A. The Roman church was small, and communication was not what it is today.
- B. Yet the Christian faith of the Romans was known everywhere.

II. Paul’s Remarkable Concern for the Romans (Rom. 1:9-14)

- A. Paul earnestly and regularly prayed to visit the Roman believers.
- B. He desired to strengthen them and be strengthened by them.

III. Paul’s Remarkable Preaching Plans (Rom. 1:15)

- A. Paul planned to preach the gospel to the Roman believers in particular.
- B. By this, they would be strengthened in their faith.
- C. Christians never grow *beyond* their need for gospel truths; they simply grow *deeper* in their understanding and application of the gospel.

IV. The Remarkable Power That Is the Gospel (Rom. 1:16-17)

- A. The message of the gospel – the truth that the Risen Christ is Lord, along with the implications and applications of that truth – *is* the power of God.
- B. The power that is the gospel leads to the salvation of believers:

- 1. Their initial salvation (atonement, forgiveness, justification)...

Ephesians 2:8–9 - ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Romans 5:1 - Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 2. Their present salvation (sanctification)...

1 Corinthians 1:18 - For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- 3. Their future salvation (resurrection and glorification)...

Romans 5:9–10 - ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

- C. The gospel is power because it reveals the “righteousness of God.”
 - 1. It reveals God’s justice in saving sinners through Christ’s death for them.

Romans 3:25–26 - ²⁵ God presented him [Jesus] as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished ²⁶ —he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

2. It reveals God’s own perfect righteousness which is granted to believers by faith only.

Romans 3:21–24 - ²¹ But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.

3. It shows God’s righteousness in fulfilling promises of salvation made to His people.

Isaiah 46:13 - I bring near My righteousness, it is not far off; And My salvation will not delay. And I will grant salvation in Zion, And My glory for Israel.

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- D. The righteousness of God revealed in the gospel is received by faith only, throughout all of life (“from faith to faith” or “from start to finish”).
- E. As it was written in Habakkuk “the righteous shall live by faith”; or rather, “the righteous by faith will live.”
 1. Rom. 1-4 explain how folks are made righteous by faith.
 2. Rom. 5-8 tell us about the salvation life granted to the righteous by faith.