



THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

Romans 1:1-17

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The Power of the Gospel

ROMANS 1:1-17

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: MATTHEW 28:18-20; MARK 16:15-118

LET'S DISCUSS: HOW HAS THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IMPACTED OR CHANGED YOUR LIFE?

PAUL THE MAN

This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News. ²God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures. ³The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line, ⁴and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord.

Power: ability to act or produce an effect (dü'-nä-mes), dynamite

Gospel: as the messianic rank of Jesus was proved by His words, His deeds, and His death came to be called the gospel or glad tidings. (Good News)

Discussion Question #1

- How can you explain to someone how Paul considered himself a slave of Jesus Christ and chosen by God to preach the gospel?

APPOINTED

⁵Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name. ⁶And you are included among those Gentiles who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ. ⁷I am writing to all of you in Rome who is loved by God and is called to be his own holy people.

Discussion Question #2

- Do you see sharing the gospel as a privilege, a burden, a charge, challenging or a blessing?

PRAYERFUL CONCERN

⁸ Let me say first that I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith in him is being talked about all over the world. ⁹ God knows how often I pray for you. Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God, whom I serve with all my heart^[d] by spreading the Good News about his Son.

¹⁰ One of the things I always pray for is the opportunity, God willing, to come at last to see you. ¹¹ For I long to visit you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord. ¹² When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours. ¹³ I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to visit you, but I was prevented until now. I want to work among you and see spiritual fruit, just as I have seen among other Gentiles.

Discussion Question #3

- What do these verses tell you about the character and heart of the Apostle Paul?

NO SHAME

¹⁴ For I have a great sense of obligation to people in both the civilized world and the rest of the world, to the educated and uneducated alike. ¹⁵ So I am eager to come to you in Rome, too, to preach the Good News. ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. ¹⁷ This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”

Discussion Question #4

- How does an understanding and application of the great commission prevent us from being ashamed of the gospel?

APPLY THE TEXT

As Saints of God He has empowered us to be witnesses for Him, let's use that ability to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ with those that we come in contact with. We never know what our neighbor may be going through!

MEMORY VERSE

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

ROMANS 1:18-32

WRATH: STRONG VENGEFUL ANGER OR INDIGNATION, RETRIBUTORY PUNISHMENT FOR AN OFFENSE OR A CRIME, DIVINE CHASTISEMENT.

**'FOR THE WRATH OF MAN WORKETH NOT THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD. WHEREFORE, MY BELOVED BRETHREN, LET EVERY MAN BE SWIFT TO HEAR, SLOW TO SPEAK, SLOW TO WRATH: '
JAMES 1:19-20**

GOD'S ANGER – ROMANS 1:18-20

¹⁸ But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness.

¹⁹ They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them.

²⁰ For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So, they have no excuse for not knowing God.

Discussion Question #1

- How does Psalms 19:1-4 correlate with the passages above?

¹ The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

The skies display his craftsmanship.

² Day after day they continue to speak;
night after night they make him known.

³ They speak without a sound or word;
their voice is never heard.

⁴ Yet their message has gone throughout the earth,
and their words to all the world.

KNOWING GOD – ROMANS 1:21-23

²¹ Yes, they knew God, but they would not worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.

²² Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools.

²³ And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

Discussion Question #2

- What is it that make people refuse to recognize God as God? Was that ever you?

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN – ROMANS 1:24-27

²⁴ So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies.

²⁵ They traded the truth about God for a lie. So, they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

²⁶ That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other.

²⁷ And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.

Discussion Question #3 & 4

- What emotions come to your mind after reading and studying these verses?
- How important is it for us to share the gospel every chance we are given?

CHOOSING SIN OVER RIGHTEOUSNESS – ROMANS 1:28-32

²⁸ Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. ²⁹ Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. ³⁰ They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. ³¹ They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. ³² They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway.

Discussion Question #5

- Is there still hope for the people mentioned above? If so, what scripture basis would you use to demonstrate that truth?

APPLY THE TEXT

Since we see the reality of sin and its consequences in our world today, we should be about our Father's business by letting our light shine, sharing the gospel and praying for those that are in the clutches of the enemy.

MEMORY VERSE

*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that **any should perish** but that all **should** come to repentance.*

2 Peter 3:9

LESSON 2: CHRIST TOOK OUR PUNISHMENT

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION:

WE SERVE A LOVING, KIND, AND GRACIOUS GOD, HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THAT TRUTH?

RIGHTEOUSNESS PROVIDED - ROMANS 3:21-22

21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

Discussion Question #1

- What are some Old Testament scriptures that will validate verse twenty-one?

(i.e., Isaiah 9:6-7; Zechariah 9:9)

THE GRACE OF GOD - ROMANS 3:27-31

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Discussion Question #2

- What does these verses tell us about God's grace?
-

BOASTING EXCLUDED - ROMANS 3:27-31

27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. 29 Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, 30 since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. 31 Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

Discussion Question #3

- Since our relationship with the Lord is based on faith, what was the purpose of the Law? Galatians 3:24

APPLY THE TEXT

We recognize that God has been merciful and gracious to us, which should prompt us to be about our Father's business of winning souls for Christ. What a privilege to be given the awesome task as ambassadors for Christ.

MEMORY VERSE

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:23)

LESSON 3: ABRAHAM JUSTIFIED BY FAITH

ROMANS 4:1-4, 9-24

JUSTIFIED: TO DECLARE, PRONOUNCE, ONE TO BE JUST, RIGHTEOUS,

THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM - ROMANS 4:1-50

1 Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? 2 If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way. 3 For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." 4 When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned.

Discussion Question #1

- When you hear the term "believe God" what does that mean to you personally?

ABRAHAM AND CIRCUMCISION - ROMANS 4:9-12

9 Now, is this blessing only for the Jews, or is it also for uncircumcised Gentiles? Well, we have been saying that Abraham was counted as righteous by God because of his faith. 10 But how did this happen? Was he counted as righteous only after he was circumcised, or was it before he was circumcised? Clearly, God accepted Abraham before he was circumcised!

11 Circumcision was a sign that Abraham already had faith and that God had already accepted him and declared him to be righteous—even before he was circumcised. So Abraham is the spiritual father of those who have faith but have not been circumcised. They are counted as righteous because of their faith. 12 And Abraham is also the spiritual father of those who have been circumcised, but only if they have the same kind of faith Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Discussion Question #2

- Since we are saved by grace through faith, why do we sometimes think we have to earn our salvation?

THE PROMISE - ROMANS 4:13-25

13 Clearly, God's promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God's law, but on a right relationship with God that comes by faith. 14 If God's promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary, and the promise is pointless. 15 For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!)

16 So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham's. For Abraham is the father of all who believe. 17 That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, "I have made you the father of many nations." This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing.

18 Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, "That's how many descendants you will have!" 19 And Abraham's faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah's womb.

20 Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. 21 He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. 22 And because of Abraham's faith, God counted him as righteous. 23 And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn't just for Abraham's benefit. It was recorded 24 for our benefit, too, assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. 25 He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.

Discussion Question #3-4

- What steps can we take to increase our faith in God during times of uncertainty?
- How can we be assured that God has our best interest at heart?

APPLY THE TEXT

Since faith is no greater than the object that it is placed in, let us step out on faith and believe God for the impossible. Knowing that God is Sovereign and that He is active in the affairs of man to bring glory to His name.

MEMORY VERSE

6 And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. Hebrews 11:6

LESSON 4: TRIUMPHANT FAITH

ROMANS 5:1-11 NKJV

1 NOW FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN. HEBREWS 11:1 NKJV

1 NOW FAITH IS THE ASSURANCE (TITLE DEED, CONFIRMATION) OF THINGS HOPED FOR (DIVINELY GUARANTEED), AND THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN [THE CONVICTION OF THEIR REALITY— FAITH COMPREHENDS AS FACT WHAT CANNOT BE EXPERIENCED BY THE PHYSICAL SENSES]. HEBREWS 11:1 AMP

FAITH IN TROUBLE - ROMANS 5:1-5

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Discussion Questions #1-2

- How has your faith in God helped you in a time of trouble in your life?
- What things have you learned in times where you did not operate in faith?

CHRIST IN OUR PLACE

6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Discussion Questions: #3-4

- What does these verses 6-8 tell us about God's love, grace, and mercy?
- Is there any eternal benefit for us to die for someone?

JESUS PAID IT ALL - ROMANS 5:9-11

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when 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. 11 And not only that,

but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Discussion Question #5

- How would you explain God's reconciliation to someone who don't know Christ Jesus?

APPLY THE TEXT

Since God has declared us righteous by faith, let us live out that faith in obedience and gratefulness sharing the love of Jesus with everyone that we can.

MEMORY VERSE

36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

John 8:36

LESSON 5: WANTED LESSON DEAD OR ALIVE

ROMANS 6:1-14

Grace: unmerited divine assistance (favor) given to humans for their regeneration or sanctification.

Sin: transgression of the law of God

DEAD TO SIN ROMANS 6:1-4

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Discussion Question #1

- How do you feel when you fall into sin, when you miss the mark or when conviction comes?

ALIVE TO GOD - ROMANS 6:5-11

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Discussion Question #2

- What is the parallel between these verses and 1 Corinthians 5:17? Explain

FLEE FROM SIN - ROMANS 6:12-14

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Discussion Question #3

- Explain the two “Do Not’s” in verse 12 and 13.

APPLY THE TEXT

It is a glorious thing to know that your sins are forgiven, and you made alive in Christ. It is such a powerful truth of the gospel that we should be compelled to share it. So, share it!

MEMORY VERSE

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

Romans 6:12

LESSON 6: FROM SLAVE TO SIN TO SLAVE TO GOD

ROMANS 6:15-23

“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”

John 8:36 NKJV

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,”

Psalms 107:1-2 NKJV

Slave: devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests; one bound to service without wages.

CHOOSE WHOM TO SERVE - ROMANS 6:15–16 NKJV

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

Discussion Question #1

- Explain what it means “to whom you present present yourselves to obey”.

HUMAN TERMS - ROMANS 6:16–19 NKJV

17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. 19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

Discussion Question #2-3

- What do you have to be thankful for?
- What was the form of doctrine that was delivered to us?

A REASON TO THANK THE LORD - ROMANS 6:20–23 NKJV

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Discussion Question #4

- How important is it to remember where the Lord has brought us from?

APPLY THE TEXT

Since we are no longer slaves to sin but rather slaves God (The Lord Jesus Christ), let us endeavor to please our Master in every aspect of our life. For Jesus paid it all and all to Him we owe!

MEMORY VERSES

“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:1-10 NKJV