

The Power of God to Salvation
A Study of Romans (1:1-17)
www.aubeacon.com

Introduction: The gospel of Christ is mankind's greatest need.

A. The book of Romans clearly gives the reasonable, logical basis as to why Jesus came and how we can clearly know how to be saved.

1. We live in a time where religious experience is valued over teaching.
2. No one can have the benefits of God's grace without teaching! **(Rom 10:14)**
3. How would you logically go about teaching another about Jesus?

B. What is the gospel?

Gospel - good news; in the NT only of God's message of salvation gospel, good news; (1) as denoting the act of proclamation preaching of the gospel (1C 4.15); ... (3) as denoting the content of the message as an offer of salvation gospel, good news, God's message (1C 9.14a) – Frieberg Lexicon

1. What does "good news" mean?
2. We learn how "good news" must include bad news! Without the conviction of sin and an understanding of the consequences of sin, one cannot understand nor receive the gospel!
3. The gospel is such good news that Paul and then those who received it would be "separated to the gospel of God." **(Rom 1:1)**

I. The Declaration of Jesus as the Son of God (Rom 1:1-4)

A. Before you can understand the gospel you must first understand the identity of Jesus Christ! On what basis can we know?

1. The gospel was "promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scripture."
2. Consider the genealogy of Christ. **(Mt 1:1; Gen 12:1-3)**
3. Consider the many prophecies of His sacrifice!
4. The gospel is not contrary to the Law but witnessed by it! **(Rom 3:21)**

B. God bore witness of the identity of Jesus by raising Him from the dead.

1. At the heart of every sermon in the book of Acts is this great truth.
(Acts 2:31-32, 36)
2. This is the one great sign of which God gives abundant evidence.

II. The Apostles and the gospel (Rom 1:5-6)

A. Paul was "separated to the gospel of God" to do the work of an apostle.

1. All apostles including Paul had to be an eyewitness of the raised Christ.
(Acts 1:21-22; 1 Cor 9:1; 15:9)
2. The grace of God to the apostles was to allow them to reveal it to others and to

- serve those who received it. God's grace always leads to work and sacrifice!
- B. The gospel begins with obedience and leads to a life of obedience! **(Rom 16:26)**
1. The foundations of the gospel can be known! Who is Jesus?
 2. How to receive and remain in the gospel will involve conditional promises. Our response to these promises will always involve obedience.

III. The gospel will make men "debtors" (Rom 1:7-15)

- A. The Christians in Rome were "called to be saints"
1. How can a sinful, unlovable enemy of God become one set apart for God's service and become "the beloved of God?" This is the power of the gospel.
 2. Paul could tell a similar story about himself. **(1 Tim 1:16)**
 3. The Romans were a powerful example to the entire world as to the power of the gospel. What must be true before one's faith can be spoken of to others?
- B. Paul remembered these brethren and others in daily prayer.
1. How can we do anything "without ceasing?"
 2. The gospel changes how you view the entire world! What is the most important thing to you? How will those priorities be seen in your daily choices?
 3. Paul wanted to see them to share in their company and the kind of association that comes from having the gospel in common.
 4. Paul also wanted to better equip them with some spiritual gift. Only apostles could do this. **(Acts 8:14-18)**
- C. The gospel made Paul a grateful debtor to all men for the gospel's sake.
1. The gospel will get you out of your selfish priorities. **(Rom 15:1-2)**
 2. The gospel will make you view all men differently. **(Rom 14:15)**
 3. Has the gospel done this to us?

IV. The gospel is God's Power unto Salvation (Rom 1:16-17)

- A. When you speak of the power of God, you speak of awesome power.
1. That power is not found anywhere but in a specific place. **(Isa 53:1)**
 2. Satan works through social pressure to make men ashamed of the gospel. **(Lk 9:26; 2 Tim 1:8)**
 3. If we have received the gospel we are to be bold! Can we let our associations be centered on this?
- B. The gospel encompasses our lives and our eternity.
1. What does "from faith to faith" mean?
 2. Living by faith means to endure to challenges this world brings. Consider Habakkuk who first spoke of this. **(Hab 2:3-4)**
 3. We also are exhorted to "live by faith." **(Heb 10:38-39)**