

SERMON NOTES

By Pastor John Paul Miller

In The Grip of God's Grace

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans

Romans 1:1-7 - "Introducing Paul to Rome"

Romans 1:1-7, *"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ: To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."*

No one who truly knows the Bible and the history of the Church, would dispute the claim that the Book of Romans is one of the most powerful and influential books ever written.

It has been the tool used by God to bring about some of the most significant conversions and revivals in the last 2000 years.

St. Augustine – The great theologian lived a worldly, sinful and, wanton existence. Yet, while sitting dejected and under great conviction, he heard a child, sitting across from him in a garden, reading from Romans 16 and commenting as her read, "take up and read, take up and read!". Thus, Augustine opened the scroll sitting next to him, started reading Romans and he was converted. His influence had become so great in the church that **Martin Luther**, in reading and studying the works of St. Augustine along with the Book of Romans, came to an understanding, that a man is justified by faith, without the deeds of the law. That the just shall live by faith! As he read Romans 1:16, 17, he too was converted. Out of his continued studies of the Books of Romans and Galatians came the 'Protestant Reformation' (the greatest revival in the history of the Church). And we today are the beneficiaries of his study of the Book of Romans. The great **John Wesley** was converted through the Book of Romans. He had come to America, returned, and wrote in his journal, "Went to America to convert the Indians, but who shall convert me?" Being dejected and empty he, later shared in his journal that he, was in a meeting with a Moravian missionary at Aldersgate Street, in London. And as he sat at the back of the chapel, someone was reading from the preface of Martin

Luther's commentary on Romans. And he heard the message that day, that the just shall live by faith! This caused him to write in his journal, "I felt my heart strangely warm and I felt that I did believe and trust in Christ and was saved from sin and death." John Wesley went on to become one of the greatest revival preachers and evangelists in the history of the Church and was the founder of the Methodist Church. **John Bunyan**, the author of *Pilgrim's Progress*, written while he was imprisoned in Bedford prison, was based upon the Book of Romans. This book has been used by God, time and time again.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable! Yet there are some parts of the Bible that are more doctrinal and practical than others.

Romans is one of those books every Christian should understand.

Romans is the most systematic of all the epistles, it's the first in the New Testament because it's foundational, it traces the story of salvation from condemnation to justification to sanctification to glorification. It explains God's program for Jews and Gentiles and concludes with practical exhortations for the outworking of God's righteousness in the lives of believers.

The Book of Romans has:

1. A Theme – Romans 1:16,17

Romans 1:16, 17, "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power (GK: dunamis) of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*"

These two verses summarize the entire Book of Romans.

2. A Text – Habakkuk 2:4

Habakkuk 2:4, "... but the just shall live by his faith."

This phrase so sparked Martin Luther's heart that it ultimately led to the Protestant Reformation.

3. A Purpose

- a) to prepare for Paul's visit to Rome
- b) to explain the Gospel of Grace

The gospel message is so simple that a child can understand and believe, yet deep and profound; so much so

that great theologians have not been able to plummet its depth.

c) to answer questions about God's plan's for Israel.

Romans 9-11 – 9 = Israel's Election
10 = Israel's Rejection
11 = Israel's Restoration

d) to teach us our duties to other believers and the state.

4. A Outline

I. Chps 1-11 - Are Doctrinal

Sin – Salvation – Sanctification - Sovereignty

II. Chps 12-16 - are behavioral

Service

5. A Author – Paul (Romans 1:1)

6. A Time and Place - AD 57 from the city of Corinth, near the end of his third missionary journey.

In the first seventeen verses of chapter one, we have Paul's introduction.

The introduction has two parts:

1. Paul's opening Salutation (vs. 1-7)

2. Paul's Explanation (vs. 8-17)

Why he is writing

What he is writing about

Let's now look at Paul's opening Salutation in verses 1-7

It's larger than usual (one sentence in the Greek)

It's more theological

It's more personal

In it we see Paul's view of five things:

I. Paul's view of Himself (vs. 1)

Romans 1:1, "*Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,*"

1. A Servant of Jesus Christ

Notice he didn't introduce himself as:

- Paul the great theologian
- Paul the great preacher
- Paul the great missionary

Paul introduces himself as the slave of Jesus Christ

Paul understood that he was bought (purchased)

Slave – Gk: *doulos* – a bond slave for life

It was voluntary – Acts 9:6, "*... Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? ...*"

A willful deliberate choice to be a slave.

He surrendered to Jesus!

Jesus won't make you His slave!

Paul was a slave who chose, out of love, to live the rest of his days for his master.

2. Called to be an Apostle

He was called, not self-appointed

An Apostle

What is it? – an ambassador, one sent out

What has God called you to be?

A husband, wife, parent, Sunday School Teacher . . .

Know your calling and be faithful.

3. Separated unto the Gospel

Three separations in the Bible of Paul's life:

1. Gal 1:15 - "... *who separated me from my mother's womb, ...*"
2. Acts 9 – separated him from the world
3. Acts 13:2 - "... *Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.*"

Paul was set apart by God to preach the Gospel of God.

II. Paul's view of the Gospel (vs. 2-3)

Romans 1:2-3, "*(Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;*"

1. It's the Gospel of God (vs. 1) – Good News

Not of man!

2. It was promised in the Old Testament by the prophets (vs. 2)

For the Jew, it's not new!

"If it's true, it's not new; if it's new it's not true!"

Its verbal – Genesis 3:15, "*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*"

The 1st Gospel message in the Bible

Habakkuk 2:4, "... *but the just shall live by his faith.*"

Isaiah 53

Seen in type – Noah's Ark
Serpent of Brass
The Sacrificial System

3. It centered in Jesus (vs. 3)

So little preaching today centers on Jesus!

III. Paul's view of Jesus (vs. 3-4)

Romans 1:3-4, "*Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:*"

1. His Name (vs. 3)

Son – (from all eternity)

Jesus – his name shall be called Jesus, God Saves (at Birth)

Christ – Anointed one (at His Baptism)

Lord – Phil 2:10 , “ *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;*”

2. His Humanity (vs. 3)

“... *made of the seed of David according to the flesh;*”

3. His Deity (vs. 4)

Notice he was “declared” – Lit – horizon

Horizoned off, sectioned off; set apart as the Son of God

He wasn't “made” the Son of God

He was “declared” – why? Because He always has been the Son of God

He's immutable, He doesn't change!

How?

By His resurrection from the dead (vs. 4)

This declaration supports that Jesus is God!

When a Jehovah's Witness knocks on your door ask them, “who raised Jesus from the dead?”

They will answer, Jehovah God did.

Take them to John 2:18-19, “*Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*”

Jesus raised Himself from the dead.

In Romans 8 you'll also find that the Spirit and the Father raised Him up too.

IV. Paul's view of His Commission (vs. 5)

Romans 1:5, "*By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:*"

How did Paul view his commission?

Largely, as a matter of Grace.

God's Grace never stopped being amazing to Paul; as it should be to us too.

Amazing Grace

By John Newton

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see.

His calling and commission was to "all nations".

V. Paul's view of His readers (vs. 6-7)

Romans 1:6-7, "*Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ: To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*"

1. The called of Jesus Christ (vs. 6)

- called out of the world – like Jesus
- called together – fellowship, worship & study
- called forth – to preach Jesus
- called up – with Jesus at the Rapture

2. Beloved of God (vs. 7)

John 3:16, "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*"

"The Love Of God"

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell
The guilty pair, bowed down with care
God gave His Son to win
His erring child He reconciled
And pardoned from his sin

Could we with ink the ocean fill

And were the skies of parchment made
Were every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade

To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry
Nor could the scroll contain the whole
Though stretched from sky to sky

O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
The saints' and angels' song

3. Called Saints (vs. 7)

You're either a saint or you aint!

Grace and Peace (vs. 7)

"... Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."

This grace is "living grace" and the peace here is the peace of God which comes only through Jesus Christ.

How do you view:

1. Yourself?

P.T. Forsyth – "The purpose of life is not to find your freedom but to find your Master; for when you find your Master you find your freedom."

2. The Gospel?

3. Jesus?

4. Your Commission?

5. Your fellow Christians

Loved by God
Saints
Objects of His grace and peace