

## The Good News – Romans 1:1-17



MEMORY VERSE: For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.  
Romans 1:16

### DAY 1 MEET THE APOSTLE PAUL — Romans 1:1-7

1. What three ways does Paul describe himself in verse 1?
2. What truths does Paul teach about “the gospel of God” and the Bible?  
vv.2-3a
3. How is Jesus Christ both human and divine? vv.3-4
4. What did Jesus Christ our Lord do for us? vv.5-6
5. Who are “saints” and how are they blessed by God? v.7 See also Psalm 31:23, Ephesians 1:1,15-20
6. Paul was Christ’s servant, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, and he was also a saint. Which of these do you think also apply to you?

### LEARN THE TRUTH

The Apostle Paul was a man on a mission. He lived to tell anyone who would listen the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. As you learn the important doctrinal truths in Romans, ask God to lead you so you too may join Him on the mission of spreading the Good News!

### DAY 2 A HEART FOR PRAYER — Romans 1:8-10

7. Why was Paul thankful for the believers in Rome?

8. Considering that Romans was written in roughly AD 57, how might Paul have learned about their faith?
9. How do you think people might describe your faith? How would you want them to describe it?
10. Which phrases reveal Paul's heartfelt affection for both the Lord and the Romans?

### DAY 3 A HEART FOR COMMUNITY — Romans 1:11-13

11. What reasons did Paul give for his longing to visit Rome?
12. How do you think believers encourage each other? Hebrews 10:23-25
13. What do you think kept Paul from visiting Rome earlier? Romans 15:20-23
14. What "harvest" did Paul hope to reap in Rome? John 4:31-38

### DAY 4 A HEART FOR GOD'S CALLING — Romans 1:14-15

15. What does it mean to be obliged or obligated?
16. What was Paul's attitude toward his obligation?

17. To whom or what do you feel obligated?

18. What is your attitude toward your obligations? Do you see them as a distraction, or as a calling?

## **DAY 5** A HEART FOR THE GOSPEL – Romans 1:16-17

19. What is the “gospel?” I Corinthians 15:1-8

20. How did Paul feel about the gospel? Why?

21. Why do you think believers might be “ashamed of the gospel,” or hesitant to share it?

22. Who does God want to receive the gift of salvation? 2 Peter 3:9

23. Can you think of people in your life who need salvation? What is your attitude towards them?

24. What must one do to receive salvation? John 3:16

## **LOVE THE TRUTH**

Salvation through Jesus Christ is offered to everyone. Do you know this truth? Have you accepted the sacrifice Christ made on the cross for you? If you haven't already, now is the time to thank God for His provision and accept His offer of forgiveness and eternal life.

## Romans 1:1-17

### The Good News

The book of Romans is a letter from the Apostle Paul to the believers in Rome. Originally named Saul, he was a devout Jew, Pharisee and persecutor of the followers of Christ. The account of his dramatic encounter with Jesus Christ is told in Acts 9, when Saul (Paul) was traveling to Damascus. The Lord, who had already been crucified, risen from the dead and ascended to heaven, spoke to Saul and changed his life forever. The Lord told Saul that he was, “a chosen instrument of Mine to carry to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. (Acts 9:15) Saul believed in Christ and became, “God’s servant, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God.” Paul’s life was transformed by the grace and power of God.

Paul’s mission was to share the radical good news with both Jews and Gentiles. It was radical because it went against everything people had previously thought. People felt they were in good standing with God due to their bloodline, either as a Jew descended from Abraham or as a person of power and privilege by their standing in society, or because of obeying the Law. The truth is that no one can be in good standing with God, no matter who they are because everyone is guilty of sin, and deserving of death. Everyone needs a Savior.

The gospel was especially radical to people in Rome because, at the time this was written, Rome controlled most of the known world- at sea, in commerce, in all power and influence. Caesar was considered to be a god, and the arbiter of right and wrong. The Roman standard displayed an eagle, the symbol of invincible authority and power. The message that people needed a Savior who died for every human being sounded like nonsense to this powerful people. It was because of this thinking that Paul said, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” Romans 1:6

Jesus Christ is indeed our only hope, the Savior who loves us and gave His life for us. He is fully God, has been with the Father since the beginning of creation and time, and holds the world together even today. Jesus humbled Himself by becoming fully human, lived a sinless life, and bore the sins of the world on the cross. He rose from the dead and was exalted by God once again, having conquered death once for all. It is only through faith in Jesus Christ, and no other that we can be saved. (Colossians 1:15-17, Philippians 2:5-10, Acts 4:12)

### WALK IN TRUTH



Paul’s deep love for God, His Word, prayer and people is to be admired and imitated. But how did he so drastically change? How did he go from hate to love, and from being so terribly misled to wholeheartedly embracing the call on his life to tell people the good news about Jesus Christ? Did his own self discipline change him? No! Only God can transform people from the inside out. Belief in God opens the door to change, but the power to change lies in the source of belief- the God of the universe. He can do anything, and He chose Paul, “the worst of sinners” (1 Timothy 1:12-16) to be “God’s chosen instrument.”

Like Paul, we are “saints” set aside for God’s purpose if we follow Christ. His Spirit will do powerful works in us if we trust Him as Savior and yield to Him as Lord. When the grace of God’s unconditional love meets human unworthiness with surrender, saints are born, lives are changed and we join God on mission.