

Eager to Preach the Gospel

Romans 1:8-15

Introduction

Today we are back in the **New Testament Book of Romans**. Last week we looked at Paul's **greeting** and **salutation**. Paul began an important **Jewish doctrinal development**, explaining that the **Gospel** concerning **God's Son**, is the **fulfillment** of the **Old Testament** Scriptures, making it a fulfillment of the **Jewish religion**. He will begin to explain, **both to Jew and Gentile**, that it has always been **God's purpose** to save them both through His **Son**. This was His **promise** through the **prophets**, and Paul has been **sent by God** for this unique **message**. **Jesus** is therefore the **fulfillment** of the **Davidic Covenant promise** of an **eternal King**, and also the **Son of God** who was **raised** from the **dead** by the **power** of the **Holy Spirit**. This **Good News** has resulted in both Jew and Gentiles being **called** as **Saints**, together as **God's** very own **covenant people** through the **Gospel**.

In today's text, **Romans 1:8-15** Paul is still **continuing** with his **introduction**. But here is a **unique window** into the **heart** of **Paul**, as He expresses his **longing** to see and **fellowship** with the **Roman Christians**, whose **faith** is **renowned** in much of the **Greco-Roman world**. Paul will express his desire to see their **faith** be fully **established** and **encouraged**, as he desires to come and **share** some **spiritual gift** with them and obtain some **fruit** in his **ministry** to them. Here Paul also reaffirms his **main purpose** in writing to them, his **eager** desire to **preach the Gospel** to them so as to fully **establish** and **encourage** them in their **faith**.

In Today's text **Romans 1:8-15** we will see

- **1:8-10 – Famous Roman Faith**
- **1:11-13 – Established and Encouraged**
- **1:14-15 – Eager to Preach the Gospel**

Romans 15:22-25 - 22 For this reason I have often been hindered from coming to you; 23 but now, with no further place for me in these regions, and since **I have had for many years a longing to come to you** 24 **whenever I go to Spain — for I hope to see you in passing, and to be helped on my way there by you, when I have first enjoyed your company for a while** — 25 but now, I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints. NASB

And how desperately important this was for those **early Christians** to be **established in sound doctrine**, for by this **time** the **church** was under **incredible attacks** of **false doctrine**, especially from the **Judaizers** of the **1st Century**. They **distorted** an understanding of the **Gospel** terribly. This was the reason for the **Council of Elders** ruling in **Acts chapter 15**, after **Paul** had **disputed** with so many **Judaizers misleading** the church for **years**. These matters required **clear** and **comprehensive** teaching about the **fine points** in the **doctrines** of **human depravity**, **Justification by Faith alone**, the **Law** and the **Gospel**, the **deity** of **Christ**, and **eschatology**. This is why Paul **devotes** himself to these **teachings** in the Book of Romans. He wants them to be **“established”** in the **“preaching of the Gospel of God’s Son.”**

It is of **paramount importance** that Christians **understand** that **salvation** is a **free gift** that comes to us through the **Person** and **Work** of **Jesus Christ** (6:23), not of any **merit** or **works** that we

can do before **God** (3:28). Whenever these doctrines are **distorted**, a **non-Christian cult** is **created**, because this is the most **essential element** of the **Gospel** which is intensely **focused** on the **Person** and **Work** of **Jesus**, who alone can **pay** the **penalty** for our **sin** with His **atoning sacrifice**, and **merit** the **righteousness of God** for us with his **perfect life** of **obedience** to the **Law**, in our place. These doctrines are called the **active** and **passive obedience** of **Christ**, and they deal with **His life** and His **death** and what He accomplished before God, **for us**, and **in our place**. The **Divine** and **sinless Son** of **God** must **die** as a perfect **sacrifice** and be **received** by **faith alone** in order for one to be **declared righteous** by God, a **righteousness** that is **imputed** to us by **God** that belongs to Christ. Ignorant and **foolish men** have **distorted** these things ever **since** the **Gospel** was first **preached**, and it is **imperative** that these **essential teachings** be **preserved**, lest we embrace a **different Jesus** and a **different Gospel** than the **only One** who can actually save us.

We shouldn't think that the Gospel is just the **beginner's message** of **Christ** so that one can be **saved**, and then we **move on** to other things. No indeed, we **never** move on from the **Gospel!** It is much, much more! It is the **central idea** in all that **Christian salvation** is. It **shapes** and **forms** all other **doctrines** in **Christianity**. It **informs** our entire **belief system** because it is all inter-related to the **Person** and the **Work** of **Jesus**. It is the reason **why God created the world**, to manifest His own glory and **excellency** as **God** through His **eternal purpose** in **Christ**. To be sure, there **are** the simple facts that **God sent His Son** into the **world** to **save sinners**, by **living** and **dying** in their **place**, and being **raised** from the **dead** as **proof positive** of His **power** over **death**. And we are to **repent** of our **sins** and **believe** upon the **Lord Jesus** to be **saved**. In its **simplest** form that is it.

But the **Gospel** is also a **complex** of **theological concepts** and **teachings** that addresses not only the **human need** of salvation and **redemption** through **Christ**, but also the **eternal judgment** of wrath upon the **souls** of unbelieving **humanity**, the culmination of God's **purposes** for the **earth** and the **nations**, as well as the **eternal blessed future** of His **beloved people** in the **New Heavens** and **Earth**. **Christ's** preaching of the **Gospel** included not only the teaching of **sin** and human need for **redemption**, but also the **ethical guidelines** for **faithful living** and **worship**. He gave many **wisdom** related **teachings** designed to help us **learn** to walk as **fruitful** and **productive** Christ followers.

2 Timothy 3:16-4:5 - 16 All **Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness**; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 4 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 **preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.** 3 **For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth,** and will turn aside to myths. NASB

Romans 10:13-14 - 13 for "Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 **How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?** NASB