

Unleashing the Gospel

Romans 1:8-17

Introduction

I Paul Prays For The Believers

- A. He gives **thanks** to God for them - 1 Thess 5:18
 - 1. For their world-renown faith - 1 Thess 1:8
- B. He constantly **remembers** them in prayer - 2 Tim 1:3
 - 1. Calling God as His witness whom he:
 - a. Serves with his whole heart - 2 Cor 4:5
 - b. Serves by preaching the gospel - 2 Tim 4:2
- C. He prays for an opportunity to come to them
 - 1. He **longs** to see them - Phil 1:8

II Paul Explains His Intentions To The Believers

- A. He wants to impart some spiritual gift to them
 - 1. To **strengthen** them - 1 Thess 3:2-3
 - 2. To be **mutually** encouraged - 1 Thess 5:11
 - a. By one another's faith - 3 Jn 1:3-4
- B. He wants to have a **harvest** among them - Jn 15:8, 16
- C. He wants to fulfill his **obligation**: - 1 Cor 9:19
 - 1. To preach the gospel
 - a. To the Greeks and non-Greeks
 - b. To the wise and foolish

III Paul Proclaims The Power Of The Gospel

- A. The gospel is nothing to be **ashamed** of - Mk 8:38
- B. The gospel is the **power** of God - 1 Cor 1:18
- C. The gospel is the means of **salvation**
- D. The gospel is **universally** available - Jn 1:12; 3:36
- E. The gospel reveals a **righteousness** from God
Rom 3:21-24
- F. The gospel requires a life of **faith** - Gal 3:1-3; Col 2:6

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. The believers in Rome were world-renowned for their *faith*. What characteristic are you generally known for? How would you like to be characterized?
2. When you fellowship with other believers, do you generally come to be ministered to, or to minister to others? Read 1 Thess 5:11. What could you do this coming Sunday to be of encouragement to others?
3. Read John 15:8, 16. What does this passage teach about God's objective for the believer? What kind of fruit is Jesus talking about? Based on your discoveries, would you describe yourself as fruitful? Why or why not?
4. There are two primary reasons that people are afraid to share the gospel: 1) Fear of rejection and 2) Ignorance of the Word. Which do you struggle with most? What steps can you take to overcome this obstacle?
5. Paul states that the Christian life is "from faith to faith". What does that actually mean? Why do you think so many of us tend to go from "faith to works"? What are the consequences of going from "faith to works"?
6. Take a moment right now to thank God for His free gift of a righteous standing through Jesus Christ. Thank Him that your salvation began by faith (simple belief) and ask Him for grace to finish it by faith.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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