

Romans Bible Study

WEEK 2: RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

READ Romans 1:8-17. Pray for guidance and understanding from the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL *euangelion*, n. - The good news of God's boundless grace that comes through faith in Jesus as Lord and Christ.

The gospel is simple and layered. All that is required to experience it is faith. However, as we grow in our understanding of the gospel, we realize that it impacts every area of our lives—God's grace and its implications are boundless.

THE SEED OF THE GOSPEL. The metaphor of a seed is used consistently throughout the New Testament (NT). In Matthew 13 Jesus tells a few different parables about seeds and how they represent 1) the message of the kingdom (i.e. elsewhere identified as the gospel of the Kingdom--Matt. 4:23; 9:35; Mk. 1:15; Lk. 4:43; 8:1; 16:16; Acts 8:12), 2) the kingdom of God itself, and 3) those who receive the message about the kingdom.

Seeds are complex. They are small, but contain all of the essential components to bear a plant or tree, their fruit, and seeds for replication.

In what way is the gospel like a seed? *it only needs to be planted, all of the genetic material contained in the seed will do the work to produce the plant, fruit, and seed, as it's watered, given nutrients, etc. The gospel is simple. It's the power of God for salvation and changes us as we nurture and trust it. We don't graduate from the gospel.*

"All discipleship is discipleship in the gospel." – Caesar Kolinowski, *The Gospel Primer*

SUMMARIZE v. 8-15

Paul wants to visit Rome to preach the gospel, in doing so he wants to encourage, be encouraged, and see what harvest God will bring when he visits.

Given what we know about the history of Roman Christianity, what might have made the faith of the Roman believers worth sharing all over the world (v 8) ? *It is happening in spite of persecution, though it may have died down for the moment. It's not clear how the believers there heard the gospel, so it's surprising that it would be thriving there. Rome was important, so it's good to know the gospel is bearing fruit there. There must have been some fruit*

What is Paul's main prayer in this section (v 10)? *to visit Rome*

What does Paul expect to happen when he arrives in Rome?

To impart some spiritual gift _____(v11) ___ to strengthen you _____(v11)

to be mutually encouraged by each other's faith _(v12) ___ To reap some harvest_(v13)



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WEEK 2: RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

Note: Paul doesn't indicate what the spiritual gift is. Some commentators believe this to be general blessing. Others connect it with 1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6, though Paul doesn't mention the "gift" by name in that context either. Additionally, we know that the church in Rome is already exercising spiritual gifts Romans 12:6-8. It's not as though the Roman believers lacked spiritual gifts—as they are a reflection of the Holy Spirit that is given to those who belong to Christ (see Romans 8, 1Corinthians 12:7). Without further clarification, we won't dwell on the question of what exactly Paul means by this statement, save to say, that we should expect to have spiritual gifts, and that these come with the "preaching of the gospel" (v15). We'll address this topic in week 10.

Paul concludes the description of his intentions with a summary statement in vs 15. What might be surprising about the fact that Paul wants to preach the gospel in to those receiving this letter? What does this fact tell us about the relevance of the gospel for day-to-day life? **__Haven't they already heard the gospel. It would seem that the gospel isn't just something we believe once. It's something we continue to believe, day by day, from faith to faith. And in the process of doing so it changes the way we live.**

What is the link between Paul's expectations listed above and his desire to preach the gospel in Rome? **The preaching of the gospel leads to the four things listed.**

****Week 1 HOMEWORK REVIEW: QUOTE ROMANS 1:16-17 ****

FILL IN THE SPOKES ON THE GOSPEL WHEEL. SEE BELOW

How does vs 16-17 capture the theme of Romans?

The theme is righteousness revealed, Pastor Dan traced out this them through the rest of the letter.

Why is Paul specifically focused on "The Gentiles" (v 13, 5)?

He is called to be an apostle to the gentiles. See verses below

The Greeks who ruled the world before the Romans divided the world into two groups—the Greeks and everyone else (barbarians). Later Paul will address the divisions that arise in the church because of the tension between the Jews and everyone else (Greeks, gentiles, nations). Paul is obligated to minister to the gentiles. Similarly, Jesus said that he was "sent to the lost sheep of Israel (Matt 15:24). Where does Paul get this clear sense of calling (**v 5,9**) (see also Galatians 2:7-8, Acts 13:2)?

From the Lord Jesus Christ. Our mission is never our own. God has a mission and he invites us to be a part of what he is doing in the world.

Who is salvation for? **Everyone who believes**

Who is excluded by the term "everyone"? **no one**



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WEEK 2: RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

Why does Paul say that salvation is “first for the Jew and then for the Gentile”?

Historically it's true, the gospel was first believed by Jews. Theologically it's true as well. God chose the Jews to be the bearers of this good news for the nations. They were to be the ones inviting gentiles in. The Jewish apostles do this.

How can the gospel bring healing to racial and social tension within the church?

Pastor Dan shared a story about pastors coming together during the Travon Martin trial in Sanford. The gospel was to transcend the wise and foolish, racial barriers. See vs 14.

FAITH IS A MAJOR THEME IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS.

In English we use a few different words to capture the idea expressed by *pistis* in Greek.

πίστις *pistis*, *n.* – belief, trust, faith

πιστεύω *pisteuo* *n.* – to believe, to trust, to have faith

How many times does the word *pistis* or *pisteuo* come up in verses 8-17? 4 times _____

How is faith different from simply agreeing that something is true?

agreeing that something is true is basically knowledge

faith is a conviction that something is true, such that I'm willing align my life accordingly—trust.

What does the gospel save us from?

self, sin, alienation from God, death, judgment, the coming wrath of God

What does the gospel save us to?

new identity, new standing with God, new sense of purpose/mission, life, a new community/family, power of the holy spirit, etc.

What are some different translations of the phrase ἐκ πίστεως εἰς πίστιν ? What the phrase imply?
“from faith to faith,” “from faith for faith,” “from faith from first to last”

faith is not a one-time event. It is on going. We experience the gospel continually as we learn to trust it, and, in doing so, experience what it means to be declared/made righteous.

What happens in our lives as we mature from faith to faith? (see the gospel wheel)

We see God, ourselves, others, stuff, and the purpose of our lives life differently.

How is God inviting you to mature in from “faith to faith” this week?

personal reflection

Romans Bible Study

WEEK 2: RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

How is the righteousness of God reflected in the following elements of the gospel?

Jesus' Death on the Cross: God is righteous/just and displays it in that he exacts the punishment for our sins from Jesus—who was without sin. In doing so he displays his love for those he created, which is also evidence of his righteous character.

His Grace for Us : He is the just and the justifier (Romans 3:26). He declares and makes us righteous. As we learn to trust this new identity, his righteousness is revealed in the way we live.

His Holy Spirit in Us: The spirit of God/Christ is righteous. As he leads us (our spirit) we become a reflection of God's righteous character.

When we "Put on the New Self" (Eph 4:24, Col 3:10): The new self is "created to be like him in true righteousness and holiness." As we continually choose to trust this new identity we become a reflection of a righteous God. Whatever God does is right. To be like him is mainly expressed in the way we treat others (see Romans 12)

As we share the gospel: We are sharing the good news that this righteous God desires to invite others into a covenant with him. One in which they are also declared/made righteous.

The central message of the cross is Jesus death and resurrection. How should our lives reflect Jesus' death? How can they reflect his resurrection?

learning to let go of old ways of living, and allowing God to raise up something new in us as we trust him. Jesus trusted that God would raise him up on the other side of death. Similarly, we trust God to raise up something good in us (righteousness) when we let go of our self-protective approach, and trust his purpose for us

Why do you believe that the gospel is good news?

personal reflection. It changes the way we understand God and ourselves. It leads to a life of joy and peace.

LOOK UP 1CORINTHIANS 1:18-31.

What does this passage indicate about God's ways and our ways?

Based on this passage and Paul's statement in vs 16, why might someone be ashamed of the gospel?

He seems to choose simple, unimpressive things to accomplish his task. The gospel isn't impressive. It doesn't appeal to our accomplishments or pride. It requires that we trust God, rather than simply make good choices. To the Jews the cross isn't miraculous enough. To the Greeks it seems basic, bloody, unwise, etc.

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