

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

DATE: October 21, 2020

Wednesday Class: "Romans: God's **Good News** for the World"

PAUL AND THE GOSPEL (vv. 1-7)

- The major theme of Paul's letter is the gospel (vs. 1; see also vss. 2-6, 9, 15-17). In fact, it can be said that Romans 1:8-16:27 is simply a detailed explanation of Rom. 1:1-7. Paul unfolds and expands what is announced in the first seven verses.
- A definition of the "gospel".
 - The gospel is a message (see 1 Cor. 15:1-4). The gospel by which we are saved is, "Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead." The gospel can be stated in _____.
 - There's a _____ / _____ definition of the gospel. The "gospel" includes the entire work of Christ. He saves us from the guilt & penalty of our sins, and from its dominion or reigning power in our lives (cp. Rom. 6:1-14).

In his opening remarks, Paul gives a six-point analysis of the gospel, to which he had been set apart:

1. The _____ of the gospel is _____ (vs. 1; cp. 15:16)
 - A. The apostles did not _____ it; it was _____ to them by God.
 - B. This fundamental truth underlies all authentic _____.
2. The _____ to the gospel in _____ (vs. 2)
 - A. _____ by the prophets of the O. T. (Luke 24:25-27, 44; John 5:39-40)
 - B. _____ by the apostles of the N. T. (Acts 1:8)
3. The _____ of the gospel is _____ (vss. 3, 4)
 - A. Verse 3 – the "who" of his _____.
 - B. Verse 4 – the "who" of his _____.
He was "declared" with power to be the Son of God (Greek verb: "horidzo" = horizon)
4. The _____ of the gospel is _____ (vss. 5, 16)
5. The _____ of the gospel is the _____ of faith (vs. 5)
 - A. Sinners are saved by grace, through faith, in Christ alone (see 3:21-24, 27-31).
 - B. True saving faith can never be _____.
"It is faith alone that justifies, but faith that justifies can never be alone" (John Calvin)
6. The _____ of the gospel is the _____ of Christ's name

We can state these truths simply using 6 prepositions. The good news is the gospel of God, about Christ, acc. to Scripture, for all nations, unto the obedience of faith, and for the sake of the Name.

- 1) Application to Believers: You must _____ it.
- 2) Application to Nonbelievers: You must _____ it.

PAUL AND THE ROMANS (vv. 7-13). After his introduction, the apostle tells his Roman readers frankly of his feelings toward them. He makes four points:

1. He _____ God for them all (v. 8)
2. He _____ for them (vss. 9, 10)
3. He longs to _____ them and he tells them why (vss. 11, 12)
4. He's often planned to _____ them, but has been prevented from doing so (v. 13)

PAUL AND EVANGELISM (vv. 14-17). What were the origins of Paul's evangelistic enthusiasm? Many commentators have called verses 16-17 the 'text' of which the rest of Romans is the exposition.

1. The gospel is a _____ to the world (vss. 14, 15)
2. The gospel is God's _____ for salvation (vs. 16)
3. The gospel reveals God's _____ (vs. 17). Two basic questions confront us:

What is "the righteousness of God"?

- "The righteousness of God" is **a divine** _____. 'Righteousness' describes his character, together with his actions which are in keeping with his character.

- "The righteousness of God" is **a divine** _____. The genitive is now no longer subjective (as in reference to God's character & activity), but objective ('a righteousness from God', as NIV renders the phrase in both 1:17 & 3:21). In Philippians 3:9 the simple genitive ('the righteousness of God') is replaced by a prepositional phrase ('the righteousness ... *from* God, *ek theou*). ***It is a righteous status which God requires if we are ever to stand before him, which he achieves thru the atoning sacrifice of the cross, which he reveals in the gospel, and which he bestows freely on all who trust in Jesus Christ.*** There can be little doubt that Paul uses the expression 'the righteousness of God' in this third way.

What is the meaning of "from faith to faith"? Here are the four most plausible meanings:

- **faith's origin** - 'from the faith of God, who makes the offer, to the faith of men who receive it'. More simply, it is 'from God's faith (better, faithfulness) to our faith'. God's faithfulness always comes first, and ours is never other than a response.

- **the spread of faith by evangelism** may be in Paul's mind: 'from one believer to another'.

- **faith's growth**, 'from one degree of faith to another' (cf. 2 Cor. 3:18, rsv).

- **faith's primacy** which is being stressed. NIV: "by faith from first to last" or "by faith thru & thru."