

## **ROMANS 1:1-16**

### **INTRO:**

- **Written by Paul, or dictated by Paul about 57 A.D.**
- **The letter was most probably written while Paul was in Corinth, probably while he was staying in the house of Gaius, and transcribed by Tertius,**
- **Vs. 1-15 is a preliminary salutation and general introduction.**
- **The theme is the gospel of God, the gospel of Christ. (vs. 1 & 16)**
- **Paul begins in Vs. 16 to tell us what the gospel of God is and does so all the way to the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.**
- **Paul is telling his readers the good news he has to give them is that God Himself has introduced a way of saving men through His Son Jesus Christ. God is doing something and He is doing it in Christ.**

### **ROME:**

- **Rome in Paul's day was already the foremost city of the world in wealth and outward splendor.**
- **Its population was 1 million, and slaves would have made up between 25 – 40% of the population.**
- **The population of the Roman Empire was about 60-70 million and about 7-10 million were slaves of some sort.**
- **Sexual morality in the Roman Empire was permissive, based on social status, and sexual desire could be fulfilled in a myriad of ways.**
- **Same sex relationships homosexuality, pedophilia, as well as prostitution were common.**
- **What made them acceptable or not was age and status dynamics.**
- **I don't believe we have anything, any sin in America that Rome did not have in Paul's day.**
- **The tremendous lust of sin, of depraved mankind, the hunger for power, pride and politics is the same today.**
- **The worship of emperors was a must and the worship of many gods was normal.**
- **The thirst for violence and sport were an addiction.**
- **When we read of the state of things in Rome and of those things Paul writes to the Church in Rome about we must realize the only hope they had was the gospel, the power of God.**
- **It is the same with us today. America does not need a modern friendly gospel, a shallow anemic fluffy gospel, it needs the power of God in the original gospel for there is no other and it must be preached with the power of the Holy Spirit.**

## **PAUL:**

- Paul was an amazing man, a rare man. He was a Jew, a Hebrew of the Hebrews, (see **Phil. 3:4-6**)
- He was taught at the feet of Gamaliel. Steeped in all their training, education, religion, and reasoning. All that the Jewish nation had to offer.
- Paul was also a Roman citizen, a free born Roman. That is he was never enslaved to Rome. He was born in Tarsus which was declared to be a Roman city by Augustus and all who were born there were free born Roman citizens.
- He knew and grew up knowing the Roman culture, law and mind.
- Then amazingly enough he was raised in Tarsus which was one of the 3 major centers of Greek Culture along with Athens and Alexandria.
- Tarsus was a great Greek cultured yet Roman city.
- Paul knew their poets, philosophers and thinkers. He was steeped in these cultures and thought.
- Paul was a giant, one of the most intelligent thinkers of the world.
- Yet despite all of this God sends this giant of a man to the Gentiles, the barbarians.
- Why would God send Paul to bring the gospel to the Gentile?
- He was the most gifted man to go to these far away regions to bring the good news, to debate and win men with his logic,
- but also to defend the infant Gentile church from formal dead religion, from false deceivers who would try to lay some Jewish burden on their backs, and false superstitions. (see Acts 15, Galatians 2)
- Paul was a zealous shepherd for the early Gentile church. No one knew the opposition like Paul.

## **GREETING VS. 1-7:**

- **Vs. 1. Bondservant:** "Doulos." The lowest term used for any slave. One who was born a slave, one bound to his master with circumstances, commitment and bonds so strong that only death could release him.
- One who served his master to the total disregard of his own interests, one whose will was completely swallowed up in the will of his master.
- **APOSTLE:** a sent one, a messenger, one sent for with orders.
- **SEPERATED:** to mark off by boundaries or limits.
- **SAINTS:** fundamentally signifies "separated", in Scripture in its moral and spiritual significance, separated from sin and therefore consecrated to God, sacred.

**Vs. 16:**

- The gospel is the power of God unto (resulting) salvation. That is the gospel is God's power resulting in salvation to the one who believes.
- Power, *Dunamis*, a natural ability, inherent power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature.
- This "dunamis" does not refer to some explosive powder, the gospel is not the dynamite of God.
- It is the message of mercy and grace which the Holy Spirit in Sovereign grace makes operative in the heart of the repentant sinner in Christ, before the foundation of the world.
- The gospel is the inherent, omnipotent power of God operating in the salvation of a lost soul.
- Within it is the power of God to change lives, make men and women live, to bring into the new birth.
- This gospel is demonstrated not by argument, but by what it does.
- The gospel is the anointed good news of salvation energized by the Holy Spirit.
- The repentant sinners guilt is taken away because it has been born by another... that is Jesus Christ.
- Paul, though Rome was the center the hub of the world, the seat of arrogance and pride, was not ashamed to bring to Rome the gospel of Christ.
- Rome's emperors were worshipped as god's, yet Paul was ambitious to go there. He was not afraid.
- Coming to the great city where power, pleasure and conquest was its keynote, its power was unmatched, undefeated and worshipped.
- Paul boasted and declares the power of God unto salvation is resident within the gospel. His gospel, and can change the Roman.

**VS. 17:**

- Here Paul tells us that what God is doing in Christ is that He is giving to man Christ's righteousness.
- This salvation is a gift from God who gives to us freely the righteousness of Christ and not by man's labors or goodness.
- What is it that makes the gospel a power of God?
- What is it that makes it effectual in the saving of a believing sinner?
- For in it, the gospel, the *righteousness of God is revealed.*
- The righteousness of God! That is God's righteousness.
- *Righteousness:* What is right, pertaining to right. That which is right, The character or quality of being right or just;" it was formerly spelled "rightwiseness," which clearly expresses the meaning.

- Righteous in the biblical sense is not determined by man, or culture, or any external considerations, but by God alone and that by divine decree and declaration and right.
- We are no longer to think of righteousness in the terms of what a man does, but of a righteousness which God gives and it is for everybody, Jew and Gentile.
- In biblical and an absolute sense, righteousness is a condition of rightness, the standard of which is God.
  - Acts 17:31; because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”
- **Revealed:** to uncover what has been hidden, to unveil.
- Jesus will not only be the Judge, He will be the standard by which all outside of Himself will be judged.
- The world measures its self by a lessor, lower, shifting, self-loving standard.
- Because of the relationship we have in Christ we have received the righteousness of God, His righteousness.
- Here righteousness expresses the relations of being right into which God puts the man who believes.
- The righteousness which the gospel offers the sinner is God’s own righteousness..... in this alone we stand!
- What does Paul mean by “the righteousness of God?”
- In the gospel, the good news, the righteousness of God is revealed, meaning God satisfying His, justice, His rightness in forgiving the sinner, by putting our penalty, our sin on Jesus.
- The righteousness of God will damn a sinner for all eternity who rejects it, and also saves and keeps saved for all eternity the sinner who accepts it.
- The righteousness that condemns when rejected, saves when it is accepted.
- This righteousness according to the Spirit, the scriptures as Paul has written, is revealed in the gospel, the good news of salvation.
- The other view of God’s righteousness here is His right to forgive a repentant soul and not sin against Himself, His justice. **Rom. 3:25**
- This is true because the penalty and wrath of a holy God was placed on Jesus on the cross. Propitiation. (1 Jn. 4:10,)