

# Sermon Questions

*The Power of the Gospel*  
*Romans 1:1–10, 16–17*  
*Pastor Jeff Hinds*

## CONNECT:

- Happy New Year! What is your favorite New Year's tradition? Did you make any resolutions?

## GROW:

- Read Romans 1:1–7. We learn in today's sermon that Romans will deal with both orthodoxy (right thinking) and orthopraxy (right practice). Why do they go hand in hand? Is it possible to have right practice without right thinking? Why or why not?
- We learn the nuts and bolts of the gospel in Romans:
  - God, by grace alone (*sola gracia*—grace is receiving forgiveness even though not one of us deserves it),
  - through faith alone (*sola fide*—believing in Jesus only for forgiveness, cleansing and eternal life),
  - in Christ alone (*solus Christus*—believing that Jesus is the only way to be saved from sin and damnation),
  - redeems (reconciles) repentant sinners to Himself as one believes in Jesus' death, burial and resurrection as the payment (Jesus substitutes Himself on the cross for us—*His substitutionary atonement*) for one's confessed and, in the power of God's Spirit, repented-of, sins.

Have you ever been presented with a different version of the gospel? If so, what was different? How did that impact your walk with the Lord?

- We also learn in our sermon that we are not to be “made” righteous by God, but that we are “declared” righteous in His eyes. What’s the difference?
- Paul was called to share the gospel. The Good News! What’s the best news you have ever received? Do you enjoy sharing the gospel with other people? Why or why not?

## GO:

- Depending on your answer to the question above, are there roadblocks to sharing the gospel in your life? How can they be addressed and/or removed? If this isn’t a struggle for you, who can you share the Good News of Jesus this week?

# Sermon Notes

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With common and technical language, the gospel is:

- **God, by grace alone (*sola gracia*)**—grace is receiving forgiveness even though not one of us deserves it),
- **through faith alone (*sola fide*)**—believing in Jesus only for forgiveness, cleansing and eternal life),
- **in Christ alone (*solus Christus*)**—believing that Jesus is the only way to be saved from sin and damnation),
- **redeems (reconciles) repentant sinners to Himself as one believes in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection as the payment** (Jesus substitutes Himself on the cross for us—*His substitutionary atonement*) **for one's confessed and, in the power of God's Spirit, repented-of sins.**
- **In doing so, Jesus makes amends for one's sin (expiation), and appeases God's righteous punishment and wrath towards sin (propitiation), and the result is that God declares a new believer to be righteous in His eyes (justification), and to eternally become His son or daughter (adoption).**