

ROMANS: PART 2 A SUMMARY OF THE GOSPEL

"The Heart Of Biblical Religion"
Romans 1:16-17

Introduction.

1. These two verses describe the theme of the Book, hence the theme of the Gospel.
2. These two verses describe the essence of Biblical Christianity.
3. These two verses describe the heart of Biblical religion.

The Power of God. 1:16.

1. The Gospel declares that only *the power of God* can save a person.
2. Lost people seek to approach God on the basis of human endeavor.
 - The rich person (on the basis of his attainments & perceived value).
 - The beautiful person (on the basis of his attainments & perceived value).
 - The athletic person (on the basis of his attainments & perceived value).
 - The successful person (on the basis of his attainments & perceived value).
 - The intellectual person (on the basis of his attainments & perceived value).
 - The religious person (on the basis of his attainments & perceived value).
3. The Gospel declares that you must be saved by *the power of God* -- not your own self-effort.

The Righteousness of God. 1:17.

1. The Gospel alone establishes *the righteousness of God*.
 - He is righteous in judgment -- unbending in holiness, unerring in His wrath.
 - He is righteous in salvation -- satisfying His holiness in Christ, satisfying His wrath in Christ.
2. Lost people seek to approach God on the basis of their self-righteousness.
 - The immoral person hopes God will not be righteous but merciful.
 - The moral/religious person hopes God will not be *too* righteous (lower standards for him).
 - The sincere person hopes God will not be righteous but loving.
 - The true Christian trusts that God is righteous & in Christ satisfied His righteousness.
3. The Gospel declares that in Christ alone *the righteousness of God* is established.

The Gospel. 1:16-17.

1. This Gospel is *good news* about salvation.
 - Gospel (*ευαγγελιον*) = good news!
 - The bad news is bad, but the Good News is better!
2. This Gospel is for *everyone*.
 - It is for "Jew & Gentile."
 - It is for You!** Jn 3:16; Acts 2:21; Rev 22:17.
3. This Gospel has *always* been based upon faith.
 - It is the way of salvation in the Old Testament. Hab 2:4.
 - It has always been this way! Salvation is found in no one else but Christ. Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12.
4. This Gospel can *only* be taken by faith.
 - Salvation is for those "who believe" (1:16).
 - Salvation is not for those who believe & get baptized.
 - Salvation is not for those who believe & join the Church.
 - Salvation is not for those who believe & take communion or go to Mass.
 - Salvation is not for those who believe & try their best.
 - Salvation is for those who go "*from faith to faith*" (from start to finish -- thru & thru) in Christ.