

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Epistle to the Romans: Introduction
Romans 1:1-15

Last time...we returned to Paul in Ephesus, during his 3rd missionary trip
An uproar broke out because of his ministry of the Gospel of Christ

We considered lessons in sharing the Gospel (Acts 19:37):

1. The Gospel (1 Cor 15:3-4) is a gift from God

Rom 3:10

Rom 3:23

Rom 6:23 aka “The Romans Road”

Rom 5:1

Rom 10:9

2. The Gospel is...GOOD News

The ministry given to us is not a ministry of condemnation but
the ministry of reconciliation

The Gospel is pro-Jesus, not anti-(fill in the blank)

When all had settled down, Paul left Ephesus and went to Corinth (his 3rd visit)
There he wintered for 3 months, during which time he recorded 2 Spirit-inspired letters

- Romans – to the Body of believers in Rome
- 1 Timothy – to his son in the faith

This time...we begin the Epistle to the Romans

1. God’s Plan of Redemption (Ch 1-11)
 - a. the need
 - b. the method
 - c. the scope
2. Christ-like living for the saved (Ch 12-16)

Romans 1

v1 From:

Paul – the name of the one recording the words of the Holy Spirit (2 Tim 3:16)

a servant of Jesus Christ – the identity and the highest honor of Paul
Not a pleaser of men with an ear-tickling message (Gal 1:10)

called an apostle – Jesus’ choice to replace Judas
the 12th Apostle
the Apostle to the Gentiles
Eph 1:1 an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God
(not his will or the will of man)

his calling: **he is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear my name before the
Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.** (Acts 9:15)

separated – severed, set apart from and set apart unto

the gospel of God – Good News!
The Gospel of Christ (v16)

The only Good News in the world is in the Church!

v2 Speaking of the Gospel of God: that which God had promised to mankind a long time
ago by His servants the prophets...

Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret
unto his servants the prophets.

Yet the Gospel is a mystery...a revelation from God, to man by faith

1 Peter 1:10-12 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and
searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that
should come* unto you: Searching what, or what manner of
time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify,
when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and
the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed,
that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the
things, which are now reported unto you by them that have
preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent
down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look
into.

The prophets, looking thru a glass darkly, knew in part and prophesied in part
(1 Cor 13:12)

v3-4 Still speaking of the Gospel of God: it is all about Jesus Christ, His Son and our Lord:

1. made (v3), not naturally conceived

- of the line of David, the king
The Messiah promised to ASNSAIJJ, then finally D (2 Sam 7)
- circumventing Jer 22:28-30 when the royal line of David was cursed (this man Coniah a despised broken idol)...Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man *that* shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.
- by the Virgin birth promised in Is 7:14
Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Matt 1:23)
- Whose identity is further proclaimed in Is 9:6-7a
For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.
- not the son of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of the line of David thru Solomon (Matt 1)
- but the son of Mary, the virgin espoused to Joseph, of the line of David thru Nathan (Luke 3)
- the promised Seed of the Woman and the Son of David
- according to the flesh
 - John 1:1, 14
 - Son of God made flesh, the Son of Man (Kinsman-Redeemer) and Son of David (Messiah)

2. declared (v4)

- the Son of God with the power of God...resurrection, the power to make alive that which was dead

On what day was Jesus declared the Son of God to mankind?

Ps 2:1-7

Acts 13:28-34

On the 3rd day when Jesus rose from the dead, becoming the firstborn from the dead (Col 1:18)...a new “kind”!!!

- Mankind...unto death
- Jesus-kind...unto everlasting life

The Son of God made the Son of Man and the Son of David to

- bear our sins
- pay the penalty for our sins and the sins of all people
- satisfy God's holy justice
- lay His life down and to take it back up again
- to reconcile to God whosoever would believe

thru Whom would come the grace/forgiveness of God

v5 The Apostle Paul, by the will of God, is one of the 12 “pillars” resting on the
Sure Foundation of Jesus Christ to carry on the work of saving the lost on earth
(Luke 19:10)

Yet he referred to himself

1 Cor 15:9 (last letter)

For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet
to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the
church of God.

1 Tim 1:15 (next letter)

This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all
acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to
save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Luke 7:37 **Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much**

Forgiven of much, Paul loved much...believed and obeyed!

Me too!

Monica too!

Anyone else?

That love is manifested in believing and obeying, continuing Jesus' work on earth...

- for His name...character and authority and praise and glory and honor
- not my name or your name or any person's name (Acts 4:12)

v6 The believers in Rome are among “the called” of Jesus Christ

- called/invited by Jesus...to come out of darkness and into His Light
- appointed...foreknown by God from before the foundation of the world that
they would accept Jesus' invitation
- elect...chosen because of that choice

1 Peter 1:2

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through
sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the
blood of Jesus Christ...

Matt 22:14

many are called, but few are chosen

We believers in Jesus Christ are “the called”

And that is not all we are

v7 v1-6 – From
v7 – To

To all the believers in Rome...who are (as are we)

- beloved of God...the children of God, the Family of God
- saints...so called by God Himself
 - *hagios*, an adjective
 - holy
 - consecrated
 - pure
 - blameless

Vine: “Not an attainment, it is a state into which God in grace calls men.”

God did not say *to be*; the KJV translators inserted these words and let us know they did by italicizing them

Do the words *to be* change the meaning of the verse?

Yes, if *to be* means we are not holy yet when God says to the contrary

No, if *to be* means we are to live before God and men according to who we are

As is true in all the Epistles,

“Grace and peace”

In that order, for there can be no peace with God without the grace of God
From our Father (intimate, personal relationship) and the Lord Jesus Christ,
to Whom we owe everything!

Now, the body of the letter starts

v8-9 First things first: thank God

The Apostle Paul is not planting a church in Rome, a Rock-solid assembly of like-minded believers is thriving already in Rome

They are not weak in the faith, they are strong in the faith...
as can be testified “throughout the whole world”

Note: the Biblical geographic orientation is “Israel-centric”

e.g. the 4 kingdoms of the world (BPGR) because those are the Gentile nations given dominion over Israel by the God of Israel, the OTL God

The Apostle Paul rejoices in the strength of this body of believers and prays for them
always

And he is praying for something else too

v10-12 The desire of the heart of the Apostle to the Gentiles was to go to Rome,
the center of the Gentile world
Acts 19:21 Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through
Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have
been there, I must also see Rome.

Paul fervently petitioned the Lord to be sent there
Remember, Paul's itinerary was the Lord's and not his
1 Cor 16:7b but I trust to tarry a while with you, if the Lord permit.
(and the Lord did permit, for 3 months)

Why did Paul so intensely want to go to Rome?

To see the sights as a tourist?

No, but

1. to further strengthen their walks with the Lord by sharing a spiritual gift with them...for their spiritual good (the Law of Love)
2. and thereby, to be strengthened himself by them

But...

v13 As often as he purposed/determined to go to Rome to bear fruit as he had elsewhere,
he was "let"...restrained by God

As evil is being restrained in the world right now by the presence of the Holy Spirit
inhabiting the Church (2 Thes 2:7), His holy Temple on earth,
so was Paul restrained from going to Rome

Paul will go to Rome...in God's perfect timing
(and the Church will be snatched off the earth...in God's perfect timing)

v14-15 Just when will God lift the restraint and send Paul to Rome?
He does not know...but he is ready!

Just when will Jesus call His Bride to meet Him in the clouds?
We do not know...but we are told to be ready!

Until God makes His perfect timing known, Paul owes a debt to unbelievers,
both Greek-speaking Jews and the garden-variety heathen Gentiles
What is that debt?

To share the Good News, the gospel of God, with them that they might believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and be reconciled to
God too

We owe the same debt...for His name

Matt 28:19-20...in His power

1 Peter 3:15 sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give*
an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is
in you with meekness and fear

God has made a Way home to Him for all His beloved, estranged creatures

John 14:6 the way out of darkness and into the Light
the way out of the world into the kingdom of God
the way out of the clutches of death into eternal life

“The Romans Road”

Rom 3:10

Rom 3:23

Rom 6:23

Rom 5:1

Rom 10:9, 13

That way is a mystery, revealed by God to man

God uses His children to tell the lost about the Way

As someone loved us enough to risk rejection by telling us of Jesus Christ,
we owe a debt to unbelievers to in turn tell them about Jesus Christ

We are to be ready to share Good News...the Romans Road

Application/Exhortation

1. Paul did get to Rome, his heart's desire given

About 3 years after writing this letter

He had to wait on the Lord's perfect timing

The Church has always desired our Lord to return as He promised (John 14:1-3)

The Church has been waiting for about 2000 years for the Lord's perfect timing

So must we wait for the desires of our heart

Me:

- the return of prodigal children
- the salvation of a lost child
- the reconciliation of estranged children

Whatever the Lord has put in your heart, don't get impatient and give up because things are
not happening in your timing

Trust the Lord!

When Paul got to Rome, it was under circumstances he would not have chosen

- bearing witness to his beloved people, the Jews, in the Temple in Jerusalem (another desire of his heart, Rom 9:1-3)
- being arrested when a near riot broke out
- an innocent-of-any-wrong-doing man being jailed for over 2 years
- appealing to Caesar and put on a boat to Rome
- shipwrecked in Satan's attempt to murder him
- getting to Rome...as a Roman prisoner

But he got to Rome in God's perfect way!

So must we!

Let the Almighty, all-knowing God "write the script" of your walk, don't dictate it to Him

Ps 37:4-5 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass.

Prov 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

An example of God's timing and God's way – my calling from the Lord

First of all, the Lord had been calling me my entire life
I was not listening
I was taught about Him, but I was terrified of Him
So I was the lord of my life
The result was great pain and suffering for myself and others

In that brokenness, I started listening...God speaking to me thru His children
After wrestling with the Lord for a while, I surrendered to His Lordship and accepted His gifts of forgiveness, grace, and eternal life
Then He gave me a hunger for the Word of God and started feeding me while continually stirring in my heart a desire for more

At a Men's Conference perhaps 6 years later...[David Hocking]
I responded
He discouraged
I was not discouraged
I knocked on the door and it did not open
"Not now"

Not long after that, the Lord moved us from SoCal to Phoenix

At a Men's Breakfast perhaps 2 years later...[Al James]

John: Rockford IL?

Monica: You are scaring me but if that is what the Lord wants, we will go

John: Let's wait

Perhaps 2 years later...[John Higgins]

Go see if you can find a place to meet on Sunday morning

My calling

- The Lord's will, not mine
- The Lord's timing, not mine
- The Lord's place, not mine

2. With the chief of sinners and the least of the apostles in mind, Roman 5:20-21

Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

No sinner is beyond the reach of the loving arms of Jesus Christ

Every sin, except unbelief, can be washed and removed by the blood of Jesus Christ

I am proof of that!

If you have breath, it is not too late to

- confess that you are a sinner
- repent of your sin
- call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ Who shed His blood and died for your sin...because God so loves you!
- bend your knee and confess with your tongue that Jesus Christ is Lord

Do it now, while you still have breath!

Believe what God has said and done

Trust your eternal existence with Jesus Christ

God is looking for sinners to save from eternal death...He is looking for you!

Jesus wants your sin, so He can give you His eternal life!