

Romans Chapter 1

Date: Monday, January 14

Scripture: Romans 1:1-7

Theme: Establishing Common Ground

This beginning address in Romans is the longest among all the New Testament letters. Paul had no prior involvement with this church, so he writes an extended passage of introduction. As he outlines his spiritual credentials, he also establishes common spiritual ground with the church.

Words to Consider:

- Bond-servant: a freed servant who, by choice and because of love, would remain in the service of the master.
- Called: to be invited or appointed
- Set apart: having been separated to—the thought is that no one is purposeless in Christ
- Declared: designated
- Apostleship: a messenger whose authority came from the one sending them
- Saints: holy
- Peace: the harmonious relationship between God and man brought about by Jesus

Phrases to pay attention to:

- Verse 1: of Christ Jesus
 - Put the meaning of the names together to sharpen the One who calls and sends
- Verse 4: Declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection
 - The resurrection was the definitive proof of who Jesus was
- Verse 5: through whom we have received
 - Validates the nature of Paul's apostleship
- Verse 6: also are the called of Jesus Christ
 - The common ground Paul is moving to establish

Thoughts:

- In verses 3-4 we find an early creed:
 - Seed of David
 - Declared the Son of God
 - By the power of the resurrection
- In verse 2 the promise of the Savior was given through prophecy
 - We live on the side of this promise having been fulfilled
 - Consider this reality as it applies to the trustworthiness of God
 - Nothing should enhance and solidify our trust in God more than the fulfillment found in Jesus Christ.

Focus and Application:

- Based on this passage, what is common to both Paul and who we are in Christ?
- How are these similarities to play out in our daily lives?

Date: Tuesday, January 15

Scripture: Romans 1:8-12

Theme: Developing a Relationship

Paul has established common ground with the church in Rome. Based on this shared spiritual ground, Paul begins to develop a relational bond with the church.

Word Progression: Developing a Spiritual Bond

- Verse 8: Thankfulness
 - “Through Jesus Christ”—what effects does this phrase suggest
 - “For you all”—enabled only by the preceding phrase
- Verses 9-10: Intercessory Prayer
 - “Unceasingly”—prayer driven by love
- Verse 10-11: Proven Desire
 - Paul wanted to be with the church
- Verse 11: Share
 - “Impart”—to give a share of
 - “Established”—to make stable; to fix in place

- Paul gave of what God had given him in order to bring greater stability and strength to their faith
- Verse 12: Encouragement
 - A spiritual relationship is based on reciprocal sharing
 - As Christ has given to us, we give to others for their growth

Application:

- Spiritual relationships are built and grown based on this progression.
- Use this passage as a checklist for your relationships in this church.

Date: Wednesday, January 16

Scripture: Romans 1:13-17

Theme: Revealed Purpose

In this passage, Paul gives the theme for the entire book of Romans in verses 16-17.

Verse Thoughts:

- Verse 13: This is the way Paul introduces important matters
 - Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles
- Verse 14: Because of the grace given to him, Paul was indebted to bring the Gospel to the Gentile world
 - Greek—cultured; Barbarian—uncultured, possible reference to Spain
 - Wise—Greek; Foolish—Barbarian
- Verse 15: “Eager to preach the Gospel”
 - The joy of anticipating our getting to do what we have been called to do in order to bring an increase to others

Verses 16-17 Thoughts:

- The three “for” statements
 - “For I am not ashamed”—an understatement given to increase effect
 - “For it is the..”
 - Power of God
 - For salvation—salvation is dynamic with a completed past—a continual present—a future fulfillment
 - To everyone who believes
 - Jew first—brought to the world through but in no way limited to
 - “For in it the righteousness of God is revealed”
 - Revealed in our justification—as if we had never been a sinner
 - “From faith to faith”—begins with faith for salvation and continues in a daily walk that grows
 - “He who through faith is righteous shall live by faith”
 - “If faith is from start to finish, then the righteous shall continue to live by faith.”

Application:

- Consider our obligation given the power of salvation—justification by faith.
- Continue to make your walk with Christ “from faith to faith.”

Date: Thursday, January 17

Scripture: Romans 1:18-23

Theme: The Exchange (The Explanation for the Situation)

What happens when a world exchanges the reality of God for the dominance of self?

The Exchanges Made:

- Verse 18: Truth for unrighteousness
 - The Truth is suppressed (held back) by unrighteousness
- Verses 19-21: The Evidence of God for the vanity of our reasoning
 - God is evident through creation
 - His nature is known
 - His eternal power
 - We have no excuse for not acknowledging the reality of God
- Verses 20-23: Wisdom for foolishness
 - Our wisdom made us foolish
 - The difference in wisdom and intelligence has to be considered
 - We became futile (empty) in our speculations (the thinking of man deliberating with himself)
 - From the glory of the Creator to the image of the created
 - Take into consideration Genesis 3:5—becoming our own god is never more apparent than through idolatry.

Application:

- Given the resulting severity of these exchanges, how can the condition of this world surprise us?
- “We break the laws of God to our peril.”
 - The wrath of God is the suffering that follows sin both naturally and spiritually.
 - We, our thoughts, opinions, and beliefs apart from God, become the law of life.

Date: Friday, January 18

Scripture: Romans 1:24-32

Theme: The Results of Exchange

This large passage can be broken down to show the three results of our having made the exchanges listed above.

Central phrase: “God gave them over”

- This phrase means to abandon or relinquish
 - God did so because of His gift of freewill given to us
 - There is no anger implied in this act of God—simply He had done all He could do to reclaim us.

The Three Results:

- Verses 24-25: Given over to the lust of our hearts
 - Our hearts became driven by the desires of our sin nature
 - Our heart direction was no longer God therefore how and what we worshipped became a product of our own making
 - The first step after believing a lie is to doubt and replace God
- Verses 26-27: Given over to degrading passions
 - “Passions of dishonor”—that which devalued and originally brought shame
 - This brought about sin-directed sexuality.
 - That which was given as a gift from God now became an expression of human perversion
- Verses 28-32: Given over to a depraved mind
 - “Reprobate thinking” became the nature of our minds apart from God
 - Paul lists 21 results of an exchanged mind void of Christ
 - When we consider that we act as we think, we gain an understanding of the nature of our world
 - Consider the 21 items listed in comparison to not only how we act but how we think as well.

Application:

- Verse 32: Note that society once judged us for not openly participating in these activities now seeks to judge us for not showing open support for those who do such things.