

I. The Gospel Described - Rom 1:1-7

1. Paul gives his identity (**verses 1-4**)
 - Rea -this is Paul's self-identity - who you think you are is extremely important
 - A. A servant - "bondslave"
 - of Christ Jesus
 - he belonged to Jesus - like a slave belonged to his master
 - B. Apostle
 - not out of pride but to describe God's purpose for his life
 - C. Set apart -for his role
 - Rea D. An additional title not mentioned here is he is the "called" - here called to an office (or role), not to salvation
 - Rea -a sense of "destiny" pervades these titles - this who God planned him to be
 2. The gospel was promised beforehand - and Paul was set apart to minister that gospel
 - Rea -I see the term "minister" is to serve up - or to present it
 - prophesied by the prophets in the Holy Scriptures
 3. The earthly son was Jesus, son of David (verse 3) - the genealogy is right to be Messiah
 4. Appointed of God -declared
 - Rea -so Paul is "set apart"
 - and Jesus is also "set apart" for His role
 - Rea -I like the word "assignment." All of us have an assignment from God, what is your assignment?
 - the witness of God that Jesus was the Messiah is the resurrection from the dead
 5. Paul mentions that "we" received grace and apostleship (**verses 5-7**)
 - Rea -the "we" tells me that he includes the receivers in his letter as receivers of grace and apostleship
 - to call the Gentiles to obedience - also
 - Rea -the word "call" is used four times
 - A. Paul's call
 - B. The call to the Gentiles to obey
 - C. They are the "called" belonging to Jesus
 - D. Upcoming (7) - to the "called" in Rome - not a call only, but a call to be something - His holy people
 - Rea -someone might misunderstand verse 7 to say, He only loved some people and them He called
 6. May you be "graced" and also receive "peace"
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Self-identity is very important
 - who are you... anyway?
 - you might answer, teacher, father, friend, but to see yourself as His bondslave makes a huge difference
 2. We are not just doing church this is our God-given "assignment"
 3. Many believe that the pastor has a "call" so to all believers

II. The Gospel Debt - Romans 1:13-15

1. He informs them that he had many times planned to come see them (verse 13)
 - he'd been prevented
 - he'd hoped for a harvest of believers there
2. He is obligated
 - a debtor to both non-Greeks and Greeks
 - to wise and foolish
 - he was obliged to share the gospel
3. He was "eager" to do so - also in Rome
 - he felt obligated to share with them the truth - we ought feel the same way
 - to offer them the opportunity to be saved

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Having "received" salvation, now we are obliged to "share" salvation
2. A personal part of the letter
 - is there a hint that since he cannot come, he'll just send a letter?
3. Why did Paul feel in "debt" to share? - and why don't we feel that way?
4. This is Paul's assignment
 - if you have ever been in the military, you probably understand better the assignment idea - when you are told to go to Europe or Asia, you simply go. There is no debating with your commanding officer.

III. The Gospel Declared - Romans. 1:16-17

- Rea 1. The "gospel" is brought up in verse 15 - then he takes off on it in verse 16
I am not ashamed of it
- Rea It has the power to bring salvation to everyone (all, not just the elected)
-but they must "believe"
2. First to the Jews, then to the Gentiles
- Rea -this is the order that the gospel came not any order of worthy or value -the Jews were no more worthy to receive the gospel. The whole of the book of Romans says that all are in sin and all need the good news - salvation.
3. The gospel reveals the righteousness of God
-righteousness is from first to last by faith
4. He quotes Hab. 2:4 - the righteous live by faith
- Rea -we live initially by new birth
-we are then given abundant life (John 10:10) by following Christ - I am come that you might have life (initially by new birth), and have it more abundantly (that is subsequent to being saved)
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. The gospel saves people - not the preacher, not the music, not programs - no matter how good they are
 - if a preacher, or a program does not proclaim the gospel people will not be saved
 - the most important part of a mission trip is the proclamation of the gospel - not just good deeds
 - it is a mystery how words (like those of the gospel) save people, but they do
 2. We are given (or entrusted) with the most powerful thing on the earth - the gospel saves for eternity and changes for the here and now

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