



## God's Powerful Gospel

### Lesson 1 | Romans 1:1-17

When people hear the word “gospel” they almost always think of Christianity. The gospel is the good news of what God has done for sinful humanity through Jesus Christ. And no book of the Bible does more to explain that good news than the book of Romans.

#### The \_\_\_\_\_ Background of Romans

Paul, apostle to the Gentiles, was finally writing to Rome, the most important Gentile city. Paul was hoping to visit Rome soon, and so it was time to officially introduce himself to this church. Paul was working on a project to do something about the continuing tension between Jews and Gentiles. He wanted to take an offering for poor believers in Jerusalem, hoping to show the unity of these two groups. It was while Paul was headed to Jerusalem that he wrote Romans. So what would happen when he finished delivering this gift, assuming he got out alive? Paul his future plans and the role that the church in Rome would play in Romans 12:20-33.

#### \_\_\_\_\_, Apostle of the Gospel (1:1-7)

The introductions in Paul's letters often clue us in to what Paul is going to be talking about in his letters. Not surprisingly, the opening to Romans Paul begins by talking about the gospel.

#### Jesus was promised in \_\_\_\_\_ (1:2-3)

Before salvation Paul didn't see how Jesus could be the one Scriptures predicted. Once he met Jesus everything changed and He began realized the whole story of the Old Testament was pointing to Jesus.

#### Jesus was validated by the \_\_\_\_\_ (1:4)

Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, but that is a claim anyone *could* make. Through His resurrection from the dead, Jesus powerfully



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proved that He is who He said He is and thereby earned the right to be known as the Son of God.

**Jesus empowers faith-filled \_\_\_\_\_ (1:5-6)**

Salvation is by faith apart from works; we don't have to do good things to be saved (Ephesians 2:8-9). But faith that is truly faith will lead to obedience. Romans goes smoothly from what God has done for us (Romans 1-11) into how we should now obey Him (Romans 12-15).

**\_\_\_\_\_, Paul's Intended Destination (1:8-15)**

Paul had never been to Rome and had apparently never written to the church. Yet Paul still prayed for and loved these believers and desired to visit them so that he could 1) share a spiritual gift that would strengthen them 2) be mutually encouraged by their faith and 3) have spiritual fruit from ministering with them.

**The \_\_\_\_\_, God's Power to Save (1:16-17)**

After this introduction, Paul starts the letter itself with two powerfully packed sentences which give the theme for the rest of Romans.

**The Theme of \_\_\_\_\_**

The good news through Jesus is that God saves, and God can save powerfully. God's power is seen in creation and providence, but it is seen uniquely in the gospel.

**The Theme of \_\_\_\_\_**

This is a gospel that comes both to the Jew and the Greek. No longer do people need to become Jewish and follow the Mosaic law to be children of God. All peoples stand equal at the foot of the cross.

**The Them of God's \_\_\_\_\_**

Paul says that in the gospel "the righteousness of God is revealed." How could a just God could justly declare sinners to be righteous? That God accomplished caused Paul to marvel at the power of God.

**The Theme of \_\_\_\_\_**

Finally, Paul says that the God reveals His righteousness "from faith to faith." God's righteousness is not something we earn or deserve. It's a gift that comes to us through faith.

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