



Lenten Series Week 1

The Righteous Live by Faith

Romans 1:1-17 | March 10, 2019

Introduction: From Lent through Pentecost we will be taking a closer look at Paul's soaring letter to the church in Rome. Many a Christian, including Augustine and Martin Luther, have come to saving faith in Jesus through their reading of this epistle. Paul wrote this letter in the late 50's of the first century. The letter was likely sent from Corinth while Paul was on his third missionary journey. He was heading back to deliver an offering to the desperately needy church in Jerusalem. His long term goal and desire was to visit the church in Rome, a church that he had heard great things about.

Paul's letter to the Roman church is all about the gospel: what it is, why we need it, and what difference it makes. From the opening verse until the very last, the gospel dominates.

This gospel—which we will explore over the next several weeks—is such incredibly good news to Paul that he is willing to be 'set apart'. In other words, Paul is willing to separate himself from anything in order to live for and share it.

Pray: Journey with us, O holy God, as we begin our way to the cross. Sharpen our focus, that our attention may center more on you than ourselves. Lead us through the shadows of darkness and prepare our hearts, that we might be a people of prayer, ready to perceive and respond to your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. In his name we pray. Amen.

Read: Romans 1:1-17

Discussion:

- Who is the letter from (v1)? To (v7)?
- What is Paul's job, and passion (v1, 5)?
- To be "set apart" | to be separated from other things, to pursue only one thing. How does this apply to us non-Paul's in the room?
- Where do we find the gospel (v2)?
- Who is the gospel about (v3-4)?
- What does the gospel produce (v5)?
- Why might one be ashamed of the gospel?
- Why is Paul not ashamed of the gospel?
- What does the gospel do (16)? Who for?

Application:

- Do you ever obey because you think you have to, to stay forgiven?
- Do you ever disobey because you know you don't have to obey?
- How do you think faith in the Lord Jesus motivates us to want to obey?
- What about the gospel do you not understand or have questions about?
- How do we grasp the power of the gospel?

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Pray: Thank you God for our time together. Thank you for the church in Rome and their faithful witness that matters to us today. Thank you for Paul and so many others who boldly proclaimed the gospel at great expense. We are mindful that the greatest price to follow Jesus is being paid by many Christians around the world today. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear your good news. Make us eager to live and share it. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.