

Series "How Great A Salvation"
"The Servant Of The Gospel"
Romans 1:8-15
Study-2

Theme of Romans – "How Great A Salvation" – (God's Plan – The Gospel which brings Salvation)

Romans 1:1-17 – Greeting And Introduction: Paul's intro is longer than any other of Paul's epistles, more theological, more personal, probably because Paul had never visited Rome.

Paul – Verses 1-7 – has established his position as an apostle but now he wants to bare his heart to them. He wants them to really know him. **"Before I show you my theology, I am going to show you myself!"**

Paul now gives a two-fold explanation for his letter!

- 1) Why Paul Is Writing.**
- 2) What Paul Is Writing About.**

Thought Of Our Passage: "The Gospel Produces A Thankful Heart And A Loving Concern That Sacrifices All For The Glory Of God."

We will look at 8 Qualities of "The Servant of The Gospel:"

1. Verse 8 – Thankful Heart: Romans 1:8 – "First, I thank my God" – Paul has just introduced himself; Paul greeted the believers in Rome, Romans 1:7.

Paul's Thankfulness To God For The Church of Rome: "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all,"

"through Jesus Christ for you all," – John 14:6.

"because your faith" – The believers' personal persevering trust; their faith was a cause of thanksgiving!

"is being proclaimed throughout the whole world." – This was the Roman world.

Matthew 5:14; 1 Thessalonians 1:8

A thankful heart is essential to those who minister to God's people!
Superficial believers are seldom satisfied, therefore seldom thankful!
(Thinking of self, what they want and get)

2. Verses 9-10 – Concern For Others: Romans 1:9 – “For God, whom I serve in my spirit” – Paul's service was not merely outward but was inward; in the inner man.

“serve” – a word taken from the OT for priestly service (translated as Worship), “to perform sacred services, to worship” as a priest.

“gospel of His Son” – A gospel without The Son of God is not a gospel.

(God) “is my witness” – These believers don't know Paul personally, so he calls on God as his witness!

Paul's Unceasing Prayers: “as to how unceasingly I make mention of you,” – Eph 1:16; Phil 1:3; Col 1:3; 1 Thess 1:2; 2 Tim 1:3; Philemon 1:4.

Romans 1:10 – “always in my prayers making request,” – Their faith was reported all over the world because the apostle and other Christians were praying for them, Romans 15:20.

3. Verse 10 – Submissive Will: “if perhaps now at last by the will of God” – That was the basis of Paul's coming. He wanted to walk with the Lord in His plan.

“I may succeed in coming to you.” – Paul went to Rome as a prisoner of Jesus Christ, Acts 27-28.

Philippians 1:12-14

We will reach our Rome by God's will. There is no telling how we will reach our Rome, but we will get there.

4. Verse 11 – Love For Others: Romans 1:11 – “For I long to see you” – Literally, “I am homesick for you.” Prayer always leads to an unselfish heart of love.

Unselfish Purpose: “so that I may impart,” – Impart really means “share with you.”

“some spiritual gift to you,” – “charismata of the Spirit,” Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4; Spiritual help!

Anyone who serves to receive appreciation and personal satisfaction will find disappointment and self-pity. If we focus on giving, we will never be disappointed! 2 Corinthians 12:15

“that you may be established;” – “to set fast, to turn resolutely in a certain direction, or to confirm, steadfastly set, strengthen.”

5. Verse 12 – Humble Spirit: Romans 1:12 – “that is,” – Paul wants to make sure that they don’t see him as arrogant.

“that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other’s faith,” – Paul’s visit would not be one-sided, but Mutual.

“both yours and mine.” – Paul was called by God an apostle/servant.
Romans 1:1 – “Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus,” – 1 Corinthians 12:7.

Anyone that ministers to others knows that God supernaturally reflects that back to them.

6. Verse 13 – Fruitful Spirit: Romans 1:13 – “I do not want you to be unaware, brethren,” – Romans 1:13 (KJV) – “Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren,” – Literally, “Now I do not wish you to be unknowing.” Paul likes this phrase – 5X: Romans 11:25; 1 Corinthians 10:1; 12:2; 2 Corinthians 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13.

“that often I have planned to come to you” – Acts 19:21; “(and have been prevented so far)” – Hinder.

1 Thessalonians 2:18

Possibly Paul’s missionary work in the Mediterranean prevented him – Romans 15:22-23.

There is a need to know what God wants us to do, but also when God wants us to do it!

“so that I may obtain some fruit among you also,” – Paul uses the imagery of the gathering of a harvest, John 15:16.

7. Verse 14 – Obedient Spirit: Romans 1:14 – “I am under obligation” – “debtor, owe a debt to, debtor-ship,” Galatians 2:7.

We must see ourselves as “Debtors” – We owe a debt because of the riches of the gospel entrusted to us! 1 Corinthians 9:16-17

“both to Greeks” – all non-Jews; Cultured; “and to barbarians,” – Uncultured.

“both to the wise” – Educated; “and to the foolish” – Uneducated.

The first person Jesus revealed Himself to as the messiah was the Samaritan woman, John 4:7-42.

8. Verse 15 – Eager Spirit: Romans 1:15 – “So, for my part, “to the extent of my ability,” Ephesians 1:14-16.

I Am Ready To Preach The Gospel: “I am eager to preach the gospel” – “an eager desire;” We need to be ready. We need to be ready and available.

If Paul is going to reach the nations, why does he preach the gospel to the Christians at Rome? It is by means of the Christians that the nations are to hear. It is the changes God works in the lives of his people that cause others to begin to take note.

Application:

1. A Thankful Heart Is Essential To Those Who Minister To God’s People. Superficial believers Are Seldom Satisfied, Therefore Seldom Thankful.
2. Anyone Who Serves To Receive Appreciation And Personal Satisfaction Will Find Disappointment And Self-Pity. If We Focus On Giving, We Will Never Be Disappointed.
3. More Blessed To Give Than Receive; And You Really Cannot Give Without Receiving.
4. We Must See Ourselves As Debtors – We Owe A Debt Because Of The Riches Of The Gospel Entrusted To Us.