

Subject: *Committed to the Gospel*

Scripture: *Romans 1:1-17*

From the very first words of his letter to the Romans, Paul tells us what is on his mind and heart—the gospel of Jesus Christ. The word “gospel” means good news. We live in a world of bad news. We need good news, especially the good news of the Gospel. Some people are committed to many things, and they are greatly stressed. Paul was committed to one thing, and he was greatly blessed.

Paul begins the letter by identifying himself as a servant of Jesus Christ and one who is called to be an apostle. He was a bond-slave of Christ. He had for many years served sin and self, but when Christ saved him, he then had a new Lord and Master. Paul was also an apostle (one sent on a mission). Paul was separated unto the gospel of God. He is probably referring to two things: his conversion to Christ and his call to preach the gospel.

- Paul was separated before his conversion

Galatians 1:15-16 ¹⁵ *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,* ¹⁶ *To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood.*

- Paul was separated at his conversion

Acts 9:15 *the Lord said unto him (Ananias), Go thy way: for he (Paul) is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.*

- Paul was separated after his conversion

Acts 13:2 *As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.*

Paul was separated unto the gospel and chosen to preach the gospel. The gospel dominated his life and ministry. From day one of his Christian life, Paul was committed to the gospel.

In Romans 1:9, Paul said that he serves in the gospel.

In Romans 1:15, Paul is ready to preach gospel to the church at Rome.

In Romans 1:16, Paul was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ because it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, and it reveals the righteousness of God (vs. 17).

Why would Paul want to preach the gospel to the church at Rome? Weren't these people already saved? Yes, they were saved, but the gospel is for all people, believers as well as unbelievers.

1. The source of the gospel (vs. 1-2)

- A. It is the gospel of God – it is good news from God about the salvation of sinners
- B. It is the gospel God had promised in the holy scriptures – beginning with Genesis 3:15

Genesis 3:15 *I will put enmity (hostility) between thee (Satan) and the woman (Eve), and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 ³ *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;* ⁴ *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.*

The gospel was not a new message, but the fulfillment of promises God made from the beginning and pictures given (like Passover). These were all recorded in the scriptures.

2. The subject of the gospel (vs. 3-4)

The gospel is all about Jesus Christ.

- A. He is God's Son (vs. 3, 9)
- B. He is our Lord (vs. 3, 7)
- C. His humanity – the seed of David – His incarnation and birth
- D. His deity – the Son of God – His resurrection

There are many false gospels, but only one true gospel. How can you identify the true gospel? The true gospel is God's message that lost sinners are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

3. The scope of the gospel (vs. 5-8)

The gospel is for people of all nations (vs. 5). The salvation of the believers in Rome was spoken of throughout the whole world (vs. 8). It was said that "all roads lead to Rome." And those roads led to and from Rome. The gospel of Christ came to Rome and then from Rome it spread all over the world.

The gospel is received in obedience to God (vs. 5, "for obedience to the faith among all nations"). The good news of salvation is not an invitation or an offer. It is a command from God. Repent and believe the gospel. All who repent and believe will be saved.

4. The preaching of the gospel (vs. 14-16)

Paul makes three powerful statements: "I am debtor" (a statement of his obligation); "I am ready" (a statement of his preparation); and "I am not ashamed" (a statement of his motivation). Paul was completely convinced that the gospel was sufficient to save sinners.

See *1 Corinthians 1:17-24*

See *1 Corinthians 2:1-5*

5. The heart of the gospel (vs. 17)

Paul quotes from Habakkuk 2:4. God's righteousness is revealed in the gospel. God must judge sin because He is perfectly righteous, but if He judges sinners that would be bad news, not good news. In the gospel God made a way to punish sin and pardon sinners at the same time. He sent His Son Jesus to bear His righteous judgment against sinners by suffering in the place of sinners. God placed our sins upon Christ and He places His righteousness upon us. The gospel involves a great exchange—Christ takes our sins and we receive His righteousness. Paul explains the heart of the gospel in the Book of Romans.

- A. Righteousness is what sinners need (Romans 3:10) – Do you understand you have a sinful heart and a record of breaking God's laws? Don't pretend that you're basically a good person. If you do, Christ has nothing for you, for He came to save sinners.
- B. Righteousness is what God provides (Romans 3:20-26)
- C. Righteousness is what sinners receive by faith in Christ (Romans 10:1-10)

This is the gospel we believe and by which we are saved. This is the gospel that God has entrusted to the church to preach and teach and share with others.

We have seen that Paul was committed to the gospel of Christ and he was calling upon the church at Rome to be committed to the gospel too. We admire Paul's commitment and the churches in the NT and their commitment to the gospel, but I must ask, are you committed to the gospel? The gospel is worthy of our commitment. Are you fully committed to it?