

PAULS LETTER TO THE
ROMANS

By Matthew Allen

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Spiritual "equipment" for the contest of life.

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COVER : Roman Colosseum, PHOTOGRAPHY BY Sarah McMurray. Ms McMurray can be contacted by emailing her at Sarah@Spiritbuilding.com

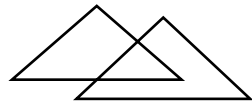
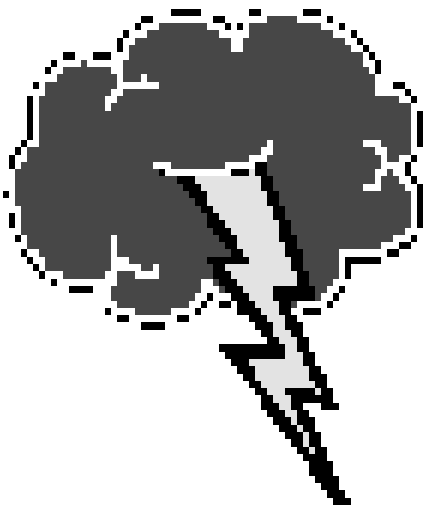


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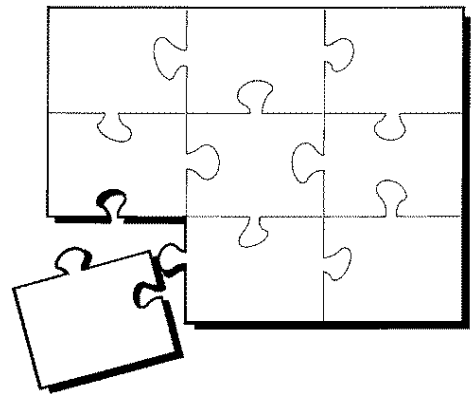
Feel the Power!

Lesson 1

The Power of the Gospel

Chapter Outline

Romans 1



1:1-7 - Introductory thoughts

1:8-15 - A visit to Rome?

1:16-17 - The gospel is God's power to save

1:18-32 - Judgment on the unrighteous

Let's get started...

The gospel is:

Complete these sentences:

I can be saved through the gospel by:

The gospel has made a difference in my life because:

Chapter One Summary

1:1-7 - *Introductory thoughts*

In 1:1, Paul identifies himself as a servant of Jesus Christ. In the original language, *servant* means “to bind.” Paul is telling us of his complete allegiance to Jesus Christ. He had been called to be an apostle and had separated himself from the world and its pursuits. Paul’s mission as an apostle was to report or preach the good news of the gospel of God. He was declared to be the Son of God by the fact of His resurrection from the dead. The good news of the gospel is that it shares with us the marvelous story of God demonstrating his grace on mankind through the gift of Jesus. We are called to respond to the gospel through the obedience of faith. A person who has been “called” is a person who

For Discussion

Read through chapter 1. What are three expressions used in this chapter to describe the Christians at Rome?

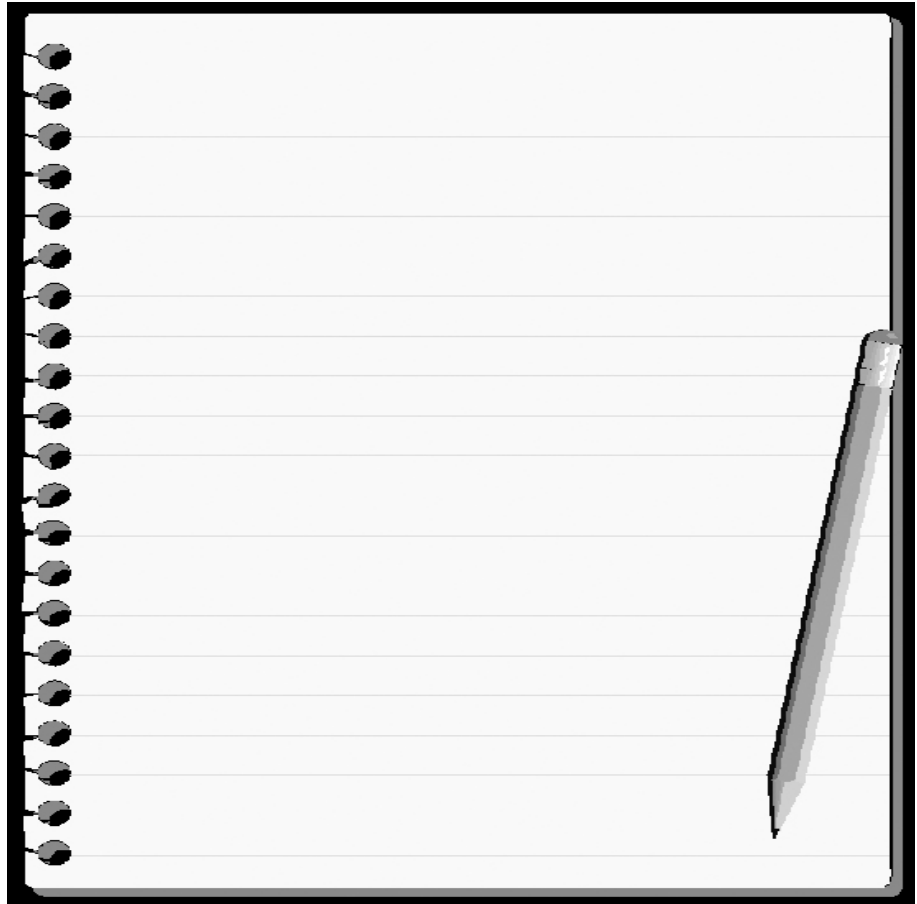
- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

In 1:1, Paul describes himself as a servant of Jesus. How is it a blessing to be a servant?

In 1:4 Paul speaks of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead. Why is the resurrection so important to Christianity?

Making the Connection to Today

In 1:8 Paul indicates his thankfulness for the Roman brethren. On the note pad to the right make a list of one or two persons in our congregation that we should be thankful for. Why should we be thankful for them and how can we demonstrate that thankfulness?



In 1:7, Paul calls Christians saints. What is a saint? Why is this important for you to know?

has been saved. Saved people have been purchased by Jesus through the shedding of His blood on the cross of Calvary. In these verses, Paul calls Christians “saints.” All Christians are saints. They have been set apart because they have obeyed the gospel, 2 Corinthians 6:17-18.

1:8-15 - A visit to Rome?

Paul praises the brethren at Rome because of their great faith. The news of their steadfast dedication to God and to the gospel had gone around the world. Rome was the center of the world, and having a strong, viable congregation in this city was extremely important to the growth and spread of Christianity. The Roman brethren were a great example for other Christians to follow. We are told *the report of their obedience had reached to all*, Romans 16:19. Imagine how uplifting it was for these Christians to be told that Paul never ceased to pray for them and that he earnestly desired to come to them personally to

strengthen and encourage them. We are told that Paul planned on getting to Rome before this, but had been hindered by other needs. See also 1:13.

Paul’s purpose in seeing them was threefold. verse 11 tells us he wanted to impart some kind of spiritual gift to them. We are not given any specifics as to the type of spiritual gift it was. In 1:12, he mentioned that a personal visit would be important so that they could be *mutually edified by each other’s*

faith. Doesn't that say something about the importance of Christians spending time with one another? There is power in our being together! By being together at worship, we stir up each other to love and good works! (Hebrews 10:23-25). Finally, in 1:14-15 Paul mentions that it was his responsibility to preach the gospel to Jews and Greeks—everyone who would hear.

1: 16-17 - *The gospel is God's power to save*

Paul was not ashamed to preach the gospel to anyone. Sometimes, the gospel can be received as foolishness by worldly minded people. This was especially the case in the Roman society in which the Christians of the first century lived. The Romans were polytheistic and even viewed Caesar as a god. A majority of Romans would have had a very hard time

understanding how a person could have faith in a crucified Jew from the land of Palestine. Paul tells his reading audience that the gospel is God's power to save. How important is the gospel? See the characteristics to the right. The phrase *from faith to faith* tells us that the gospel has been revealed to us in order to create the kind of faith that saves. We are called to an obedient faith. Those who are justified will be those who respond to their faith and God's conditions for salvation.

Important Characteristics of the Gospel in Romans 1

Its nature:

The gospel has the power to cleanse us from all sin.

Its origin:

The gospel is from God.

Its scope:

The gospel is for all men and women.

Its aim:

The gospel brings us salvation and life.

Its demand:

faith in Jesus Christ

Its respectability:

The gospel is nothing to be ashamed of.

In 1:12, Paul says that we can be mutually edified by our faith. How can you build up others within our congregation? Is this a responsibility of all Christians? (Heb. 10:23-25)

Why would Paul have not been ashamed of the gospel? What are some ways we can strengthen ourselves so that we will never be ashamed of God's gospel?

1:18-32 - *Judgment on the unrighteous*

In this section, Paul begins to speak of mankind's need for salvation. The mission of spreading the gospel was vitally important because of the devastating effects of sin. All men need to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ in order to escape *the wrath of God*. God's justice demands that sin be punished. In these verses, we are assured that evil will be punished. In 1:20 we read that God has revealed Himself through His creation. Experience, observation, and common sense tells us that God exists and that one day there will be a reckoning for the deeds done in the body. In 1:21-32, Paul tells us about Gentiles who left God completely out of their thinking. They gave themselves over to idolatry, immorality, and every imaginable practice that violates God's will. They were without excuse. Once mankind rejected God, He allowed them to sink further and further into the dark depths of sin. God will not force anyone to serve Him. These verses are very effective in showing us that the world was (and is) in need of salvation—which is provided through the marvelous grace of God. Once we realize our lost condition, we can respond in faith and follow through on God's terms of forgiveness—trusting alone in God for our salvation.

Making the Connection to Today

In 1:26-27, the subject of homosexuality is addressed. How is homosexuality described in these verses? How could these verses assist you in helping a friend who has homosexual temptations and explains it away by saying they were born that way?

Read 1:16-17. What six things do these verses tell us about the gospel?

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

Read 1:17-18. How would you describe the righteousness of God and how do we get it?

Read 1:19-20. What are some ways God has made Himself known in our world?

Will God allow us to continue down the path that leads away from Him? How would you explain the phrase God gave them up?