



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

God's Good News (Romans, Chapter 1)

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Paul opened his letter to church members in Rome by introducing himself. We experience these greetings every day during committee testimonies and public addresses. He gave his name (Paul), his occupation (bond-servant of Jesus, the Christ), his title (Apostle, one sent), and his mission (sent to share God's good news). What good news from God would give you the most pleasure today?

INTRODUCTION

The gospel, in the Greek, is translated "good news". The news is good because we need a change in destiny! All humans begin life estranged from God. We are sinners by nature and practice. **Have you watched a two year old (or older person) throw off the restraint of one who loves them?**

GOD'S PROMISE FROM EARLIEST DAYS

Romans 1:2-4 The gospel He promised beforehand through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures – regarding His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was a descendant of David according to the flesh and was appointed to be the powerful Son of God according to the Spirit of holiness by the resurrection of the dead.

God warned Adam of spiritual death from sin (Genesis 2:17). Christ's conquest of evil and payment for sin was foretold (Genesis 3:15). God provided a blood sacrifice for sin (Genesis 3:21). This was taught throughout the Old Testament as prophets warned of sin and looked forward to the Messiah. Jesus fulfilled the requirements by being a human descendant of David through Mary's lineage (Luke 3:23-37). God's declaration of Jesus as His Son was proven by the resurrection (John 11:25). His divine nature was displayed (Romans 1:4). **Do you see why some call faith and the promise of eternal life a mystery?**

GOD'S CALL TO PAUL AND TO YOU

Romans 1:5-6 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name among all the Gentiles, including you, also called by Jesus Christ.

Paul had been a Pharisee, one steeped in religious tradition. He learned that faith in Jesus' sin payment was all that is needed to begin our relationship with Him. Proof of faith is action! We must turn from sin (repent) and follow Jesus' model. A pilot flying into a storm must turn back to be saved. We should also give direction to others and glory to God. Renowned missionary and theologian E. Stanley Jones said: "Religions are man's search for God; the gospel is God's search for man. There are many religions, but one gospel." **Will you share the good news with others, giving glory to God rather than taking the applause?**

PAUL COMMENDS ROMAN CHRISTIANS

Romans 1:8-9 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of His Son is my witness how I constantly remember you in my prayers.

Paul praised God for the good reputation of the church members in Rome. They were a stark contrast to the proud Greeks, the gentiles, heathens, and barbarians. This capital city of one million was a mixture of slaves and scholars, splendor and slums, shamelessness and sin. The greatest judgment on earth is for God to allow us to do harmful things in a manner that seems right to us (Romans 8:28-32). Although God also gave His own Son so that all can repent, turn to Him, and share eternal life with Him. Paul lauded the fellowship of the church in Rome. They rejected the self-destructive values of the population. God counted as holy their Christ-like sharing and compassion for the downtrodden. **Do you pray for grace to deal with the humanity around you and God's peace in the midst of turmoil and drama?**

A PRAYER

Father God: Thank You for carrying me day to day in my walk here on earth. Please give me tenacity as I strive to be holy in Your sight. You have me embedded in this wild culture! Give me an extra portion of grace and wisdom so that I may honor You! I pray in the mighty name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen!