

GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS: SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2, 2023

WORSHIP

Faithful, Majestic, Jesus Son of God, Holy Forever, You Are my King

WELCOME

What was the best news that you have ever received, and whom did you first share it to after receiving it?

WORD

ROMANS 1:16-17

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”

The Book of Romans is the most comprehensive when it comes to theology, but more than that, it has transformed many lives. It touched the life of a playboy living a life of immorality – Augustine. It changed the life of a legalistic person – Martin Luther. It transformed a missionary who had no peace – John Wesley.

The Book of Romans is about the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD. As we open this series, we explore the topic **GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS: Share the Good News!**

The overview of the book of Romans is as follows:

ROMANS “RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN THE GOSPEL”				
SIN Ch. 1-3	SALVATION Ch. 3-5	SANCTIFICATION Ch. 6-8	SOVEREIGNTY Ch. 9-11	SERVICE Ch. 12-16
What's wrong with the world? What is our problem?	How can we be righteous?	Where do we get the power to live righteously?	What about Israel? How is God in control?	How can we live out righteousness?
<i>Righteousness Needed</i>	<i>Righteousness Imputed</i>	<i>Righteousness Empowered</i>	<i>Righteousness Demonstrated</i>	<i>Righteousness Displayed</i>

We explore the Gospel's 3CPRs:

1. COMES FROM GOD

Paul opens this letter (**Romans 1:1-4**) with a description of himself – a bondservant (**Gk. doulos**) – a slave. There's nothing nice about it, but it becomes noble when you attach it to God. Not only is he a slave of God, he also knew that he was set apart for the GOSPEL of God. “Gospel” is from the Greek word “**euaggelion**” – eu meaning good, and **angelion**, meaning to proclaim or announce. This good news came from God Himself – nobody ever forced Him to give us the good news. God, as a Father, longed for his lost children, and gives this good news as He promised in the Old Testament. The gospel was not invented by the apostles, but God, a long time ago already thought of what He will do to save us. The centerpiece of this good news is His Son, Jesus Christ.

2. CHRIST-CENTERED

1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-8 is where Paul defines what the GOSPEL is: it is about Jesus Christ's ministry. It was not just in the New Testament – in **Genesis 12:3**, we see the promise given to Abraham already announced the future ministry of Christ. This is something Paul confirms in **Galatians 3:8**. The Old Testament gives us hints about the coming Messiah (eg. **2 Samuel 7:12-13, Isaiah 9:6-7, Daniel 7:13-14**) But we will not understand these things and who they are referring to until we see the New Testament – it's about Jesus!

What will this “Messiah” do? **Isaiah 53:5-6** prophesied what will happen to Him – He will be pierced, crushed, chastened, scourged, and all our iniquities fall on Him. That is why all these prophecies are confirmed as Jesus is called the son of David, the son of Abraham. Bible prophecies has been fulfilled by Jesus.

3. COMPELLED

The gospel compels us to obedience (**Romans 1:5**). If somebody claims to be a follower of Jesus, and yet doesn't obey Him, then he is not a true follower. The gospel is for all! **Romans 1:6-8** shows us

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the readers of Paul's letter. When Paul addressed the believers in his letters, he calls them "saints" (**1 Corinthians 1:2, Ephesians 1:1, Philippians 1:1, Colossians 1:2**). Why are believers, "saints"? Because once we come to Jesus, all our sins are paid for and washed off. the question is, are we living like we are saints. We are no longer sinners who keep on sinning, but saints that occasionally sin. Paul also tells them his heart – he really wants to see them, he prays for them intentionally, and he desires to be with them. Paul even explains in **Romans 1:13** that he desired to come to them. The church in Rome was not planted by Paul. He had nothing to do with its beginning. In his mind, he wanted to share the gospel to Rome and even in Spain. Paul's heart is **compelled to share** the gospel! He says he is **UNDER OBLIGATION**, and is **EAGER** to share (**Romans 1:14-15**); in some translations, "in debt", or "under duty". Sharing the gospel is not optional – it is a responsibility we must be so passionately invested in to fulfill. Paul was called crazy by Festus. in Athens, he was also sneered and looked down because of what he believed. And yet in **Romans 1:16**, he exclaimed, "I AM NOT ASHAMED!" Why is he confident? Because it is the power of God that rules over him!

4. POWER OF GOD TO SAVE

We don't have anything to be ashamed of the gospel because it is the **POWER (Gk. dunamis)** of **GOD**. People in Rome understood many kinds of powers, but Paul wants them to embrace the greatest power – the power to change lives. That is the power of the gospel; it changes hearts. It heals brokenness. It restores. But there is a condition to this power: while it is offered to everyone, one must believe this good news. What is the gospel saving us from? It saves us from the penalty of sin – the wrath of God (**justification**). It sanctifies us from the power of sin (**sanctification**) and perfects or rids us of the presence of sin (**glorification**).

5. RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

The gospel reveals the righteousness of God (**Romans 1:17**). When we see the words, "God is righteous", it is not just about the perfection in all He does, or that He is always correct. But it is more than that – the righteousness of God also means that His manner of justice is also righteous. At the cross, justice and mercy met. There is forgiveness. Paul speaks of another kind of righteousness in **Philippians 3:9** – because the righteousness of our own is never good enough to save us. It should be that which is through faith in Christ – it comes from God on the basis of faith (**1 Corinthians 1:30-31**). It is by His doing – God at work; **Jesus** became our **righteousness, sanctification, and redemption!** **Romans 1:17** says it is revealed from faith to faith – you don't sustain being right with God by works or self-efforts. Romans gives us a clear picture that faith is more than just having a religion:

GOSPEL VS. RELIGION	
RELIGION	GOSPEL
Man's way to find God	God's way to find us
Salvation is by WORKS Salvation is earned	Salvation is by GRACE Salvation is a GIFT
LEGALISM "What I must do"	FAITH "What Christ has done"
UNCERTAIN of HEAVEN	ASSURANCE OF HEAVEN

Next week, we explore the bad news – the reason why all these things (Christ's death on the cross, etc.) had to happen. Stay tuned!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

What is the gospel? Why is the gospel important?

2. Setting It Right.

What stops you from sharing the gospel to others?

3. Living It Out.

Knowing what you've learned, to whom do you think you can share the gospel to this week?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people's ears to hear God's Word and for the Lord to give them a heart to desire a relationship with Him, not just religion. Share the gospel boldly and creatively in this season of their lives. Find ways to help them learn and experience more of Christ's love for them.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of newly-elected and incumbent public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines and Canada

III. Church

- That CCFE Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCFE Facilities

- Worship and Training Center

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

ROMANS 1:16

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