

**Author:** The Apostle Paul

**Date:** Probably written on his visit to Corinth AD55-57

**Recipients:** The Christian Church in Rome

**Purpose:**

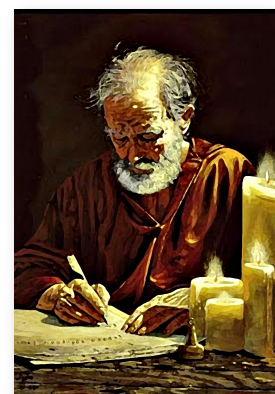
- to introduce himself in preparation for his hoped for forthcoming visit to Rome
- to establish a support base for a 4th mission to Spain
- to resolve a pastoral tension rising from a theological disagreement between Jewish & Gentile believers

**Paul's theological unpacking of the gospel in Romans is foundational for anyone who wants to follow Jesus Christ.**

## INTRODUCING THE GOSPEL - ROMANS 1:1-17

### **1:1 - About Paul**

- Paul means diminutive/small - changed from Saul
- Servant of Christ Jesus - a bond slave born out of love & devotion not duty
- Called to be an apostle (sent one)



- Set apart for the gospel of God

## 1:2-6 - About the Gospel

- It is from God (v1)
- It is promised beforehand through his prophets & the Holy Scriptures (v2)
- It concerns his son - who was both human (v3) & divine (v4)
- It has implications for us (v5) - we have received grace & obedience.

## 1:7-15 - About the Roman church

- To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints (v7)
- Only letter by Paul to a church he didn't plant himself
- Addressing issues stemming from the different cultural backgrounds of the believers
- Paul expresses his great affection for them
  - Paul thanks God for them (v8)
  - He prays for them constantly (v9-10)
  - He longs to see them for mutual encouragement (v11-12) although he has been prevented / hindered by circumstances (v13)
- Paul is looking for a 'harvest' INSIDE & OUTSIDE the church (v13-15)

**1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. **17** For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

## Explaining the Gospel v16-17

- The gospel is offensive (v16)
  - Salvation is free & undeserved
  - We are so evil only the death of God's son could save us
  - Jesus is the only way to God
  - The gospel is based on suffering and serving
- The gospel is the power of God (v16)
- The gospel is for everyone (v16)

(John Stott)

- The gospel reveals God's righteousness (v17)

ness of God, is revealed by a righteousness . . . from God, *ek theou*). It is a righteous status which God requires if we are ever to stand before him, which he achieves through the atoning sacrifice of the cross, which he reveals in the gospel, and which he bestows freely on all who trust in Jesus Christ.

## RECOMMENDED FURTHER STUDY:

Timothy Keller:

Romans for you (1&2)

Simon Ponsonby

God is for us

Tom Wright:

Paul for Everyone: Romans (1&2)

