

Last week we talked about *Romans 1:6-7*; focusing on, *The Called*; also, *The Chosen*.

- It's imperative that we understand that our salvation is just the beginning of our journey towards becoming more Christlike.
- The Called are all those who have accepted God's invitation of salvation thru the precious blood of Jesus.
- The Chosen are those Called who have also decided to press on toward that goal of being all that God has for them.
- The book of Romans is full of direction to those who want to press on, so it's important we understand this concept.

Rom 1:8 *First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.*

- o *thank*= Gk; *eucharisto*; to express gratitude; to show appreciation.
 - This is where the Catholics get their word *Eucharist*, for the bread in the Lord's Supper.
 - The Greek root in the middle of *thank* is also used in these words:
 - Thank*= *eucharisto*; *Grace*= *charis*; *Joy*= *chara*; *Forgive*= *charizomai*
 - We use the word thanks so often we don't fully appreciate it's meaning.
 - Paul's thankfulness stems from God, who freely gives us His grace, which gives Paul joy over the faith these believers have in Jesus.
- o *your faith is spoken of*; This faith is the faith they have in Jesus that changed their lives & allowed them to be born again.
 - Jesus told the disciples: "*Have faith in God*", *Mk 11:22b*.
 - Paul tells us; "*Without faith, it's impossible to please God*", *Heb 11:6*.
 - It's our faith in Jesus that produces fruit, & that's what the world sees.
- o *The whole world*, would be the Roman Empire of that day; not the world as we know it.
 - From history we know that in 49^{AD} Emperor Claudius expelled all Jews from Rome thinking they were all followers of someone called Chrestus; different spelling of Christ.
 - Apparently the testimony of the Jewish Christians had provoked the non-believing Jews so much that turmoil threatened the peace of the whole city.
 - The testimony of the faith of these expelled Roman believers spread thruout the empire when they were forced to relocate to other cities.



⁹For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,

- o Paul again refers to the fact that he is God's servant for the gospel to the Gentiles.
 - As Apostle to the Gentiles, he is genuinely concerned for their wellbeing & growth.
 - Even though they hadn't met Paul, he wants them to know he's praying for them.

¹⁰making request if by some means now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you.

- o Paul isn't just asking God to send him to Rome, but he's looking for a way to make it happen.
 - He repeats this desire to see them again at the end of this letter.

Rom 15:23 *having a great desire these many years to come to you* ²⁴*whenever I come to Spain I shall come to you.*

¹¹ *For I long to see you that I may impart to you some spiritual gift so that you may be established.*

- Paul is not the giver of these gifts, but God does use men to bestow His gifts on men.

1Tim 4:13–14 Till I come give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

¹⁴*Do not neglect **the gift** that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.*

- These gifts are given by God, thru men, to build up the body of Christ.

- *that you may be established;* There have been believers in Rome since Pentecost of 32_{AD}.

- That's about 25 years before Paul writes this letter, & yet they aren't established.
- Paul is referring to the fact that no one of authority has been there to "establish" them & instruct them fully in Christian doctrine, which will help them grow in their faith.

Eph 4:11–13 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; Established.



Rom 1:12 that is that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

- Paul is also expecting to be encouraged by them as he encourages them in their faith.

*1 Cor 14:26 ... Whenever you come together, **each of you** has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.*

- When the body is working properly, everyone grows in the Lord; even the preacher.

¹³ *Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you, but was hindered until now, that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles.*

- Paul is assuring them that it has been his desire to come to them for a long time.
 - He often uses this phrase; *I do not want you to be unaware brethren*, when he wants to stress his subject; *Rom 1:13, 11:25; 1Cor 1:10, 12:1; 2Cor 1:8; 1Thes 4:13.*
 - The hindrance could be the devil, but I think it's more likely the urgency of preaching the gospel in other cities, & he just hasn't had the opportunity yet.
 - In *Phil 1:22-26*, Paul also mentions the fruit from his labor, & like here, the fruit he's talking about is their, *progress and joy of faith*, & their edification & growth.

¹⁴ *I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.*

- *Greeks and to barbarians;* this term refers to a common attitude that any nation that didn't speak Greek was considered barbarians; uncivilized & uneducated.
- *I am a debtor;* Paul's indebtedness was to God; to serve Him by preaching to the Gentiles.
 - Paul's calling as an Apostle, & his desire to serve God was so strong he feels it's his debt to preach the gospel to the Gentiles.

¹⁵ *So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.*

- **So;** Because of what he just said about being indebted to God, Paul, with all of his strength & desire, is ready to come to Rome, & preach this gospel to them also.
 - Do you hear Paul's urgency, his desire & drive to spread this good news to all Gentiles.
 - This is what drives Paul every day; serving his God & savior, to the best of his ability.

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- At this point, vs. 16-17, Paul gives us the main theme for this letter.
 - He will argue & defend these thoughts throughout the rest of the letter.
 - *The just shall live by faith*, from Hab 2:4, is Paul's focus in three of his letters; Rom, Gal & Heb.
 - It was this verse that led Martin Luther's quest to understand the true meaning of the gospel.

Rom 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ**, for **it is the power of God** to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷For in **it** the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith.*



- *I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ;*
 - There were good social reasons to be ashamed of a crucified person convicted of treason.
 - Besides the agony & torment, crucifixion was a shameful & humiliating way to die.
 - Crucifixion was so shameful Roman citizens could not be executed this way.
 - In the Roman world, honor & shame were extremely important motivating forces, & this stigma of crucifixion would have been repulsive to all Romans.
 - Paul however knows this message is God's power to save all who will believe it.
- 1Cor 1:18-25 *For the message of **the cross** is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, **it is the power of God.***
 - That's why Paul said he's *not ashamed of the gospel* because he knows IT is the power of God to save us.
 - As we tell this message to the world, most will ridicule us & hate us, but some will choose to believe.
 - The question for us is; Will we still tell it, even though it's foolishness to them?
 - It's not our job to make them believe, only to be a witness of what we've seen & know.
 - It's God's job to save them.

- Specifically, what is the gospel?

1Cor 15:3-5 *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures*

- This is the gospel in its basic form; the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus as foretold in the scriptures & witnessed by the Apostles & many others.
- The gospel is not man's invention, but the Apostles witnessed it firsthand.
- Paul also received the gospel directly from Jesus, Gal 1:11-19.
- *it (the gospel), is the power of God to salvation;*
 - God has put His power in this message, & then given us the job of taking it to the world.
 - Do you want to experience God's power? Tell someone the gospel.
 - Everyone who believes will experience that power by being born again.

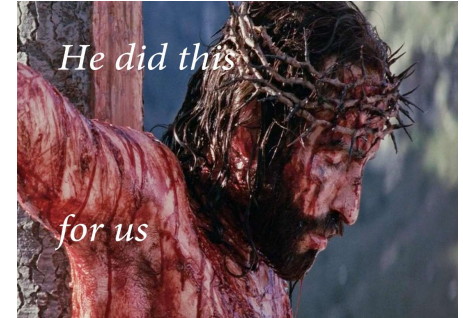
¹⁷*For in **it** the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*

- How is God's righteousness revealed in the gospel? What is righteousness?
 - There is one book in the bible dedicated to righteousness, but it doesn't get read much; it's the book of Leviticus.
 - It describes a perfect life where God is the central focus of everything you do.
 - Jesus lived that perfect righteous life & fulfilled every requirement of the Law.
 - Leviticus also shows us God's justice; the penalties for failing to meet God's standard.

- The words righteousness & justice don't have any apparent connection in English but in the Greek, we see they come from the same root word.
 - *Righteousness* = *dikaioisynē*, *Justice* = *dike*, *Just* = *dikaios*, *justification* = *dikaiosis*.
 - God's *Righteousness* & God's *Justice* are inseparably linked.
 - Perfect justice demands payment be made for every failure to meet the standard.

◦ *in it* (the gospel), *the righteousness of God is revealed*;

- *Gk*; *apokalypso*, *disclosing, to make fully known, to reveal something not known*.
- God's perfect righteousness was revealed on the cross when Jesus became our willing substitute, paying the debt we owed for falling short of God's righteousness.
- Man can never meet God's righteous requirements, but God became a man & was executed as a man, in our place, for our failure.
- This knowledge can only come from being divinely revealed by the Holy Spirit thru the reading or preaching of the gospel, God's word.



1Cor 2:7-10 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, ⁸which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

- This mystery is that God's justice was satisfied when Jesus displayed His righteousness & died in our place on the cross.

⁹*But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." ¹⁰But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.*

- The thing hidden, which God prepared for us, was His Son, dying on the cross for us.
- No one could have conceived of this plan, the crucifixion of God, except God Himself.
- The gift of God's righteousness, which we receive thru believing the gospel, is only revealed to us by His Spirit.

◦ *the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith*;

- The ultimate display of God's righteousness; the Cross, is the source of our faith, revealing Jesus through the gospel, for the purpose of leading us to salvation.
- Then the gospel, continues revealing to us how we should live out this life to God's glory & our sanctification; from faith to faith.

Col 1:10-14 Paul is praying; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy...

- We continually live this life, day after day, by faith in the gospel; Jesus crucified, buried, & risen from the dead; all for us, so we could live with Him.

¹⁶*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.* ¹⁷*For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

◦ Now that Paul has stated that it's faith in the power of the cross that saves mankind, he goes on to explain why the cross was the only way.

- Before someone believes in Jesus, they first need to see why they need God.
- Paul will explain three groups of people, & why they fall short of God's requirements.

1- Pagan man; *Rom 1:18-32*; **2-** Moral man; *Rom 2:1-16*; **3-** Religious man; *Rom 2:17-29*