

June 3, 2018 18043-A #2
Romans 1:1-7; 16-17
The Message, the Mission, The Man

I. I remember coming to Christ. John 14:1

- A. Don't let your heart be troubled
- B. Believe in God. God is real
- C. Believe in Jesus. Jesus is who He says he is.
- D. *The Gospel is Christ Jesus. Romans explains...*

II. The Message: Gospel of God. 2-4

- A. God's Final Word to the World. Heb.1:1-3. Good News.
 - 1. euangellion = good news
 - 2. about God, belonging to God
- B. Contained in the whole Bible.
 - 1. Which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures.
 - 2. The whole Bible is about Jesus Christ the Lord = the Gospel.
 - 3. Which means that is a plan underway (Eph.1)
 - 4. Doctrine of Scripture? Holy, God's personal speech.
 - a) 2 Tim. 3:14-17; Heb. 1:1-3; 2 Pet.1:21
- C. Concerning His Son—Jesus Messiah. Gospel = Jesus is Lord.
 - 1. Born of the seed of David.
 - a) The ultimate human being.
 - b) The King in God's Kingdom. In the royal line. David's line.
 - 2. Declared the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead. *Matt.28:18-20.*
 - a) *Dead, Buried, Raised, Ascended. (Exactly what the Apostles and Nicene Creeds say)*
 - b) *The Resurrection put the second person of the Trinity in a unique position of power and authority over the whole creation as a Human.*
 - c) *The power of Jesus' resurrection is the power of the next age erupting and spreading in this age. Killing sin and death and bringing justification and life. Eph.1:19ff*
 - 3. According to the Spirit of holiness. (Trinitarian)
 - a) The Holy Spirit is the agent of all of this.
 - 4. Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - a) Jesus is Messiah and God (Lord = YHWH)
 - b) God as a Human Master and Lord

III. The Mission: Through Whom we have received grace and apostleship 5-6

- A. To bring about the obedience of faith ...
 - 1. *Bring about? Saving faith is not already present in the human heart.*
 - 2. *Hearing the gospel is what "brings it about."*
- B. Among all the Gentiles – non-Jews—the world, mission.
 - 1. Among whom *you are also the called* of Jesus Christ.
- C. Including you (in Rome).
 - 1. Beloved of God in Rome.
 - 2. Called to be saints (the called)
- D. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 1. You are in God's grace and peace.

IV. The man: Romans 1:1. Saul/Paul: Acts 26:9-18.

A. Note six elements of the experience of the gospel, from Paul's own conversion. Paul is a living example of Romans.

1. The Witness of it. Recorded 3 times in Acts. (9, 22, 26)
 - a) Saul's conversion is amazing because he was not just a skeptic about Jesus, but a violent persecutor of Christians. (Acts 26:9-11; Gal.1:13)
 - b) And in a period of three or four days he went from that to a transformed preacher of Christ as Messiah and the grace of God. Acts 9:15-22.
2. The Trauma of it. The bad news first? Rom.1-3
 - a) It was not a peaceful transition, more like losing a wrestling match.
 - b) Paul must have been petrified – and Jesus did not relieve his fear at first.
 - (1) Prov.1:7; 9:10. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom.
3. The Grace of it. Rom.1:5; 3:21-8:39
 - a) Saul deserved the absolute opposite of grace.
 - b) This is radical, sovereign astounding, personal, cosmic Grace from God in Christ.
4. The Sovereignty of it. It was the Lord's idea. Rom.9 and 11; (Gal.1:11-17)
 - a) Paul thought he knew God but was certainly not “seeking” the Lord Jesus (nobody does, see Rom.3).
5. The Transformation of it. Rom.6-8
 - a) Look at the change in this man's inner character, from religious persecutor to gracious “goodnewser” who was himself eventually sacrificed.
 - b) This is the work of the Spirit in Paul and it is the constant exhortation of Paul to all the Christians—walk in the Spirit. Gal.5
6. The Calling of it. Rom. 1:6; 12:1-2 (Acts 26:15-18)
 - a) Called. Paul's conversion and calling happened simultaneously.
 - b) Set apart for ... the gospel of God
 - c) Paul knew from the start that he was not saved for his own sake, but for a purpose, for God's personal use (Acts 9:15-16). Which is why he is the only man who could have written Romans.