

Romans 1:1-20

- Intro – (Change) - Prayer
- The book of Romans is widely considered as Paul's greatest letter, and
- One of the most important books of the Bible.
- It's been called the Cathedral of the Christian faith and
- The cornerstone of the New Testament.
- It's a combination of a powerful theology, & an impressive style of writing.
- At this time in church history, they were in a period of great change.
- His letter answered many difficult questions that were posed by the
- Appearance of Jesus, his crucifixion, and resurrection.
- People questioned that that law and faith were contradictory principles,
- And asked if the NT denied and canceled out the Old.
- These were the issues that lied at the heart of the hostility that existed,
- With the first century Jews to the concepts and truths of Christianity.
- In the Book of Romans Paul attempted to answer these theological
- Questions about the harmony of God's word. And the book of Romans
- Has been described as an exposition of the OT In view of the Gospel.
- He brought them unity in looking at the Old and the New Testaments.
- And the key to his reconciliation of the Old and New Testaments was
- Found in his concept of righteousness.
- Righteousness was a term that was used In first century Judaism,
- And righteousness was the conformity to the written or oral law.
- As Jesus had taught, Paul further insisted that righteousness requires
- They do our best to be like God in both our motive and in our actions.
- Paul explained how the Gospel of Christ explains how all humanity
- Was trapped in sin, and that obeying the law of the Torah,
- Could not rescue them, And it was only by the death and
- Resurrection of Jesus Christ, that salvation was possible for the world.
- The bottom line was that only God can transform a sinful human being.
- And it was only by receiving Jesus Christ as Savior.
- And only through Jesus can we come to the Father. (John 14:6)

Romans 1:1-20 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures³ regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of

David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power^l by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. ⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷ To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. ⁹ God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you ¹⁰ in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.

¹¹ I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— ¹² that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. ¹³ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles. ¹⁴ I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. ¹⁵ That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome. 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 just will live by faith."

¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

- Romans was a letter that was written to the church of Rome
- At this point in time Paul had never been to Rome,
- And yet, as he approaches this letter in the first few verses, Paul
- Shows a tremendous love for people that he had never met before
- If we were to think of a country that deals with a lot of immorality,
- Corruption in high places, and sin that is widely accepted as being okay,
- We could probably name every country that comes into our minds,
- And that's because they are inhabited by human beings.

- If we could go back in time, we would see that Rome wasn't much different
- Than the society we live in today, yet in verse 8, we can find great comfort.
- After his salutation and expression of love to the group of believers there
- **First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world.**
- In the midst of all the troubles, and in the midst of the trials of a powerful
- Nation, that had a particular mindset and a sphere of influences,
- Here was a group of dedicated people who worshipped God.
- Who not only maintained their faith of a savior and a personal redeemer,
- And not just in a quiet and unassuming way, But they were a people who
- Lived their faith mightily, without fear of retribution in such a high manner,
- That they were known all over the civilized world.
- They were not only believers, but they practiced their faith.
- As James would say, they were doers of the word as well as hearers.
- About the time of Pentecost, when the tongues of fire came down,
- And the disciples preached the gospel on the streets of Jerusalem,
- Many heard the gospel of Jesus Christ for perhaps very first time,
- In their own tongue, and they carried the good word, the good news
- Of Jesus Christ wherever they went.
- And some for sure, went to Rome and shared the gospel there.
- And Claudius the Emperor, had the thought that he should expel
- All the Jews from Rome – And so most of them left.
- The believers, who this letter was written to, did not have it easy.
- These believers put their safety and their very lives at risk every day.
- But still, their faith was reported throughout the whole world.
- We hear of and probably support many missionaries who leave our
- Protected borders to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Sometimes it is safe... and sometimes it is not, and they meet great peril.
- But it always is worthwhile.
- Many might very well be questioned for believing the way that they do.
- And many will be persecuted.
- Is our faith strong enough, and our resolve hardy enough that we would
- Individually be willing to put our lives on the line for the gospel of Christ?
- In this country, and in many other countries, we have religious freedom.
- What if we didn't? How strong is our faith?
- Would we persevere or crumble?

- Each one of us has a responsibility. After service, or after
- Fellowshiping with our brothers and sisters, we will exit this house of
- Worship and enter our own mission field. A mission field amongst
- Our families, our friends, and our coworkers.
- To share our faith in Jesus, a man who came and walked on this earth
- As God, in the form of a man, who was killed, died, and walked again,
- So all will all have the opportunity to live with him forever.

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 just will live by faith.”

- This is a call to each one of us, to receive Christ as Savior so we can attain
- Eternal life. It’s a miracle. But it doesn’t preclude us from facing trials and
- Struggles in our lifetimes. It’s when rubber hits the road.
- The bar is raised on us and the way we that we conduct ourselves,
- We are called to come to the table and walk an obedient life,
- A life that is circumspect, intentional, prudent,
- A life that is holy, a life where we do our best to walk with Christ
- So when we look into the mirror, we can see the reflection of
- Jesus Christ looking back at us.
- We need to remember, as Paul told us in Philippians, chapter 3,
- That we have liberty through Christ
- But we can’t use it as a cloak for serving ourselves.
- We are bound, we are captive, and yet we have liberty.
- We are not bound to any man, but we are bound to Christ
- And we live in subjection to the word of God
- And there is nothing that we have or hold that is so precious
- That would get in the way of our serving Christ, and His people.
- Is there anything that we allow to come into our lives, that would
- Prevent us from being close to Him?
- (Sexual Sin, Unforgiving Bitterness, Jealousy, Backbiting, Selfishness, Greed, Alcoholism. Drug Use, and Others)
- We are called to live for Him and be an example,

- To be a light of the world, to others, so, we need to try to serve Him
- As a walking and living miracle, and as a testimony of faith
- So people will say, There is something different about this man
- Or this woman who proclaims to be a child of Christ.
- This person who is not living to the ways of the world.
- What is making us different from the unsaved?
- And that is what will attract others to the saving gospel.
- The righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith
- And those are the just, and like it says in Habakkuk 2:4,
- The just shall live by faith
- And it's not living a dead or faith, or one that is stagnant.
- It's when we continue to actively serve Christ with all our hearts
- It's not sitting on our own merits
- (Derek Jeter) 0-40 – Diving play in the Red Sox Game years ago.
- It's working at it every day of our lives that we build on our faith.
- It's when we continue to read the word of God, and continue to pray
- And in the end, it all comes down to one man, and His name is Jesus.
- When we think of the early church, and the time frame
- Of the book of Romans, which was about 56 or 57 AD
- In these days, there wasn't any TV, movies, or radios.
- And the venues of communication were few that could spread the gospel.
- It mostly through social gatherings, such as weddings, sitting around
- The dinner table. Or maybe someone would go in front of a church.
- If we think about it, and we were able to have known Jesus Christ,
- What would at we say about Him?
- I'm going to go back in time..... 2000 years, and I stand before you
- This is what I would say.
- There was a man that I knew, and He was a good man.
- He was a champion of the poor, and a defender of the weak
- And loved everyone regardless of their ages, their appearances,
- Of their financial standing, or if they were good or sinful.
- He ate at the tables of sinners, talked to tax collectors,
- He let an adulterer go free when the law called for her stoning,
- He not only talked with a Samaritan, but of a sinful Samaritan woman,
- And drank from the same ladle, where her mouth had been.
- He did nothing wrong all the days of his life, He was without sin,

- And yet He was horribly mistreated.
- He was beaten, He was humiliated, and He was shamed
- And in His last breaths He asked His father to forgive these people
- For what they had done to Him
- He was obedient to His heavenly father, even to death on a cross.
- But this man, this wonderful man that I knew,
- He rose from the dead and lived again
- And He walked among us for 40 days
- I heard what He said, and I saw Him teach the people.
- And there are 500 people, who can tell you the very same thing
- That I am telling you now.
- And His name is Jesus.
- When we think this, we have to realize that in itself, this was a pretty
- Unique concept In a day and a time, where it was an eye for an eye,
- And a tooth for a tooth.
- When strength was measured in the ability to ride a chariot,
- Hurl a javelin, or shoot a bow and arrow
- And then there was the mystical idea, that when they did kill him
- That, that the grave could not contain Him. Again, it was against
- The law of physics, it was against everything that was natural.
- It was supernatural, as well as preternatural,
- Normally, when a person dies, they don't live again
- In those days, people would here multiple accounts of happenings
- And they would sift it out, and see what was true and what wasn't
- And if it was consistent they would come and believe
- But this is not new to any of us who are gathered here today
- We know who Jesus is - We know what Jesus did,
- And we know what He continues to do.
- And we should proclaim Him with great truth
- With great joy, With great boldness,
- And will never be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ.