

Sermon Title: The Introduction to the Gospel of God

Sermon Text: Romans 1:1-7

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to an understanding of the basics of the Gospel of God.

Sermon Proposition: There are 6 observations to make concerning the Gospel of God.

- I. The slave of the Gospel of God. V.1a
- II. The source of the Gospel of God. V.1b
- III. The support of the Gospel of God. V.2
- IV. The subject of the Gospel of God. V.3-4
- V. The satisfaction of the Gospel of God. V.5-6
- VI. The summation of the Gospel of God. V.7

Introduction: John MacArthur in his commentary on Romans 1:8 makes this observation, “Human beings and our societies are in the grips of a terrifying power and it is seated in the core of their very being. That power is sin, unrighteousness, which is always bad news.

Among its consequences are 4 inevitable byproducts that can only bring guaranteed misery and sorrow in this life and it holds them captive. The 1st observation is that sin has selfishness at its heart. The basic element of fallen human nature is exaltation of self, the ego. (**Is 14:13-14**)

The second observation is that sin produces guilt, another form of bad news. No matter how convincingly one tries to justify selfishness, its inevitable abuse of things and other people and they cannot escape their guilt. Like physical pain to the body, so is guilt to the conscience, it is God’s warning that something is wrong and needs correcting.

The third observation is the meaninglessness of life, still another form of bad news and one that is epidemic in our day. Trapped in their own selfishness, and self-indulgence there is no sense of purpose or meaning to life. Life becomes an endless cycle of trying to fill a void that cannot be filled. (**John 8:44; 2 Cor 4:4**)

The fourth and final observation in sin’s chain of bad news and influence is hopelessness. The consumed selfish person forfeits hope both for this life and the life to come.”

Paul’s primary purpose in writing Romans was to teach the great truths of the gospel of grace to believers who had never received apostolic instruction.

The instruction is focused on the Gospel of God, the “Good News” of God, used 60 times in this epistle. 1:1 and closes 15:15-16; 16:25-27.

Luther stated “Roman’s is the longest and most theologically significant of the letters of Paul, “the very purest of gospels.”

Donald Grey Barnhouse observed, “Paul could never forget the pit from which he had been digged.” (Man’s Ruin: Romans 1:1-32 [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1952], p.8)

I. The slave of the Gospel of God. V.1a

A. He was a slave of the Gospel of God.

1. A slave was owned
2. A slave was bought for a price
3. A slave was to receive no wages
4. A slave could not quit
 - a. A servant could quit
 - b. A servant got paid
 - c. A servant was a free person

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

Acts 22:14 "Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth.

Galatians 1:12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught *it*, but *it came* through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,

1 Timothy 1:11 according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.

B. He was sent for the Gospel of God.

Galatians 1:17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those *who were* apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. **18** Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

Jeremiah 23:21 "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.

As a Greek he was learned in all philosophy of Greece; as a Hebrew, he knew the Old Testament, the law, the traditions, on top of all this he was a Roman citizen, a member of the greatest empire of ancient days. Greek culture, Hebrew culture, Roman culture, all this was summed up in our man.

Even after all this he was not ready to write this book, but God Himself took him in hand, off by himself away from human teachers, and taught him things he could not learn from flesh and blood. As with Moses and John the Baptist, God took Paul off in the desert, and there schooled him so he might fulfill his ministry as one who is sent.

Galatians 1:11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. **12** For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught *it*, but *it came* through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those *who were* apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. **18** Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

C. He was set apart for the Gospel of God.

This epistle sets forth the Gospel (Good News) Paul preached. For the first time, and for the only time in all the epistles of the New Testament, the great doctrines and their outworking in our lives of the Christian faith, are laid out in a logical discourse or order.

Romans was not the first epistle written in order. Paul wrote 5 others before it.

(1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians)

II. The source of the Gospel of God. V.1b

III. The support of the Gospel of God. V.2

A. God the Father promised in the past.

The Good News, which originated with God, was not a divine afterthought, nor was it first taught in the New Testament. It does not reflect a late adjustment to the fall of mankind into sin.

- B. God the Father sent the prophets.
 The Good News is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, and the Old Testament is not correctly understood apart from the New Testament. (**Matt 5:21, 27, 33, 38, 43**)
Deuteronomy 18:15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,
Luke 24:25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! **26** "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" **27** And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.
Luke 24:32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"
 This did not refer to the Old Testament but to the rabbinical traditions that contradicted and invalidated the Old Testament.
Matthew 15:6 'then he need not honor his father or mother.' Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.
- C. God the Father sent the Holy Scriptures.
 It is estimated that the Old Testament contains at least 332 prophecies about Christ, and most were fulfilled at His first coming.
Matthew 5:17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. **18** "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.
1. New Covenant
Jeremiah 31:31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah-- **32** "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. **33** "But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. **34** "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."
Ezekiel 36:25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. **26** "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27** "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.
 2. Messiah (**Is 53:1-12**)
Isaiah 7:18 And it shall come to pass in that day *That* the LORD will whistle for the fly *That is* in the farthest part of the rivers of Egypt, And for the bee that *is* in the land of Assyria.
Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

IV. The subject of the Gospel of God. V.3-4

- A. The subject is Jesus Christ our Lord. (**Is 9:6**)
Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,
1. Eternal Son
2. Second Person of the Trinity
3. Virgin born incarnation (**Luke 1:35**)
- B. The subject was born of the seed of David
The Jesus is the rightful heir to the throne and kingdom of David, he is born in the family line.
2 Samuel 7:12 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. **13** "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **14** "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. **15** "But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I removed from before you. **16** "And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.""
Psalms 2:6 "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion." **7** "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You *are* My Son, Today I have begotten You.'
Psalms 89:26 He shall cry to Me, 'You *are* my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation.' **27** Also I will make him *My* firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth. **28** My mercy I will keep for him forever, And My covenant shall stand firm with him. **29** His seed also I will make *to endure* forever, And his throne as the days of heaven.
Psalms 89:36 His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me;
- C. The subject was made of flesh.
- D. The subject was declared to be the Son of God. V.4a
Horizo (declared) carries the basic idea of marking off boundaries. In English we get the word horizon, which refers to the line between the earth and the sky. In an infinitely greater way, the divine Sonship of Jesus Christ was marked off with absolute clarity in His incarnation, Son of God, Son of Man.
Psalms 2:7 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You *are* My Son, Today I have begotten You.'
- E. The subject was empowered by the Spirit of Holiness. V.4b
This is another title for the Holy Spirit. It is a reference to the nature and work of the Holy Spirit.
1. Incarnation/Conception
2. Ministry and Service
3. Miracles and Signs
4. Resurrection/Ascension
- F. The subject was resurrected by the Holy Spirit. V.4c
This event set Jesus apart as God's unique Son exalted over all of creation, death, Satan, sin and invested with all power.
Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

V. The satisfaction of the Gospel of God. V.5-6

VI. The summation of the Gospel of God. V.7

The city of Rome featured over 400 temples dedicated to the worship of pagan gods. Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome from Corinth. This city had Christians who lived in a city of 1,000,000 people. In Paul's day the houses of the wealthy people of Rome were elaborately constructed and situated on the various 7 hills of the city. But common people lived in tenements, much like the crowded inner city of modern days. Thousands of people were crowded into these areas, by narrow noisy streets with a constant flow of traffic. The citizens of Rome received food and entertainment from the government. Like Babylon, the city of Rome became a symbol of idolatry and paganism in the New Testament.

Therefore the overarching theme of Romans is the righteousness that comes from God: the glorious truth that God justifies guilty, condemned sinners by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Therefore Paul hopes to strengthen the Roman believers (1:11-12). Most bible students would say that the gospel is outlined in I Corinthians 15:3-5, Romans seeks to fill in that outline and clarify the Good News of God.