

Sermon Title: The Theme of the Gospel of God

Sermon Text: Romans 1:16-17

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

Sermon Proposition:

- I. The **confidence** in the Gospel of God.
- II. The **concept** of the Gospel of God.
- III. The **condition** for the Gospel of God.
- IV. The **cause** of the Gospel of God.
- V. The **campaign** for the Gospel of God.

I. The **confidence in the Gospel of God.**

“I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ.” Paul is eager to come to Rome to preach and teach the fullness of the Gospel of Christ. He has complete confidence to preach and teach boldly the message that may be foolishness to some, stumbling block to others, heresy to Jews, and would often lead to afflictions and persecution.

Paul had been imprisoned in Philippi (**Acts 16:23-24**), chased out of Thessalonica (**Acts 17:10**), smuggled out of Berea (**Acts 17:14**), laughed at in Athens (**Acts 17:32**), regarded as a fool in Corinth **1 Corinthians 1:18** 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.

1 Corinthians 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,

And stoned in Galatia (**Acts 14:19**) but yet Paul remained confident and eager to preach the Gospel of Christ in Rome. Rome was the seat of contemporary political power and various pagan religions.

Nothing would diminish Paul’s desire, no criticism, physical threats or attacks, could hinder the confidence and boldness of God’s witness.

II. The **concept of the Gospel of God.**

A. The Gospel about Christ is the **power** of God to salvation.

Christ is the power of God [**1 Corinthians 1:2** *To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:*]; that is what makes the Good News about Jesus Christ, Person and work, and outworking, the power of God.

I Timothy 3:16 declares that Christ was God manifested in the flesh, for He is the image of the invisible God. (**Col 1:15**) The Greek word which is translated power in this text, is the word “dunamis.” From that Greek word we get our English words, dynamite, dynamo, and dynamic.

1. Dynamite is a destructive power, it blows things to pieces.
2. Dynamo has a constructive power, it produces energy.
3. Dynamic is an effective power, it accomplishes something.

The Gospel about Christ accomplishes all three of these aspects, 1) it blows to pieces the old life, 2) yet at the same time it has a constructive power to build up the new life, 3) and it also is effective for accomplishing the plan and will of God in the believers life.

It is absolutely true that the Gospel of Christ, is not only the dynamite of God, also the dynamo of God, but it is dynamic because of God.

B. The Gospel about Christ is the power of God to **salvation**.

The term salvation is used 5 times in Romans (the verb form occurs 8 times), the word basically means “deliverance” or “rescue.”

1. The Gospel of Christ delivers people from lostness.

Matthew 8:11 "And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

2. The Gospel of Christ delivers people from God's wrath against sin.
Romans 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.
3. The Gospel of Christ delivers people from willful spiritual ignorance. (**Eph 1:15-20**)
Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.
2 Thessalonians 1:8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
4. The Gospel of Christ delivers people from evil self-indulgence.
Luke 14:26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.
5. The Gospel of Christ delivers people from false religion and the darkness.
Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, **14** in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.
1 Peter 2:9 But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
6. The Gospel of Christ delivers people from the ultimate penalty of sin. (**Rev 20:6**)
7. The Gospel of Christ delivers people from eternal separation from God and eternal punishment.
Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

III. The condition for the Gospel of God.

- A. The power is available to those who believe in Christ for salvation.

The condition for experiencing or applying the power of God for everyone is believing. There is one fact or conclusion, that everyone must place the totality of their trust or weight on Jesus, doesn't matter, if your (a man, woman, child, black, white, Hispanic) you must trust in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

What do we mean, when we say believe? It simply means to trust and accept what or who God has supplied as the solution to mankind's worst problem and condition.

The Gospel about Jesus Christ, is for everyone who will trust in Christ Jesus Person and work, they are to trust that "He who has begun a good work in us, is able and faithful to complete it."

The word Greek in the text was a term very often used by the Jews to mean all the Gentiles. The Gospel of Jesus Christ has no racial boundaries. It even ignores degrees of goodness or badness. The ignorant and the wise, the high and the low, the rich and the poor. The power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, goes just as far as even the power of sin has gone. It shows that can save all sinners who will trust in Jesus Christ, and that God has the power to do so, and power to preserve them until the day of glorification.

(**Romans 8:1-4, 12-14; Eph 1:13-14**)

- B. The **plan** is available because it flows through the Jewish Messiah. V.16d
God chose Israel to be His witness nation [*Exodus 19:6* 'And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."] and gave her distinct privileges [*Romans 3:2* Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God. *Romans 9:4* who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises;) **5** of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.] Christ's ministry was first to Israel [*Matthew 15:24* But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."], and it was through Israel that salvation was to come to the world (**John 4:22; 13:46; Romans 11:11-24**).

IV. The **cause** of the Gospel of God.

- A. The Gospel of Christ reveals the **righteousness** of God. V.17a
This is better translated "the righteousness that is from God." This is a major theme of the book of Romans, appearing over 30 times in one form or another, righteousness is the state, position, or condition of perfectly conforming to God's perfect law and Holy character. There are other terms from the same Greek root, which also occurs 30 times and usually translated "justified," or "justification."

Only God is inherently righteous, believers are credited with righteousness or declared righteous by God. (**Ps 11:7; 116:5; John 17:25; Romans 3:10; 1 John 2:1; Revelation 16:5**) **Deuteronomy 32:4** He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

Job 9:2 "Truly I know it is so, But how can a man be righteous before God?

And without this declaration man falls short of the Divine standard.

Romans 3:3 For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?

Matthew 5:48 "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

- B. The righteousness of God is only attained by **faith** in Jesus Christ. V.17b
The Gospel of Jesus Christ reveals or makes known that on the basis of faith and faith alone, God will credit or impute His righteousness to ungodly sinners. (**Romans 3:21-24; 4:5**) **2 Corinthians 5:21** For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Philippians 3:8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

V. The **campaign** for the Gospel of God.

Paul intends to prove that it has always been God's way to justify sinners by grace on the basis of faith alone.

God established in [*Habakkuk 2:4* "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.], and set Abraham and his descendants as a pattern of faith [**Romans 4:22-25; Galatians 3:6** just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." **7** Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.] and thus calls him the father of all who believe (**Romans 4:11, 16**).

Elsewhere in the Scriptures, Paul uses this same phrase to argue that no one has ever been declared righteous before God except by faith alone [**Galatians 3:11** But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith."] and that true faith will demonstrate itself in action (**Phil 2:12-13**).

This expression emphasizes the fact that true faith is not a single event, but a way of life – it endures to the end.

That endurance is known as the perseverance of the saints [*Colossians 1:22* in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight-- **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister. *Hebrews 3:12* Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; **13** but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. **14** For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,].

The central idea of the entire process of being declared righteous comes as a result of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the fallen condition of man, the power of God, and by faith alone from start to finish.