The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Romans 1:1-17

Introduction:

Romans could be called, “the fifth gospel”.

Saul (his Jewish name) Paul (his Greek name) was not one of the original “twelve.” You remember that Saul was a rabid enemy of the church,

Acts 8:3

“As for Saul, he made havock of thechurch, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.”

Then in Acts 9, Saul was heading to Damascus to imprison more believers, but, before he arrived there, Jesus met him. So Paul did not learn from Jesus while He was here on the earth. However, Jesus did teach him in Arabia. Paul made himself available to the teaching by going off into Arabia to pray and study the Old Testament Scriptures. He was there for three years. It was at this time that he received the revelation of the N. T. Church.

Romans is a major part of that revelation. Galatians and the Prison and Pastoral Epistles give more of that revelation. Paul was called: “The Apostle to the Gentiles”

The book of Acts records his three Missionary Journeys into Asia Minor, Macedonia and Greece. Being the missionary to the Gentiles, the most logical destination would be Rome. Paul had expressed a desire to go there. At the end of the third journey through Macedonia and Greece he wound up in Corinth.

During this trip Paul had been collecting funds for the Jews in Jerusalem because of the famine in that land. He must return to Jerusalem with that offering. He found a believer Phebe in Cenchrea who was going to Rome. He expected to go to Rome as soon as he had delivered the offering to Jerusalem. In fact, he did go there but under different circumstances than he expected. And he stayed much longer and had very profitable ministry there. We can learn about that in the prison epistles.

Importance, consequence,

1. The Significance of the Gospel – 1:1–4

A. The Mandate of the Gospel – 1:1

“Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated to the gospel of God.”

B. The Message of the Gospel – 1:2-4

1. The Revealed One – 1:2

“which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,

2. The reigning One – 1:3

“concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,

3. The Resurrected One – 1:4

“and declared *to be* the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

II. The Servant of the Gospel - 1:5–16

A. Paul’s Instruction to the Roman Christians – 1:5-7

1. His Commission – 1:5

“Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,

2. Their Call – 1:6

“among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

3. Their Location – 1:7

“To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

B. Paul’s Intercession for the Roman Christians - 1:8–9

1. With Praise – 1:8

“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

2. With Prayer – 1:9

“For 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,

C. Paul’s Interest in the Roman Christians – 1:10–12

1. To See Them – 1:10

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

2. To Serve Them – 1:11

“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established

3. To Strengthen Them – 1:12

“that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.”

D. Paul’s Intentions with the Roman Christians – 1:13-16

1. How these intentions were Frustrated – 1:13

“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.”

2. How these Intentions were Formulated – 1:14-16

“I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, *I am* ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.”

“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.”

III. The Summary of the Gospel – 1:17-18

1. It Reveals God’s Righteousness – 1:17

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

B. It reveals God’s Wrath – 1:18

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,”

1. Because of Human Ungodliness

“against all ungodliness”

2. Because of Human Unrighteousness

“unrighteousness of men

3. Because of Human Unbelief –

“who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,”

Conclusion: