

Romans (Part 4)

The Gift Paul Wanted to Bring to Rome

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Greetings... It is a great blessing for me to minister the Gospel of God's Grace to you. It is an honor for me to serve you.

Today we are continuing in our series where I am preaching through Romans verse by verse and we are in verse 8. In today's message we are going to be talking about the passion that was in the heart of Paul and the concern that he had towards the church in Rome. We are also going to talk a little bit about why he wanted to go to Rome. What was in his mind in wanting to be in Rome and having some fruit in Rome as well.

Romans 1:

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

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;

10 Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.

11 For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end you may be established;

What he is talking about here is, and this is what I see he is seeing is, he's heard of the faith or the persuasion that there was in Rome that there were some Christians in Rome that heard the Gospel in some form or fashion. They heard about Jesus that He died and that He rose again. They believed upon that. They called Jesus, Lord. He heard that and he heard that many people were talking about that all over the world. So, what we are seeing is that he is seeing that Rome, being the center of their world back then, has a big impact on the rest of people. That what's going on there is of such a magnitude that other people can be impacted by it. They are hearing that the mighty Romans there are people that believe in the Gospel. It would be like saying that the people in Parliament are now praying, calling upon the name of the Lord. It's that kind of a thing. It has an effect and everybody is knowing about that.

I see that Paul is seeing that everything flows from Rome. Even in the natural world back then, everything that happened there was flowing from Rome. Caesar was there. Rulership was from Rome. I mean Rome was the place from where all the messages and judgments that were there back then would go out to all the colonies of Rome. I think that Paul had in mind, "If I can get these people to hear the Gospel in its true light and have a better understanding of the Gospel, then this message will have an effect, a great effect, everywhere. What he is saying here is clear.

With that in mind, let's read it again:

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

So he was very grateful that their faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

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;

10 Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.

11 For I long to see you (Now, listen for the reason here), that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end you may be established;

And now it explains what that is:

12 That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

What I am picking up here is that Paul was hearing that people believed in the Gospel but there was some fine-tuning needed. And he believed that he had the answer to the fine-tuning, that he could do that fine-tuning. When he heard of their faith, I think he must have heard they believe this, they believe that, and so forth. Then he said, "Oh, my goodness! God, I am so glad that these people believed but could You please get me there so that I can have some fruit to them? I want to do it by Your will and by Your direction and by Your Grace and not my own power. I want to have some spiritual gift." We would call it a spiritual gift and he defines it here as, basically, teaching people to come to the same bottom-line conclusion that they can have a mutual faith. In other words that, what he believes and what they believe can encourage one another. I believe it is another way of saying that we can actually believe the same thing.

Paul was having two things in mind: "If I can get to Rome, I can help them and I find that they are very influential and what is going on there is really impacting cities all over the known world of that time. We can see that the whole concept of the Gospel wasn't just a, "Bless us four and no more!" but a concept that Jesus Christ is Lord and that He rules over the earth, He rules over the world. And if he can go and take the Gospel, the true message, the fine-tuned message of Grace, and put it right under Caesar's nose, put it in the pivotal city where everything revolves around, that message can have a massive effect. We can see that it is a kingdom mindset that Paul had. It wasn't a mindset of, 'Well, I'm going to die now and go to heaven and try and escape this world!' He had a mindset of Jesus the man who is Lord, bringing forth love, peace, joy, kindness, and all those kinds of things, His way of doing, into the known world. He was thinking of how this could practically happen, thinking of taking this message then to Rome.

Let's read from verse 11 again:

11 For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end you may be established;

12 That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

13 Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

What he is saying is that he wants fruit amongst them as what he had amongst other Gentiles.

So, he comes and writes to them and says, "You are Gentiles in the light of the Jewish people and as I had in Galatia and Ephesus and so forth, I had fruit, meaning that I had an effect on those people's lives with what I believed, with how I see it, and I want to bring it to you." I mentioned it a little earlier but I want you to understand this. This is the passion of a person that is apostolic and also the passion of a person that wants to teach accurate doctrine, that sees the absolute value of accurate doctrine. So many times in the church we say, "Well, we don't need to split hairs about things!" But, that's not what Paul was saying here. Paul was basically coming and saying, "There's fine-tuning needed and I want to come to you and I want to have fruit amongst you. I want to collect fruit from you. That means that I want to see people, the people in Rome having that which God has given me, have an effect on them."

I see that Paul would then say that what they already believe might differ a little bit from what he believes although they were church people, although they were believers. And we can find that, and I mean I am just going to jump way ahead, if you go to Romans 9 and 10 and going into 11, we find that he is correcting the church in Rome. He is telling them that their understanding of the Gospel is wrong for they believed that God rejected the Jewish people and is now saying that the Jews cannot be saved at all and it is all about flesh again. "We are Gentiles in the flesh therefore the Gospel belongs to us and the Jews are completely kicked out." They fell into the very same thing as what the Jews fell into... "If you are a Jew you cannot be saved." That is what they were falling into.

Now, we might say, "What does that have to do with us today?" I think it has a lot to do with us in this sense and as we understand the context, wherein Paul wrote things, we find other things opening up for us. We see how he corrected people. We see how passionate he was and we can also be at a place where we will not fall into the very same things. There are also many other benefits that I am not going to get into right now.

As I said, and I want to say this again for people that maybe haven't watched some of my messages for two or three weeks... the Sunday message is focused on teaching.

Then in then in the week, Mondays through Thursdays, I give more of an encouragement message in Grace. When I teach it, I put in front of me a person that might be in the law, that is a Christian, that needs to understand the Grace message which is excellent for evangelism and sending it to your friends and people that need the message. But, on Sundays, we're getting deeper into the messages and into the depths of what the scripture means in its context.

What Paul wanted was for them to have a fine-tuned message and he wanted them not to keep the truth in unrighteousness. Next week we are going to talk about that, what it means to keep in unrighteousness and having the wrath of God come upon you. Paul was writing this in the New Testament and he was having a passion for the people to understand this, having the truth and keeping it in unrighteousness. Here we find the church in Rome had truth. They believed that Jesus died and rose again but the way that they applied that truth, the application of that truth, seemingly was a bit wrong and a bit off to the point that he had to explain. The whole first eleven chapters of Romans is focused on that is it for all people and not just Jews and not just Gentiles but for all people, for these people were falling into the very same thing.

Then we will find, in next week's message as well, how keeping the truth in unrighteousness having the true message but not really knowing what it means, not applying it correctly, can have devastating effects in our lives.

Let's go to verse 13 again.

13 Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto (meaning he did not go)) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles

14 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

Now, just hear the word that he is using here. He is using the word, debtor". "I am indebted. I owe a certain message to the Barbarian and the wise and the unwise and the Greeks." So we can see that when the Apostle Paul came and spoke, he spoke from an authority of what God has given to me belongs to all people.

I want to say to you that what God gave the Apostle Paul, if he was here today, he would feel indebted to give it to you not indebted because God commanded him to do it and he has not done it. There is a difference between feeling indebted and feeling guilty. If you feel guilty because you have not obeyed a certain command, that's one thing. But, if you feel that what you possess belongs to someone else, it is a completely another thing.

When Paul saw that Jesus was raised from the dead and that He is Lord and that He has conquered all sin, the sin of Jew and the sin of a Gentile, and that He is, by His power, manifesting His kingdom in the world. he believes that this kingdom belongs to all people, that this truth belongs to all people.

In other words, the message that you are accepted, the message that you don't have to stop your sin by your own power, the message that you are set free by the doing of God of what oppresses you in the flesh, the message that eternal life belongs to you through the rulership of Christ... that is what Paul believed belonged to all people. That is why he is saying,

14 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

15 So, much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

What he is saying is, "You guys in Rome, listen. I have a gift that I want to give you. I want to impart some spiritual gift to you." That means, "I don't want to come and give you money or give you any of those things. I'm coming to you and I have a spiritual gift or grace that I want to impart to you. I have been empowered by the resurrection of Jesus, by the grace of God, to come and bring you something. This thing that I want to bring you is this spiritual gift." We find many teachers that have argued about what that gift was... some form of a laying on of hands and a special gift of prophecy or something like that. That is not what he is talking about! I don't see that as the context. I see the spiritual gift here simply as the true Gospel being preached to them and having the Gospel fine-tuned and bringing true understanding to them. That is what it is because he says, "I heard of your faith and then I wanted to come to you."

Now Paul says, "I don't want to build on another man's foundation and other of his writings." You know that he doesn't want to do that. He actually wants to go to a place where nobody has preached. But, when he heard what they believed, he said, "Well, I'll need to come to you and I need to gift you with something that God has given me so that we can be encouraged by believing the very same thing." He is actually saying to them, "I want to fine-tune your belief." He has such a boldness and the boldness that he has is, what I know belongs to you and I need to give it to you. It is that God gave me a gift of understanding that needs to come to you."

Then he goes on in **verse 15** and he explains what the gift is.

So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

He says it this way: "I've come. God has sent me to you. I have something that I owe you and I want to come and give it to you. As I want to give this to you, the spiritual gift, I know you will be established in believing the very same thing as what I believe. And as we believe the very same thing, we will find that this message, as well as you, is established now in Rome from where it has a great effect all over the known world of that time. I'm ready to give you this gift."

Now he is saying, in verse 15, what he will do in giving that gift: ***So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.***

I want to stand still a little bit there to make it practical for everyday life. What Paul is saying here when he says, "I want to gift you with the Gospel" is actually to our world and the church today, the Charismatic church, shaking us up a little bit and making us understand that the Gospel is a gift. We have made the gifts of the Spirit which would be the Spirit bringing forth things like signs and wonders, miracles, prophecies, Apostolic office, Pastoral offices and all those kinds of things or what we would call the manifestation of the finished work of Jesus in our lives. And we call that the gifts.

But I believe that Paul in Romans 1 is talking about the Gospel, the Good News that Jesus is Lord and that He pours out His Spirit as a gift and he says, "I want to gift you with some spiritual gift or better understanding of the Gospel!" I want to tell you that to understand the Gospel is a gift! It is something that God has come to give us. What is a gift? A gift is not something that is only for some and not for others. A gift is something that God gives and what God's Spirit wants to give us and it is a gift to all, is to understand what the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ is all about and how to keep this truth in righteousness. In other words, we know what God has come to do and we now walk in it in the correct way which would be to simply continue to trust God and not rest upon our own power.

We are going a little deeper into this and we are talking about the effect of the Gospel. I am going to end off **Romans 1**:

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

We can see here that Paul is coming and saying and he is bringing in the balance that I have mentioned which we will still discuss in chapter 11 onwards... from 9,10,11 onwards what is going on there saying that God has not rejected His very own people but that salvation is for both Jew and Gentile. So. what he is saying is, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ." So, what is he saying is the gift that he has come to bring them? The gift is the Gospel. But what is the Gospel according to Paul? It is the Gospel of Jesus being the Christ.

In our last Sunday's message, I mentioned that we were showing the Jesus film in Zambia. As I was showing the Jesus film, and we saw this movie of Jesus and what Jesus did, how He healed the sick, how He cleansed the leper, how He raised the dead, how He rebuked the Pharisees, straightened out people's theology, shown who the Father is, and He was simply good to all people. As I saw all of that and we think of the death and the resurrection of this man, and we find that He is now the Christ, that would mean that He is now the Ruler of the whole world forever!

After we had shown a part of the message, I went up and stood up and preached and then we showed the rest of the movie. What I said was, "You see, what this good Jesus has done there, He is now doing for all people, being free from being under the law, being circumcised, being a Jew, being a Gentile.... Free from all of those class systems just by Him loving you! He's bringing it to all and He's King and He is Lord over the whole world forevermore!

What Paul is saying here in **verse 16: *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ***

The Good News that Jesus was raised and that the resurrected man is now the Ruler of our lives. If I look at my own life and I look at how I live my life, I live my life with this one thing in mind and this is it: The Gospel of Christ. That would mean the Good News that the Messiah has come! Now in order to understand that, we will have to understand what the Jews understood under the Messiah coming. The Jews understood that the Messiah would be a political leader that is going to set the Jews free. But Jesus came and the Apostle Paul revealed to us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, that it didn't work that way, Jesus didn't come to set the Jews free. He came to set the world free from the power of the evil one or from the power of the Satan which is sin and death, to come and bring them eternal life by Him ending sin in the flesh and Him, by His Spirit, bringing forth the life of God in whosoever believes Him... all by HIS doing! Today we call that effortless living! **Effortless living means to share in the very life of God!**

I can give you an example of that in our own life. Last week you heard the testimony on Zambia and what's happening there and building a mission station there. In this week I was saying to God, "God, I don't even know how to thank You that I could go and preach there and that You provided for it to happen." I didn't even know how to thank Him because it was not as if it is something I want to do that I needed to get God's permission to do it. It was something that was done by the life of God and is being done by the life of God in me and in others that are partaking in this whole vision and what's taking place there. And I found the best way that I could thank God for what is taking place there is, "God, thank You that I can share in Your life!" And that is it! And that to me is what I believe Paul had in his mind when he was saying **Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes:***

So what is God's power unto salvation? The fact that the man Jesus has conquered sin and death and that all rulership and dominion has been given to Him for Him to rule over whatsoever is plaguing or bothering His people, bringing and manifesting the kingdom of heaven, in the earth, in people.

What Paul is saying to the people in Rome in the first few verses that we discussed here today is, he is simply saying to them, "Listen, I heard of you, of your belief in Jesus. But, I want to come now and fine-tune this and gift you with the understanding that I have. I want to gift you with the Gospel of Jesus as the Christ and what that means, for it is God's power unto salvation be the person be Jew or Gentile." It is already giving background, helping these Roman people and the Gentiles that were hating the Jews.

There were many people hating the Jews, you know, and getting them to know the truth, not in unrighteousness but in true righteousness, not falling back into what the Jews were actually stuck in.

17 For therein (in this Gospel) is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Let us recap. What Paul is saying here is, "You guys believe in the Gospel but you need fine-tuning in this Gospel. That is what you need and God has gifted me with something that belongs to you that I need to give to you. This is that I can encourage you in this faith so that you can be established. (Established...this is my opinion but I believe that established means that it talks to Paul about the fruit of the Spirit manifesting inside them as well as that they will be partakers of the resurrection in the day of the Lord. "That you may be established and that we both may be encouraged by our mutual faith."

He is saying, "We believe the same thing but I want to gift you with an understanding of what the Gospel is, as was revealed to me so that I can also see the same effect this Gospel had in other places in Rome." So, in the back of his mind, he was knowing that they need something. You know, I felt that way many times when I see people believing in the Grace message. I see certain people or certain churches come and start the Grace message. It is starting in the town.

As I hear the Grace message is going out all over the world, then my prayer is, "Oh, God, would you please send me to that town? Will You open a door for me there so that I can go and give what You have gifted me with, over 20 years of understanding the Gospel, so that I can help them with what I have been helped with?" It's not that I say that I know everything but it would also be... I don't know how to say it... It would be fake not to acknowledge what God has given and what God has shown. And this is basically what I believe Paul was saying is, "I've got a certain understanding which I did not get by my own intellect or anything like that. It was a gift of God and I know that this truth of Jesus being the Christ belongs to all people."

As I see people getting into the message of the Gospel like, let's say a penalty substitution atonement and they start to believe that the Father is not going to punish me anymore because He punished Jesus! They get so excited about the Gospel and then I think, "Well, glory to God! I am so happy because I've walked the very same path myself in understanding that Jesus was punished for me. But as I had a deeper understanding and more understanding, I can understand much more of what this whole Genesis thing was about, what restorative justice model is all about and all of that ... and I would like to go and preach there or have them listen to some of the messages I preached so that this gift can be in them and I can have some fruit there seeing that we believe the very same thing and so we are established not to fall back under the law anymore.

What Paul is saying here then is, "I'm not ashamed of this Good News of Christ!" Why? "Because I know that it is the power of God that will give people salvation, today, from the fruit of the flesh and in the end, salvation from physical death.

It says, "For in this Good News that the man Jesus was raised and He is the Lord ruling over people without people's involvement in laws and rules and regulations. That is the manifestation of God's righteousness and it is **from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.**

Let me explain this in the last five minutes. Before I get into this, I want to say that I hope you can see my boldness in saying what I am saying. Just as the Apostle Paul was full of boldness, not because of arrogance in himself but because of the boldness where he knows that the Gospel saves people. My wife and I can testify of the salvation power of the Good News that Jesus was bodily raised from the dead and that He is as a full human, equal to God. Where He is ruling over humans where we, in this world, simply experience His rulership without our contribution in trying to add anything through laws or works. Where we simply believe and understand what the death and the burial and the resurrection and the necessity of a bodily resurrection was all about. It brought a massive, massive, change in our lives and we are experiencing the fruit of this life in us. It's as if life is just around us! We feel it and we know that it is not by our own doing. It is by the fact that He was raised from the dead.

We also understand that as we have the hope of the bodily resurrection, our bodily resurrection, on account of the bodily resurrection of Christ, and our hope is not in our spirits just going to heaven. But we having as full humans, a full restoration and a glorification like as unto Jesus Himself, we find that it brings forth the fruit of the Spirit in our lives that we have experienced. If you want to know more about that you have to listen to previous messages. Just go back four or five messages and listen to all of them. It will really help you, bless you.

I'm ending off with this: He says, **Romans 1:17 For therein** (That is in the Good News that Jesus is Lord) **is the righteousness** (The righteous act or the goodness) **of God revealed** (manifested from the faith that Jesus was raised from the dead and to the faith that we shall also be raised from the dead which is then called hope) **from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live** (forever) **by faith** (the persuasion that Jesus is Lord and that He was raised from the dead and that He rules over, mortality, by Him being an immortal human so bringing life to all people).

That is a mouthful but I want you to take the time during this week, just take five minutes at a time, listen to the message if you have time to do that. If you feel an unction in your heart to do it, listen to the message over and over, five minutes and think about it, five minutes and think about it. Ponder on every word and ask the Lord to show you what this is and how Paul is coming in the first 16 verses in Romans and set up a beautiful thing where he is actually telling people what I know and what I preach, the message of Jesus being the Christ, the message of Jesus being the ruler over sin and death. This Jesus is ruler over you today. And as we believe upon this and simply have faith, we will live and have life by the fact that we believe that Jesus died and that we shall also be bodily raised. That is it! Glory to God!

I want to thank you so much for allowing me to serve you with this message. We are continuing on this next week and we are going to talk about the wrath of God and what that is all about and what Paul had in his mind in Romans chapter 1. I just give you a little bit of a hint. I think Romans chapter 1 is talking about what happened in Adam and Eve and how that was archetypal talking about what is true in all humans to a certain degree and he is showing people how we can be free from the wrath of God. We are just going to put all of that in context and you are going to see that the wrath of God is not God being angry trying to beat up on someone. It's something that is actually very good. We will talk about that next week.

Thank you, so much, for slotting in and I will see you next week. God bless...