

Romans in Depth (Part 2)

Bertie Brits

June 16, 2019

We are in a series where I am talking, verse by verse, from Romans, chapter 1. I am looking forward to continue in this series. We previously looked at Romans 1:1-3 and today we are going to continue from verse 4.

For those of you who have slotted in for the very first time, the Sunday messages that I have are teaching orientated, theological, when I teach the Bible verse by verse. I welcome you here and I want to tell you that as you listen to these messages and study with us, you will find that you will get a deeper understanding of the Scriptures and how many of the concepts and ideas of the ancient people written in the Bible start to make sense to you and how it has a great effect on your life today.

I am now going to quickly recap on what I said last week:

Romans 1:1: *Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God...* Last week I explained what servant means. It doesn't mean that Paul was just a slave of God. It doesn't mean that. You need to go to the other message to see what I said about that. Then he was an apostle, a sent one. We also said the he had in his mind the time when the Lord Jesus appeared to him on the way to Damascus and how from there the Lord sent him forth. Then, the beautiful part that we got into was that he was separated, set apart, or made holy, to the spreading of the Gospel of God. We also said that this Gospel is the Good News message that God had for man from the beginning. (In the Communion message prior to this main message, I used 1John when I said that the word of life, the promise of life, that was from the beginning became flesh and dwelt among us. This eternal life is God. God is eternal life. This promise of eternal life then became flesh and dwelt among us. This is the Good News of God that became flesh.

So what Paul was doing was that he was actually saying that God had a Good News message for humanity. The Good News was that God would give eternal life to us and we don't have to earn it by our own works.

We then went to verse 2 and explained that it was promised. And in verse 3, which I want to recap, is that Jesus Christ our Lord, which was first made of the seed of David or according to the flesh. Then He became the Lord in the resurrection. So, there's a process that took place there that we will look at a bit more today. What is important is that this **Jesus was fully human and this Jesus that was fully human then became fully God as a human.** That is important and that is what we are going to look at more today.

What we also said and defined last week and that is important to understand and not to forget is that the Mesopotamian concept of God when we define Jesus as the Son of God, we have to understand what the ancient people understood by, "A son of God". Today, we say that we are all the sons of God, the children of God. What we think by that is that God made us but that was not the concept that the ancient people had when it comes to a son of God. What they did was they would look at the human attributes and they would ascribe that to their gods in saying that God is basically like humans. One thing they would not ascribe to the gods is mortality. The gods were the immortals but people were the mortals. So they would say that the gods could be angry, the gods can be laughing, the gods can want things, the gods can give commands and all those kind of things. But, one thing that was not ascribed to the gods, which was inside man, was mortality and the gods were immortal.

So, if you would want to say that you are a son of a god, you would have to claim immortality. We see that Paul comes and says in **verse 3: Concerning God's Son Jesus Christ our Lord...** By that he is saying that He, as a human being, has immortality. All the people of the ancient time, all the people in the Roman Greco time, would have understood should you claim that somebody's a son of a god that he has eternal life and cannot die. He has no beginning and has no end. He is eternal especially if he is the son of the Most High God, meaning the first God. You cannot die. You have no beginning and no end. It's almost like John 3 says like those who are born of the Spirit are like the wind. You don't know where they come from or where they are going. You just see their manifestation. They are eternal beings manifesting in that moment. That is what these people would have understood.

Recap: Paul said that he was sent with a Gospel of God and this Gospel of God was promised from the beginning and that this Gospel of God is now all about a man, Jesus Christ who has then manifested, or who has entered into, as a mortal human, shedding His mortality, not His body, but the mortality of the body was recreated, which is now called a new creation of the very same old body. So the old body was used as the clay, if you can put it like that, recreated and now He became a new creation where he was first bodily created in Mary as a normal mortal but then in the resurrection He was then an immortal or manifested as a Son of God.

Last week, we also said that if a person sees his mortal body and sees that he doesn't possess immortality, but a voice came from heaven that declared that He is the Son of God, then He would have the hope of immortality or the hope of should He die, the resurrection. This sounds a little complicated but I just want you to know that all that we said last week is simply this: God had Good News to man. Paul preached the Good News. The Good News was prophesied and the Good News was all about a man, Jesus, that was made from a mortal woman and how this man then became and manifested as the Son of God as a human. That was the Good News that has been from the beginning.

Now we go into today's message in **Romans 1:4** which flows from verse 3 which says that He was made of a woman or made according to the seed of David. It is talking about His physical birth. He was made according to the seed of David as a physical human but **He was declared to be the Son of God with power** (Lordship... the authority to rule over sin and death, **according the Spirit of holiness** (the Holy Spirit) **by the resurrection from the dead.**

He is having the Spirit of life that is eternal and that can never pass away in that He attained eternal life in the resurrection.

We cannot read verse 4 without understanding the concepts at hand in this discussion. So what I am saying is that, and this is a very important part for us. We struggle to understand this. It is a hurdle in the mind of the Church. We struggle with verse 3 which says, **Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; :4 And declared to be the Son of God...** We like to use the word, declared, because we struggle with the concept that is in Acts 13 which was the word, begotten, which was actually begotten by the resurrection or in the resurrection by the Spirit of God.

Now I want us to quickly go to **Acts 13:33 God has fulfilled the same unto us, their children** (the children of the people that God made promises to), **in that he has raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, You art my Son, this day have I begotten You.**

That is a very important passage! The reason why Paul preaches the fact that Jesus was made of a woman but then became, or we can actually say, "who in His body was then begotten of God", is of important because Paul preaches that because if you look a the rest of Romans, he bases his whole theology and the power to a holy life in this one fact... and that is that God conquered mortality and whatsoever leads to death, which is sins, by the resurrection of the dead. That is what this is all about! It is about God raising the dead and God then giving you a holy life by the doing of God. That is very important!

Let us look at it again. I want us to go over this again and again because there's a lot of what I would call tradition in our minds to cover concerning this. Many times, we don't have to just listen to something once. You hear it once but that doesn't mean your mind has changed on it. There are some narrow parts in our brain and our brain needs to build new bridges for us to think in a certain direction. So, it's very healthy to repeat something and look at it again and again until we find a belief form in our hearts.

What Paul is saying is this: God promised eternal existence to people. Eternal existence is only found in God. Man was mortal. God promises him immortality.

We might say, "What is so significant about immortality?" The beautiful thing about immortality, eternal life, is that it is also a very high quality of life that is flooded with love and peace and goodness and kindness. What God promised us from the beginning is, "I promise you a life where you will have love, where you will share in My compassion for others, where you will share in all the beautiful attributes that is found in a loving God. Plus, I will make this life and the life that I share with you will not be a short term experience of Me just loving you but it will be Me sharing My life in such a way with you that you would feel what it feels like to be Me and Me living in you and I will seal you forever in that life!"

Now, if that is the objective that God has with us, we know, if we truly understand that, we cannot attain to that by our own works! It is only a gift from God.

What Paul was saying is that this God sent His word of eternal life. His word of eternal life was manifested in a mortal man, as a mortal that could die. Remember, Jesus could die. The Baby Jesus could die if you dropped Him from a high place, He would have been dead. We need to understand that. It is difficult for us to do but that is the truth. God commanded Joseph that he should flee Egypt for some years until Herod was dead, because Herod was seeking the life of the child. Somebody who cannot die doesn't hide away or get sent away by God to be in a safe place because someone is seeking the life or the soul of the child. So, we find Jesus was made a mortal being, or a normal person. But then, that being, Jesus, the One that was made of a woman, which was in the power of an Adam, or all of humanity, because He was fully created by God and not by an earthly father, that being, that Jesus, then died and was then bodily reborn by the Holy Spirit.

I said it last week and I want you to do this with me. I want you to imagine this: Imagine you are lying in bed and you die. Then God raises you from the dead but not a resuscitation of a corpse, as in the case of Lazarus who was raised from the dead, but in the power of a new creation --- a recreation to an undying human that is in equality with God as pertaining to life where you fully share in the eternal life of the only eternal life. That means that when you open your eyes and we can imagine Jesus... Jesus dying as a normal man on the cross. He needs oxygen. He needs breath. He needs food and shelter and clothing to live. But, on the cross He is deprived of that. He's deprived of His very own blood. His blood flowed out of Him and Jesus died.

Some people say, "Jesus couldn't die... He **gave** His life. What that simply means is that He made His life available to die. In other words, He said, "I am willing!" Some say, "He wasn't murdered. He just gave His life because He couldn't die... He was immortal." That is a complete twisting of the text because Peter said, "You Jews murdered Jesus!" That means that Peter wasn't of your understanding. In many places in the Bible it says that they murdered Jesus. If you hang someone on a cross and you nail him there, after a while, he is going to die. If he is made of a woman he is going to die. Jesus made His life available to hang on a cross and who then naturally died there to the point that He felt, "It is done! I am dying now!" Then He said to His Father, "Into Your hands I give My spirit."

The point that I am trying to make is: Imagine Jesus being on the cross breathing His last and then He opens His eyes in the tomb where He is raised from the dead. And as He takes His first breath, He knows that He doesn't have to take the second one to keep living as a human but, that the very life He has is now not derived from natural life or what we would call animal life. But the life He has now is His whole body, every cell, everything in Him finds His life from God's eternal life as the source, needing nothing else. That is what happened in Jesus when He was raised from the dead. And that man that was raised there was declared as the Son of God. Jesus was called the Son of God before the resurrection because that is what the prophetic word said. That is who He was but He was not manifested as the Son of God meaning that He still needed to be manifested or begotten in His body as the Son of God. Like us today we are already, as believers, the sons of God, but we will find the manifestation of the sons of God which is the salvation of our body or the physical recreation of our body where we would find eternal life in our bodies. Paul preaches this as a very powerful foundation and the absolute basis of the Gospel of true, what I would say, Orthodox theology. He declares that the whole Gospel is about God promising life to man. Man doesn't have life and He is now saving man from death and giving him, as a full human, the life of God.

Let's read **Romans 1:4** again: ***And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:***

Jesus was declared to be the Son of God, with power, by the resurrection. As we read in **Acts 13:33** "... ***You are my Son, this day have I begotten You.***" That was the day when He was raised from the dead. So, when was Jesus Christ begotten as an immortal Son or where everybody could see that He is the Son of God according to Mesopotamian interpretation of what a Son of God would be? He was seen to be the Son of God by the resurrection. Peter would declare Jesus to be the Son of God but then Jesus said to him, "Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you." In other words, what I see is we've always defined that as people didn't tell you that. No, what He is saying to you is that "flesh and blood", meaning my body by looking at My body, by looking at what you see here, that could not reveal to you that I was the Son of God, but the Father, who knows that I am His Son, He has revealed it, declared it, to you." Then when Jesus was raised from the dead, people could say, "Truly He is the Son of God!" They could see Him as the Son of God because He couldn't die. He was the resurrected Jesus.

He then ascended on high, after His ascension, by which He was seated as an immortal human, the Son of God, in the authority where He could rule over all sin and all death, on this earth. So that by the power of God we can now see God conquer our enemies which would be things like bitterness, hatred, and so forth, and in the end, death itself. I would encourage you to listen to this message again and ask God to show us, like I said in the beginning, that this is a teaching service. We are teaching and we are walking through the scriptures, thinking, pondering, having our hearts deepened into what was actually written in the scriptures.

Romans 1:5: *By whom we have received grace and apostleship* (He says that by this Jesus, who is the Son of God, we have received grace and apostleship), ***for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:***

There are certain things we want to look at there. We are going to look at Grace, apostleship was already dealt with in part 1, and then ***obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name*** (sake):

Let's start off with Grace. What is the meaning of Grace? Grace is the influence on creation that comes from God on account of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Grace is the influence of God on the created order, on creation itself, through the effect of the resurrected Jesus, in bodily form, now has on physical creation.

We need to understand that when Jesus, as a physical human, was raised from the dead and then, as a physical human, was seated in equality with God, we sit with a part of physicality that has conquered the limits of this world. Yet, it is not the case for Jesus alone since He is now been given the authority to rule and bring what is true in Him into the earth. So, we are now sitting under the effect of having a human, that is immortal as God, over this world to make what is true in him true in whatsoever is physical. That is what we are dealing with here. So as our minds see ourselves as physical human beings and we see that He has that rule over us, we will find our hearts go to rest in the rule that we have over us. And so we will find His power bringing forth life in us today.

The Greek definition for Grace simply means, especially, the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude that which is acceptable, of benefit, favor, gifts, liberation, pleasure and thankfulness.

It talks about the power of God bringing forth the very attributes of God, the power that can afford, that is rich enough, to manifest in us the fulness of God.

Now we will move on to the obedience to the faith. When we look to obedience to the faith, we cannot, and we should not, confuse obedience as obedience to commandments and laws. We have seen obedience as commandments and laws as "this is a commandment and you obey the commandment by doing the commandment from where you seek justification or blessing, or righteousness. We shouldn't see obedience like that. It says here, "obedience to the faith". So how do you obey a persuasion? What is the faith? In Jesus' time, in Paul's time, in Bible's time, the faith was called the persuasion that people had in believing that Jesus was raised from the dead, that He is Lord and then from His lordship, we are expecting to live as well.

Like the song I put on Facebook a while back where it says, "There ain't no grave that can keep this body down." At the end of the song, it is so beautiful. It says that if He walked out of the grave, I'm walking, too! That is a faith.

It is a persuasion that we have and now Paul is saying that he received Apostleship to see obedience to the faith among all nations. He is saying, "I have been sent with a revelation that this Messiah, Jesus, is not just the Messiah of the Jews. But, He is the Messiah of all people and now I am going about and I am telling people that they should obey this faith. That means that they should submit to the doctrine that is based on the faith that Jesus was raised from the dead where we have the expectation of the Resurrection. Let me repeat that. What is obedience to the faith? Obedience to the faith is submit to the doctrine that would be based on the faith that Jesus was raised from the dead from wherein we have the expectation of the resurrection.

If I say to you that Jesus was raised from the dead from where He rules over you who believe upon Him, giving you the expectation of the resurrection, that truth is the foundation from where we can build doctrine. From that truth we will build a doctrine about the fulfillment of the law. From that we will build our doctrines pertaining to tithings and sowing and reaping and all those things. If we have a doctrine that says, "Jesus was raised and from Him there is nothing you need to do. You trust Him and He manifests His kingdom in you who believed by His Holy Spirit, you will say, "Doctrinally, we cannot say that we have to tithe in order to be blessed. Doctrinally, we cannot say that we have to do sowing and reaping to be blessed. Doctrinally, we cannot say that we need to walk around the town ten times in order to bind the devil so that we can do something. Doctrinally, we can say that we have to do five principles to get God to bless our ministry, our marriage, or any of that!"

Doctrinally, we can say this: Should Jesus be raised from the dead and you believe upon that and you have received the Spirit of God and only base your life on this truth, that the Spirit of God will work in you, a healthy marriage, a healthy relationship with your children, wisdom as pertaining to your finances, which the greatest would be contentment, meaning you can be happy wherever you are with whatever you have. Like Paul said, "If you just have clothing and a roof over your head, there would be content. It will work in you generosity and kindness. That's how we build a doctrine and that's what he says here that obedience to the faith would simply mean to submit to the doctrine that is based on the persuasion that Jesus was raised from the dead from where we have the expectation of the resurrection.

I want to look at obedience to a commandment versus obedience to a promise.

Romans 6:17 *But God be thanked, that you were the servants of sin, but you have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

We find that there was a form of doctrine and the form where the doctrine was based is the death and the resurrection of Jesus giving us the hope of the very same where everything is based on God's power towards us and not our power to try to perform that.

Romans 10:16 *But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah said, Lord, who has believed our report?*

So how is obedience measured in the New Testament? Obedience in the New Testament is to believe a report. Obedience in the Old, under Moses' commandment, was that they had to obey all the ten commandments and all those kinds of things. They had to do that and if they didn't do that, then they would perish. It was that there was a commandment... something that I had to do. But, in the New, obedience doesn't work like that. In the New, obedience worked like this: Isaiah even prophesied about it. He says, ***But they have not all obeyed the gospel.*** How? ***For Isaiah said, Lord, who has believed our report?***

What is the report and what is he talking about in Romans 10? Romans 10 talks about the resurrection of Jesus and the report that Christ was raised from the dead. If you believe that Christ was raised from the dead and that you, from that belief, have Jesus rule over you by the power of the Resurrection where you can now sit back, in the hope of Him bringing forth what is holy and righteous in you since you know that your members or your body and your actions and your mind are now all made available to the power of the Spirit to manifest Christ's work in you. As you rest in that you will find that He brings forth the good fruit. So, obedience in the New Testament is the belief of a report.

How do you obey a promise? You believe it because what is the report? The report is that Jesus died, He rose, and through His resurrection you have hope of the very same. How do you obey that? You simply believe it. So what Paul was saying there in verse five is, "I have been called by Jesus. We have grace which is God's influence on our lives, on us as well as for you. The reason why we have this grace and the reason why this influence is, is so that we can find people of all nations simply believing this truth. That is what he is saying in **Romans 1:5... *for obedience to the faith of all nations***

I want to say to you that the way you obey God is by believing that Jesus was raised from the dead and that you have the same hope that you will be saved from death as well. And whatsoever would lead to eternal life, whatever good work there is, is included in the package.

You might say, "Bertie, you have said all these things because what Paul had in mind was only one thing and that is that we should just believe Jesus and His Spirit will bring forth holiness in our lives, almost like we are a new creation, as if God is the Author of my life. It is almost like," It is not I who live anymore but Christ, the Ruler, who lives in me now with His Spirit in His life.. almost like an incarnation or a recreation... Easy! Are you telling me that?" Yes, that is what I am telling you. That is what Paul preached. That is what he believed. He believed in God as the Creator... "Create in me a new heart, oh, God. Create in me love for people. Create in me, You, the Creator, bring life forth in me since You have eternal life and out of You and in You, all things consist." That is what he is talking about here.

Let us look at another example of commandment in the Bible... obedience to the commandment of Jesus because so many times we struggle with obedience in the Church. How do we obey?

John 6:

28 Then they said to Him, What shall we do that we might work the works of God?

29 Jesus answered and said to them, This is the work of God, that you believe on Him whom He has sent.

Isn't that beautiful! They said to Jesus, "What must we do to work the works of God?" So, God has works and if we want to do what God is working us to do, what shall we do? In other words, God is busy in the earth with something and we want to do, we want to manifest and have the effect of His work in our lives. What shall we do, to basically be the manifestation of what He wants us to do in this world?" He says, "This is what God is working at. God is working at this: that you believe in Jesus.

Now we can understand the beautiful verse in **Romans 10:9** ***That if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved.***

He is saying that Jesus entered death. He believed the Father. The Father saved Him from death and raised Him up. Listen to what it says: ***That if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus*** (this resurrected Jesus) is the Lord... meaning that this resurrected Jesus is the Lord now, rules over your sin and death and you shall truly believe that God has raised Him from the dead. In other words, if you say, "Jesus is Lord but I don't believe that He is Lord in that His Spirit left His body and sits in heaven." No! I believe that He is Lord because He was begotten of God in the resurrection. When you believe that, he says here... and I want to use my own words, "As Jesus was saved from the grave, you shall also be saved in the same way."

The traditional view of heaven and hell is not what he is talking about here. The context of the salvation here is found in Jesus being raised. And then just later on, after that, in verse 16, he is saying, "But, Lord, how will these people believe that Jesus was raised if somebody doesn't preach it to them? ***Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God ...*** hearing the word, the message that Jesus was raised from the dead!

Then it goes on in verse 16, "Who has obeyed the Gospel? Who has believed our report as Isaiah says?" So, the context there is that there was a report: Jesus was raised bodily! Then there was a report that He ascended and that He is Lord of heaven and earth. Then it says in John that Jesus said that God is working at bringing forth the man, putting Him under the law, taking Him to the cross so that He can be raised from the dead, so that we can believe on Him whom He has sent. When he talks about the one who was sent, he is talking about Jesus, the resurrected, that was sent by God, given by God, to save man. That is what he is talking about. Glory to God!

Paul says that this message of the Resurrection is to be preached to all people, be they Jews or Gentiles, ending the whole theology that the Jews had that they had a Messiah and this Messiah will save them from Gentile oppression and that they, as a Jewish nation, will be the people that would be ministering spirituality to the world as well as governance of the law to all nations where there will be peace on the earth. That whole teaching was thrown out of the debate when Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to Paul and showed that He has conquered the death of both Jews and Gentiles, offering eternal life to all nations, redefining Jewish theology, redefining Israel's view on the Scriptures bringing clarity... redefining because it is bringing truth! Amen

We've come to the end of today's message. We will continue with this next week. Make sure that you connect with us on Facebook as well as by a WhatsApp where I send a daily devotional. If you don't know what it is, google it. Get it on your phone. It's a wonderful app where I can send daily devotionals to you from Mondays to Thursdays.

Thank you for letting me serve you the message of God's Grace. Know that you are blessed by God and eternal life is yours! Amen!