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# The Messenger



*"... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15*

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***Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)***

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**Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30.**

## **The Gospel – God’s Righteousness for Man**

*by Dempsey Collins*

Paul begins his letter to the Romans expressing an earnest desire to be with them.

- Always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.
- For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;
- That is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other’s faith, both yours and mine.
- I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.
- I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.
- So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome (Romans 1:10-15).

Paul’s primary reason for wanting to be with these saints was “to preach the gospel to them” and thereby “obtain some fruit” from them. He was confident their response to the gospel would result in much good and so he prayed for that opportunity. Having expressed this longing Paul then introduces the grand theme of the Roman letter:

- For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
- For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous man shall live by faith” (Romans 1:16, 17).

Though often persecuted for preaching the gospel yet Paul was not ashamed of the gospel nor was he a shame to it.

Gospel means “good news”. It is good news because “It is the power of God to save men from their sins. How does the gospel provide this marvelous result? Verse 17 reveals the answer: “In it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith unto faith just as it is written “the righteous shall live by faith.”

Why do we need the gospel in the first place? Why does man need saving? Paul begins to answer this question in 1:18. (All men are under sin and therefore under condemnation.) Gentiles 1:18-32; Jews 2:1-3:8; All Men 3:9-20

No wonder Paul says the gospel is “good news”. It’s not only good news, it’s great news because of what it offers, i.e. salvation from sins. The gospel provides something man cannot do for himself (3:19, 20).

How does God save us through the gospel? Why is it so powerful? The gospel is powerful because of its origin. The gospel is from God. God is the source and the gospel is His power (dunamis) to save us.

The same power God used to create the world (Gen. 1:1) is available to bring about a new creation in Christ Jesus (Eph. 4:24).

The same power God used to destroy the world with a flood is available to help us overcome evil and save us from sin.

The same power God has to sustain every creature to this world and every system both small and great can also sustain us in Jesus.

The same power God used to raise Jesus from the dead can also be used to raise us from the death of sin (Eph. 2:1-9) and from physical death (I Cor. 15).

The power of the gospel to rescue us from sin shines even brighter when we consider the weakness of the Law (Rom. 8:1-4).

Its scope is universal – “To everyone who believes” (cp. Gen. 12:3; Isa. 11:1; Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:19; Acts 10:34; Rom. 2:11).

This belief of faith includes complete submission to the source of faith – Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:5; 15:26; Mark 16:16; Col. 2:11, 12). What is revealed in the gospel that enables us to be saved? The answer is in v. 17. The gospel reveals the righteousness of God. This is the theme of the Roman letter and Paul never deviates from that theme. Even when talking about daily living (Chapters 12-15), Paul does not deviate from that theme. If we understand this fact then difficult passages such as Chapters 4, 9, 11, 14 will become much clearer.

*- to be continued -*