



Don't Miss God's Call Romans 1:1-17

Our call is based on the gospel of God | Romans 1:1-7

- Paul – *Called as an apostle...set apart for the gospel of God* (Romans 1:1)

Everyone – *You also are 'the called' of Jesus Christ...called as saints* (Romans 1:6-7)

I Corinthians 15:1-5

- Gospel includes:
 - A message from God – good news that is really old news (Romans 1:1-2)
"...set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets..."
Luke 24:25-27, Acts 8:30-35, Isaiah 53:7-11
 - A message centered on the person and work of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:3-4)
"...concerning His Son...who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead"
Galatians 1:6-7, II Corinthians 11:3-4
 - A message of grace everyone needs (Romans 1:5-7)
...through whom we have received grace...among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ"

How we should live our call with the gospel of God | Romans 1:8-17

- Praise God that our faith is well known to all (Romans 1:8)
"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world."
- Pray faithfully for each other (Romans 1:9-10)
"...always in my prayers making request..."
- Persevere to provide for each other (Romans 1:11-13)
"For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established... often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far)"
- Preach the power of the gospel to all (Romans 1:14-17)
"So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you...For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone..."

Digging Deeper

Romans is such a powerful book that by just reading it two of the greatest Christian leaders, Martin Luther and John Wesley, were spiritually awakened.

Martin Luther, while a monk in the Roman Catholic church, was saved by reading Romans. He wrote:

I greatly longed to understand Paul's Epistle to the Romans, and nothing stood in the way but that one expression, "the righteousness of God," because I took it to mean that righteousness whereby God is righteous and deals righteously in punishing the unrighteous. ...Night and day I pondered until ... I grasped the truth that the righteousness of God is that righteousness whereby, through grace and sheer mercy, he justifies us by faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning, and whereas before "the righteousness of God" had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet in greater love. This passage of Paul became to me a gateway to heaven. (Cf. Barend Klaas Kuiper, Martin Luther: The Formative Years [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1933], pp. 198-208.)

John Wesley, on May 24, 1738 later wrote:

I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for my salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.

As we journey through Romans, my prayer is that we will all experience a fresh work of God's spirit to continuously awaken the work and righteousness of God in and through us.

Paul wrote this letter to the "saints" in Rome around 58 AD while living in Corinth, Greece. He wanted to come and visit these believers but also provide a clear and complete message of the gospel message.

LifeGroup Discussion:

When we live by the gospel, what impact should it have on our lives? The following passages give the large picture of the gospel's message. Reflect on where these truths are real in your life, and how can you grow in these areas.

- Romans 3:23 — What is the problem for each of us. Read also 1 John 3:4. How does it define sin?
- Romans 5:1, 2, 8, 10 — What did Jesus do to solve this problem?
- Romans 8:1-2, 11, 14-17, 28 — Once we are saved, what changes and good things occur in our lives?
- Romans 12:1-2 — As we grow in our faith, what should our "sacrifice" be for Christ? What should our relationship with the world be like?

In your LifeGroup, prayerfully give thanks for these gifts from Christ, as discussed in the sermon on December 22:

- **Forgiveness, no guilt or shame** (1 John 1:9)
- **Acceptance** (Romans 5:2)
- **Adoption into God's family** (Romans 8:15-17)
- **Unconditional love** (Romans 5:8)
- **Life** (1 John 5:11-13)
- **Peace** (John 16:33)
- **Answered prayer** (Hebrews 4:16)
- **Hope** (Romans 5:2)
- **Power** (Ephesians 1:18-20)
- **Joy** (Psalm 16:11)

Next Steps:

1. **Attend the Alpha Course beginning Wednesday, February 5 at 6:00 pm in the Worship Center Lobby.** This will help you get grounded in the basics of the Christian faith and explore any questions, doubts or thoughts you have about the gospel of Jesus. Learn more about the Alpha Course at calvarylife.org/alpha
2. **Find a discipleship mentor through Growing in Christ.** Discipleship is being mentored in what it means to follow Jesus. To find out how you can be mentored, contact Ross Strachan at 714.541.1053 for more info.
3. **Share the gospel of Jesus with someone you know. Just go for it, but share this good news with love and grace.** As a tool to help you share the gospel with someone, take the booklet called "The Way To Connect With God" in the seat rack in front of you and use it to walk someone through the gospel and a prayer of salvation.