



## Set Free: A Heart for the Gospel Romans 1:1-17

### Who are the main characters in this letter? Romans 1:1 & 7

- From Paul - vs. 1 - *"bondservant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God"*
  - Bondservant of Christ Jesus
  - Called as an apostle - an ambassador sent out for Jesus.
  - Set apart for the gospel
- To the Romans - vs. 7 - *"all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints"*
  - Rome - the greatest city of the world at the time and home of the most powerful man in the world, the Caesar, whose titles included "son of god" and whose birth was declared "good news."

### What is the gospel? Romans 1:2-6

- It was planned ahead of time - *"which He promised beforehand"*
- It was told to us before it happened - *"through His prophets in the holy Scriptures"*
- It's all about Jesus - *"concerning His Son"*
- Jesus is the earthly King of Israel - *"born of a descendent of David according to the flesh"*
- Jesus is the heavenly King of the universe - *"who was declared the Son of God"*
- Jesus overcame death and sin - *"with power by the resurrection from the dead"*
- Jesus is more than flesh, He is Spirit, He is holy - *"according to the Spirit of holiness"*
- Jesus is the one true Messiah and Lord - *"Jesus Christ our Lord"*
- Jesus is the source of grace - *"through whom we have received grace"*
- Jesus is the one who sends us out - *"and apostleship"*
  - The gospel is for grace and apostleship - for non-believers and believers, for salvation and sanctification
- Faith in Jesus is the only way to be obedient - *"to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles"*
- The glory of Jesus' name is the ultimate goal - *"for His name's sake"*
- The gospel is for everyone - Jew and Gentile - *"among whom you"*
- The gospel calls us to belong to Jesus Christ - *"also are the called of Jesus Christ"*

***Is Paul's belief of the gospel the same belief that I share?***

## The first step of the apostle of the gospel: Prayer. Romans 1:8-13

*"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world."* - Romans 1:8

- Paul has the conflict in Rome and his hopes for reaching Spain and the western Mediterranean region (Romans 15:22-29) in mind as he prays for the Roman believers
  - He thanks God for them because they are proclaiming their faith throughout the whole world
  - He prays that he could visit them soon
  - He prays to impart to them a spiritual gift
  - He prays that they would be mutually encouraged

***Do I value prayer in the way that Paul models here?***

## Are we passionate about the gospel? Romans 1:14-17

*"So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome."* - Romans 1:15

- Many of us have no reaction to the gospel. What is my reaction?
- The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes
- Ashamed = fear. Paul being "not ashamed" is a full commitment, not the same as "I am not embarrassed." Caesar claimed to rule the world; God's gospel claimed that Jesus did. Psalm 119:46. Philippians 2:10.
- The gospel reveals the righteousness of God and commands us to live by faith
- We are set free from shame, fear, sin and death. We are set free by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

***Is my heart the same as Paul's heart for the gospel? Am I eager to share it?***

## LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Do you feel comfortable articulating the gospel? What is it? Share in your group how you would define the gospel. Refer to Romans 1:1-7.
2. How can we increase our passion and eagerness to share the gospel?
3. If not being ashamed of the gospel was risking your life in the first century, what is our equivalent of "not being ashamed of the gospel?"

## 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](http://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.