

ROMANS 1:8-17

1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. 9 God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you 10 in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.

11 I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— 12 that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. 13 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,^[d] that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles.

14 I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. 15 That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last,^[e] just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."^[f]

(1) Intro -

(a) Romans: Samuel Taylor Coleridge: The most profound book in human existence; Godet called it the Cathedral of the Christian Faith. We will note that it is after the book of acts the first Epistle, it is the first strictly teaching book. Kreeft says, not just because it is the longest Epistle, but because it is the Greatest Epistle. Romans sparked the reformation.

(b) Recap. Paul is writing to the Romans, he hasn't met them yet. He is Introducing the centrality and the unifying power of the Gospel to disparate groups.

(i) oiPaul is writing about "good news." We don't believe in sin (because we have wealth - classic, since we are rich, God must be with us - this is a primitive and pagan understanding of God - Job, the oldest book in the Bible says God looked on Job with love, even when the Accuser was destroying his home // wealth is an indicator of standing in the world, not standing in heaven). We don't do sin or judgment, so our culture has a hard time with good news.

- (ii) Paul is writing to unify the Gentile Believers to the Jewish believers. No culture is superior - Christ is superior.
- (iii) Paul is showing us how faith and works co-exist: i.e. with faith first.

(2) 8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world.

(a) This is the “proem” the intro to the second part, the second intro if you will and Paul is saying he is thankful for them.

(b) Thankfulness, thanksgiving—starting here. Contentment. Cleaning my car, learning how to cherish the things God entrusts you with. Begin with it.

(i) Breathing. Initial animate force. Solomon - not breathing.

(ii) We enter God’s house with Thanks.

1) 100 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. 2 Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 3 Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

2) If you are ruled by your emotions, you cannot make a joyful noise unless you “feel” joyful.

a) WE OFTEN don’t worship in expressive means, because we “feel” it isn’t authentic. But we are not meant to be lead by our feelings, because we are not children. We worship with exuberance, because God tells us to do so, and since we are the rulers of our bodies, and not ruled by it, we command our body to do so.

(3) 8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world.

(a) This is a pure depiction of the Gospel. This is why we don't primarily pray to other saints. We have direct access to communicate to the Father through Christ.

(i) Mary is not God, so she cannot hear all the prayers in the world at the same time. Jesus said John 14:14 - *if you ask anything in My name I will do it* - That's why we pray in Jesus name.

(ii) We have access to the Father through the son, this is a legal standing, it is the legal status that Paul will expound upon through the book.

(b) *All over the world. Then understood as the known/developed world. And a prophetic statement that the proclamation is in the process of extending to all of the world to all mankind, to saturate every culture.*

(i) Your faith is also proclaimed.

(4) 9 [I thank] God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you 10 in my prayers at all times;

(a) *In my spirit (or in my whole heart) - the word in the greek is pneuma – Pneuma spirit /air/ wind / essential being... This is the animate force of God inside us, this is why we can be thankful, because without this essential animation, we would not be. [This could be a good starter].*

(b) Your prayers are important. (Message by Bob Grimm. Starting the Year off with Prayer)

(i) God hears your prayers.

1) 1 John 5:14 says, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."

(ii) God answers prayers.

1) 1 John 3:21-22 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.

(iii) God remembers prayers.

- 1) And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. Rev 5:8 ESV

(5) and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.

(a) Who is in control of the Universe?

(6) 11 I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—

(a) *Spiritual Gifts.*

(b) *Imparted with differing tools on the journey. Teaching/Evangelism/Gifts of the Spirit/Wisdom/Administration.*

(7) 12 that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

(a) Faith is not solitary. Proverbs 18:1 -- A man who isolates himself seeks his own desires; he rages against all wise judgment.

(8) 13 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,^[d] that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles.

(a) Here again, I was prevented. Will of God.

(b) Harvest among YOU

(i) Not only salvation but also maturity, wisdom, etc.

(ii) Church has primarily been about salvation, we are also about maturity, wisdom, etc.

(9) 14 I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish.

(a) Treat all like Kings -

(b) Prophecy by David about jets and street corners.

(10) 15 That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.

- (a) Paul is eager to preach the Gospel. We should also be.
 - (i) Some bad hermeneutics will tell you, that Paul is just talking about Paul, and not about something we should do as well. That we should simply live our life, and hope our lights shine.
 - 1) We cannot be so arrogant in our escape.
 - 2) Let us proclaim the good news, in our social media, and in our real life.
 - 3) Let us meet strangers, and have leading convos. We have evangelism.
 - 4) Is the good news good?
- (11) 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes... first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.
 - (a) Be ashamed before my Father in heaven
 - (b) Jesus first came to the Jews, as did the Gospel, then to all nations with the Holy Spirit at Pentachaut.
- (12) 17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last,^[e] just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”
 - (a) In the Gospel - The RIGHTEOUSNESS of God is Revealed.
 - (b) Cite Scripture. First to last. From Abraham to us.
- (13) Vs 16-17 is the summary of the entire book of Romans.