

Read Romans 1:1-17
Introduction to Romans:

I want to thank you all for coming out this Sunday.

This is my first Sunday preaching as the Senior Pastor.

If you are new here, well so am I.

I believe the Lord has everyone in this sanctuary this Sunday for a reason.

He has a work for us to do.

A work that will bring Glory to His Great Name.

I know the Lord has been confirming in me, that He has a great plan for this church.

I would ask that all of you be praying a specific prayer for the ministry here.

Please pray for the Lord of the Harvest to raise up Laborers to go into His harvest.

Also pray for wisdom, for your Elders and pastor.

Also I don't know about you, but for me change is hard.

In fact, change is one of the hardest things we come across in this life.

But the Lord has brought change to Calvary Chapel Victorville, and would ask that you prepare your hearts for change.

Things are going to be done different, I love Pastor Chris and Cathy, but I am not Pastor Chris, and please do not expect things to be as they were.

I have sat for a month, and watched this ministry, and have been praying fervently on how to proceed from here.

Just know every decision being made has been prayed through.

Every change that is happening is going through the Elders that the Lord has blessed this church with.

But there will be changes ahead, don't be afraid of them.

We cannot put New Wine into Old Wine Skins.

We are experiencing New Beginnings, now that is not a bad thing.

I want to encourage you guys to join in the work here, don't just sit and watch.

Pray about where you can serve...

And please continue to give to God's Work here.

I will tell you why, we made a board decision to tithe of our income as a church body to missions, now your support of this ministry, will be reaching across the globe.

We are going to be supporting monthly James Nyka, in Sudan.

I know how important his ministry is to the body here, and you Elders.

Also we will begin supporting a church in Omsk, Siberia.

Pastor Max in Omsk is a dear friend. And I have seen God bless his faithfulness over the years.

I have seen the miraculous serving with him, we have cast out demons, and have had many adventures together.

Now Calvary Chapel in Russia, is considered a cult, it is monitored by the government, and looked down upon by the state sponsored Russian Orthodox, church, they will be counting on your prayers and support.

Also We will be supporting Pastor Hector in Ensenada, who everyone told him he was crazy to go to the area he did to start a church.

It is a church in an impoverished area, more like a trash dump than a community.

The Lord used the youth at Calvary Chapel Apple Valley to build his church, and last summer with our young adult group we built the children's ministry.

Pastor Hector now has a thriving church, he is making disciples, and hundreds of kids are being touch by Jesus through his ministry.

I posted both videos on our church page, with them introducing themselves to you all. Please befriend them, and pray for them.

Your giving will support also an orphanage just outside of Ensenada, called Casa De Paz, they house many special needs orphans, and when we plan these trips down to Mexico, when you come with us, this place is one that will affect you the most.

Most orphans in Mexico are not true orphans, the children are dropped off by their parents out of economic turmoil.

They cannot afford to feed and care for them.

So these poor children will tell you, every day they wake up expecting their parents to pick them up.

So you can imagine the older they get the harder their hearts become, as the realities of their lives set in.

They respond to the Love we bring them. Maybe you think you could never serve on the mission field, well if you can hug and embrace children you are qualified.

Many times the kids will not let you go, because they rarely feel human touch.

Lastly you will be supporting Joshua Fund, this ministry works throughout Israel, and ministers to not only the Jews, but will be feeding and reaching Arab Muslims.

We fulfill two things in supporting this ministry, the promises of the Blessings of those who bless Abraham's descendants, and we will be feeding our enemies, and be a part of an effort to reach Muslims for Christ.

So your investment into what happens here is crucial to the gospel going out.

Please get your passports now, so you are ready when God calls you to go!

So I keep getting the same question over and over again, "Pastor what is your vision for the Ministry."

Well it is simple. I love God's Word, I trust God's Word, I believe it is the most effective tool God has entrusted His church with.

So from the nursery up to this sanctuary, the Word of God will be honored.

The curriculum should be introduced by next week over there with the kids, we have servants working many hours to get the children's ministry going in this direction.

The Jr. High and Youth group, will be taught God's Word.

And in here, we will dig into His Word, verse by Verse.

Now if you want a light show, or a fog machine, or if you want your ears to be tickled there are many ministries down the street that can offer you those things.

But we will center all we do here on God's Word.

So, I know I am a stranger to most of you, I don't want to spend time talking about myself, in a lengthy introduction.

I want Jesus to be known here. I don't want you to come each week, for my funny jokes, or my hipster look. Or my dynamic personality.

Because I have none of these things. What I offer you as your pastor is the Word of God, no fluff.

If you have questions about me as a person, you can email me, or message me on Facebook.

This pulpit here will be set apart for the Holy Spirit to work in conjunction with His Holy Word, to minister to us each week.

So let's get into this book of Romans!

Let's Pray!

So a little background first.

Peter wrote this about Paul's writings:

2 Peter 3:15 - 18

— as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Now this letter is one of the clearest presentations of the Gospel.

But like in Peter's warnings, people have used bits and pieces of this writing to further their own ideologies.

But to learn this letter in context and in depth, it is life changing.

The book of Romans has been at the forefront of many moves of God throughout History.

[Martin Luther](#) described Paul's letter to the Romans as the "most important piece in the New Testament.

He says...

It is purest Gospel. It is well worth a Christian's while not only to memorize it word for word but also to occupy himself with it daily, as though it were the daily bread of the soul".^[32] [^ Martin Luther's Preface to the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans](#) cf. Luther's comments in his treatise on *The*

Adoration of the Sacrament (1523) in which he refers to the [words of institution](#) of the [Eucharist](#) as being "the sum and substance of the whole gospel". *Luther's Works*, American Edition, St. Louis and Philadelphia: [Concordia Publishing House](#) and Fortress (Muhlenberg) Press, [vol. 36 \(Word and Sacrament II \(1959\)\)](#)

Paul wrote this Letter to the Roman church from Corinth on his third missionary journey

Paul had not founded the Roman church, like many other of the churches in the New Testament

It was a church planted by the many people coming to Rome from all over.

Acts 2:10 shows us there were Romans at the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came and caused many signs and wonders.

There were probably many Romans that went home just on fire for the Lord.

Excited Christians came from all over the empire, to the capital, and started a church, maybe many home fellowships.

At this time Rome had a population of about one million people, being the largest city in the world.

Now as other New Testament Letters were focused on the Church and its problems, and challenges.

Romans is focused on God and His plan of redemption for us.

Paul's purposes in this Letter are first to prepare the Romans for his planned journey to Rome and later Spain.

Secondly he wanted to educate the Roman church so they would have an understanding of God's plan of Salvation for both Jews and Gentiles.

Maybe some of you are Christians, you know your saved, but you have tons of questions to how and why.

Well we will learn our faith in detail in this study.

Lastly, Paul wanted to encourage Jews and Gentiles to live in harmony.

The early church brought all kinds of different people and traditions together. Paul wanted to encourage unity between them.

We kind of can relate to this here in the US right?

We have so many different cultures, and even so many different Christian churches, we can kind of get the mindset, “well our way is the best” this is not very wise thinking, and this letter to the Romans addresses this kind of thinking.

So the plan is for us as a church to invite our skeptical friends, invite unbelievers if you are able.

Romans will answer many questions of the skeptics.

We will deal head on with our culture, and what the bible really says about the things we are dealing with daily.

This time every week will be for our learning and growth.

Something I welcome in our church is questions, ask me questions, email me, send a message on Facebook, schedule an appointment to come sit and discuss these doctrines.

The younger generation takes full advantage of this, there are weeks my Facebook is blown up with all kinds

of questions, I love it, because it means God's people are taking these things serious.

I will do my best to answer any question you have.

In these last days, this gospel we are about to learn is the answer.

Apologetics, or defending your faith, standing your ground, fighting to make your beliefs known, all of it is second to the Power of this Life changing Gospel.

So come, every week, and learn this fascinating ancient document.

So let's get to it

Rom 1:1

Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God

So here we have Paul introducing himself.

Paul formerly Saul has an interesting testimony

Well in Acts 8, we read he was there at Stephan the first martyr's death

Acts 8:1

Now Saul was consenting to his death.

At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

We also see in Acts 9

Acts 9:1-2

Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest **2** and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Then as we know, on his way to Damascus, he was met by Jesus, on the road, and then given his calling, or his mission.

He recalls what happened in Acts 26, as he explains it to King Agrippa:

Acts 26:12-18

12 "While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, **13** at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. **14** And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, '**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.**' **15** So I said,

'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. **16** But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. **17** I will deliver you from the *Jewish* people, as well as *from* the Gentiles, to whom I now* send you, **18** to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

So Paul has this life changing experience, and starts preaching the Gospel.

He had been doing so for about 20 years, when he wrote Romans.

So we have this man who at one point is zealous to destroy the work of God.

With a background of religious works, a circumcised Jew, trained up as a Pharisee, who lived righteously according to man's standards.

Now he is writing this letter to the Roman church, not just any letter; but probably the most descriptive of God's grace.

If God can use this man to bring forth the Gospel of grace, He can use any background.

So we have Paul a mighty man according to man's standards, humble himself to the title of bondservant.

Back when Paul was called, in Acts 9 in verse 6, on the Damascus road, He asked "Lord, what do You want me to do?"

Paul said Lord what do you want me to do? I am your slave tell me what to do.

It is something worth noting, that from the beginning Paul took the position as servant to his Lord Jesus, and here 20-30 years later in his ministry is still true to his calling.

Now I personally have kept a prayer journal for the last 13 years.

In fact my Ex-wife gave it to me on the day we parted ways, and from that broken state of mind, I begin a dialogue with the Lord.

I write in it from time to time.

In times past I have looked through this thing to try to find a day when I surrendered my life to the Lord.

Now there wasn't an exact day that I changed, or had a Damascus road encounter, but there is a time period where my writing starts to change.

For months and months I begged and pleaded with God to forgive me of my sins, to take my addictions, I felt like He didn't hear me, like I was doing it wrong.

I would ask Him, but I would give Him terms and conditions.

I asked Jesus in my heart so many times in so many ways, I always came to Him to help me.

I asked for Him to always do for me.

But my prayers started to change, over time.

One day I asked God what can I do for you? I want to be sold out to you.

I don't want to demand of you any more, what do you expect of me?

So that is when the changes started taking place in my life.

Jesus is not going to make you His slave; He will not force you to come to Him.

He gives us the option. Remember what He says to the Jews when He laments over Jerusalem

Luke 13:34

34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!

He didn't demand Jerusalem to Follow Him!!!!

He doesn't demand us to follow Him; He simply gives us the option.

We choose to be His Slave. We get to choose who we will serve.

So I encourage you if you feel like your prayers are not being heard, or God isn't hearing you, examine your prayers, are you coming to God as a Slave or a master looking for a genie in a bottle?

-In times past I have prayed to God to help my circumstances, at work, or life in general.

-“God this just isn't working out for me here, at this job, can you find me somewhere else to work?”

Instead I should be praying to My Master, “Lord what is it

You want me to accomplish at this job for your kingdom.”

I found this on Dictionary.com

Slave: **1.** a person who is the property of and wholly subject to another; a bond servant.

2. a person entirely under the domination of some influence or person:

When we are slaves, we don't worry about what we want or what we think should be happening,

Slaves usually go unnoticed, unappreciated, they have no rights or things owed to them.

We don't get to say "God you owe me this or that"

We want our guidance from our Master.

And if you are a good servant you don't have to be told anymore you just do it.

I know in the beginning of my walk this was a crucial point in my life, when God started using me.

~~I found this time period in my Journal, I often wonder when it was when I was saved...where my life changed, it seems it wasn't until I was willing to let go of control, and let God direct my steps. Here is a passage I found, if you don't mind.~~

~~I encourage you to keep a journal, it is a neat way to record answered prayers, and to look back on what God has done in your life.~~

~~Journal Passage.~~

~~“The Road”~~

~~Today was strange, not in a bad way. Me and Sweetpea took a drive to Don’s. The drive was always an anxious drive for me. I was always so excited to see my buddy Don. We usually chatted about work. Going up that Road I always was in a Hurry to get there. I knew he would always come through. He was the best of buddies, even when he was almost out he had just enough to share with me. This Long road, I was always over the speed limit 10 miles an hour. I usually couldn’t wait to see him and get it. Today was different, I had all the same excitement to see my buddy Don. But today It was to give him a bible, and tell him we love him. I do love him. I want to tell him when I get to heaven I want him there. I want to tell him God is there for him. I want to scream to him God’s love for him. Hurry Don don’t miss your chance. God loves you Don. Now Don. But instead me and my quiet wife tell him we saw this Bible, it looked perfect for you. We pray every day for you Don. God will speak through this. And we hugged and left.~~

~~What if it wasn’t enough? Jesus, should I have shouted at the top of my lungs, what if it wasn’t enough? Jesus Help him to find you in a way he can rebuke that demon(addiction) out of his life forever. I love you Jesus. Amen.~~

~~You see we were no longer asking God to do for us, we were being obedient to our master, this simple act was so hard to do, to face my dope dealer, someone who saw me doing horrible things for drugs, and now presenting him with the Gospel.~~

~~But it was worth it. Years later Don found Christ in a prison cell.~~

God changes our outlook on things. The way we see this world, if we like Paul, ask God how can I serve you?

I want to be about our Master's business.

So if there is something in your life you are trying to take control of, give it to our Master, and let Him guide you.

If you are trying to pray to God to have Him revolve this world around you, stop and ask Him "God, Master what can I do for your Kingdom."

Let's look at the next part of verse 1.

"called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God"

Paul is a special ambassador for the Lord, or messenger. That is what apostle means.

He is to bring the Gospel or Good News to the world.

The day He asked Jesus “what do You want me to Do?”

Jesus had a plan for His servant. Look what the Lord says to Ananias, concerning Paul.

Acts 9:15-16

15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

So Paul’s willingness to serve this King Jesus, gave him an important role.

Just think, how powerful, if we all came together, sold out for Jesus, and asked Him to use us to spread His message,

“Lord we are your slaves, Use Us!!!”

What has church become today? It seems as though it can be more of a social club.

A place we come to feel good about ourselves.

It would be very interesting if we came together, to hear from God about our mission at hand.

I wonder what would happen if we got back to making disciples of the nation's instead of planning teas and parties?

It takes us coming to God as His servant.

Paul also says here he is “separated to the Gospel of God.”

I know I am not a drug addict anymore, or a drunk, I am not a monster anymore.

-there are a lot of things I can say I am not, anymore.

-But the important thing, is that I am separated now to the Gospel of God.

- Separated means Paul is not a part of something else(the world), but he doesn't tell what that is. He tells us what he is separated to.
- We are separated from many things, but if it is not to Christ it is meaningless.

~~—You know AA meetings never leave the past, you don't ever separate yourself to anything, you are stuck with a disease forever.~~

- So our focus changes to Kingdom work, the things of God, being used of God, not the

things we don't do anymore, or on what we used to do.

- We need to draw people's thoughts to Christ, not to where we have been.
- So when we share our pasts, we need to always include Jesus, and the life changing Gospel.

Also take notice who's gospel Paul is taking, not his own, but God's.

We are not preaching our own message, but God's message.

God will change lives, when we stick to his message.

When we try to come up with our own formula, we let people down.

Look at Verse 2

Rom 1:2

2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,

Paul is bringing God's message that was from the Beginning.

Paul is not allowing us to throw away the Old Testament, the Law of Moses or the prophet's writings,

He is saying that Jesus is the fulfillment of them.

Martin Luther put it like this:

Here the door is thrown open wide for the understanding of the Holy Scriptures, that is, that every thing must be understood in relation to Christ, especially in the case of prophecy.

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It is not some new doctrine that Paul made up. It is the same message God has been trying to reach humankind with since the beginning.

The Good News was promised by God and was not a new religion made up by Paul or anyone else.

It was rooted in God's promises in the Old Testament to his people through his *prophets*.

The gospel that Paul preached was in perfect continuity with God's earlier words in the Scriptures to his people, Israel.

Both the Jews and Gentiles in the church of Rome needed to be reminded that the gospel is an ancient message of God's plan for his creation.

This was on Paul's mind and is a recurring theme throughout the letter.

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Remember what Jesus says.

Mark 13:31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

You see we do not have to be a little bit like the world, so we can attract people to Jesus.

We don't have to come up with clever ideas, or new strategies, we just need to present the Word of God, and let Him do the work.

He has been using the same Gospel for thousands of years.

He just needs a few obedient Bondservants to take on His awesome tasks of bringing people to Himself.

He wants us totally in His will, totally separated to Him, totally about Him.

Let's read on in Romans

Rom 1:3

3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,

We see Paul here referring now to the Divinity of Jesus, and also the humanity of Jesus.

We always separate the two for discussion or even teachings, but they go hand in hand.

Jesus was God, and man.

He was not like the Greek gods surrounded in Legend and stories, but instead we have Him in

flesh and blood recorded for us in history,
founder of the Christian faith,

In His humanity we see His identification with us,
and the perfect example for us to live by.

But in Christ's divinity we see his worthiness to
take our place in taking our punishment for sin,
and conquering death, and being forever at the
Father's Right hand in Glory.

He is and will always be the God-Man, our Lord
and Savior

He has to be both, for Him to be Messiah, and
able to take our sins

We see He is the seed of David; He had to come
from this line, if scripture was to be true.

In
2 Sam 7:12-16 God speaks through the prophet
Nathan to David

12 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest
with your fathers, I will set up your seed after
you, who will come from your body, and I will
establish his kingdom. **13** He shall build a house
for My name, and I will establish the throne of
his kingdom forever. **16** And your house
and your kingdom shall be established forever

before you. Your throne shall be established forever."

So we see the human lineage as promised to David, to be from David, but also in the next verse we see

4 *and* declared *to be* the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

We see Christ according to the Spirit of holiness, He was, is and always will be the Son of God, proven by His resurrection from the dead.

We see that Jesus' resurrection is crucial to our faith, without it we are hopelessly lost in our sins.

Look how many witnesses there were to see it, as Paul explains to the church of Corinth

1 Cor. 15:3-8

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. **6** After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. **7** After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. **8** Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

Just in our judicial system if we have 2 or 3 witnesses, this is enough evidence to hold up in court

And we have over 500 witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus.

Rest assured our King has risen.

Now verse 5

5 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,

Paul says here, We have received Grace.

If there is one word to describe Romans, it would be this word Grace. Unmerited favor, undeserved favor.

Grace means getting what we do not deserve, or something we did not earn.

It is His gift to us.

Do you ever catch yourself wondering if God is mad at you?

Or if He is going to stop blessing you because you fall short.

Sometimes when we mess up, we sit and dwell on it, and wonder what kind of blessing we stopped from entering our life.

This wouldn't be Grace. He has forgiven us, and forgotten about it, and wants to continue blessing us.

So I don't know if you ever sit and dwell on your mess ups, but if you do, they are smothered in His Grace.

So move on, get your eyes back on Jesus, and what He wants you to do for Him.

Maybe the only time the blessings stop coming is because we are not expecting them to come.

So just move on when you mess up, don't stay in your mistake too long, or it becomes rebellion, which is a different topic altogether, ask for forgiveness, and turn away, and move on.

The next thing Paul says is he has a responsibility to tell others about this Grace.

We have received Grace and apostleship...

Apostleship here is the Greek word= apostole

apostole (ap-os-tol-ay'); from the word apostello which means to send out on a mission, go forth.

So Paul has received the Grace and is to go out and proclaim it.

And not to just certain people either, he is to go to all the nations in obedience to the faith.

Look at the next verse.

Rom 1:6

6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul here is referring to those called of Jesus Christ, in Rome, the beloved of God, Saints.

Are you called of Jesus Christ; you are beloved of God, and a saint.

That is kind of neat; we are Saints, Saints are not someone who is exalted above everyone else.

We don't have a list of things to do before we become a saint.

We don't get prayed to when we die and go to heaven.

A Saint is someone who exalts Jesus above everything else.

So you are a Saint the day you ask Jesus to Live in your heart, and take control of your Life.

James Vernon McGee says you are either a Saint or an ain't, if you are a Saint, well, then you are not an ain't.

You are one or the other, no middle.

We are either chosen or not.

So we know we have the same duty, this Letter applies to us as well.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul always addresses his letters this way, Grace first then peace.

We cannot experience the Peace God offers, until we understand the Grace.

Maybe you struggle with this from time to time.

You find there is no Peace in your Life.

Maybe you start trying to please God, and doing Godly things, and I try to earn His Peace.

You know I struggled a long time trying to become a Christian, I couldn't make peace with God.

I tried, I would say things like I need to get better before I come to Christ, I need to prove to Him I am a good person, He could never take me the way I was.

It took a very special person to show me grace, for me to understand it, **explain early marriage with Jess. 18 yrs girl,**

She showed me what aged Christians couldn't explain to me.

She showed me grace, forgiveness, even though I didn't earn it or deserve it, she had all rights to leave me, to hate me, but she chose to forget about it and forgive me, because she had been forgiven so much.

It was then I realized there is no Peace in trying to Please God.

The Peace comes after we realize we can't earn it, it is given to us.

You know it is hard for our human nature to comprehend this grace....

It is something that is just driven into us from a young age, if we are good, we get dessert, or some kind of reward.

God knows we could never be good enough to earn His forgiveness, so He had to make it possible, only through His Son.

Isa 64:6

6 But we are all like an unclean *thing*,
And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags;
We all fade as a leaf,
And our iniquities, like the wind,
Have taken us away.

Describe, if led.

It is kind of insulting to God, He has given us this gift, and we say it is not enough, I don't want it till I earn it.

He has given us this awesome gift of Grace that Brings Peace to our souls.

What a thing to remind each other of.

When we fall short, it is nice to be reminded of Grace,
so then we can move on in His Good Work,

and not sit in self-pity and waste Life on not doing God's work.

So if you struggle with this unrest in your life, or know someone who does, remind them of this Gift from God.

Jessica was used by God in my life by her demonstration of Grace.

Is there someone in your life who needs a demonstration of Grace?

This is one of the greatest tenants of our faith, is forgiveness.

Show Grace at every opportunity you are given, in light of the great grace that was shown us.

This is the Gospel... make sure you present God's Grace when sharing your faith!

Next verse...

Rom 1:8

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

Paul never being present in Rome, still thanks God for the things he is hearing about Rome.

Their faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

Notice it is not their worship style that is being talked about, nor is it the style of the preacher.

The enormous budget, or beautiful church building.

It is this churches faith that is making waves.

Paul goes on to say

Rom 1:9-17

9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers, **10** making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you. **11** For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established – **12** that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

13 Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles. **14** I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. **15** So, as much as is in me, *I am* ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.

Paul calls God as his witness, that he prays fervently for this church, his example should motivate us to pray for believers elsewhere.

Maybe for our friends in Omsk, or the church in Ensenada, or the work in Sudan?

The neat thing about prayer is we can take part in God's work all over the place.

Explain- Maybe you cannot afford a passport or to go on a trip. You can go in prayer.

There you will be in heaven and that aborigine will come up to you and say thank, I am here because of you, "what" you will say, I have never been to Africa.

He will reply, remember that day you prayed in your prayer closet, well God heard, and here I am.

Pray is such a powerful tool.

Our intercessory prayer night, I know will be one of our most powerful nights here at Calvary Victorville.

Now Paul mentions he has planned on going to Rome, but not until now was he able to go.

But we see in Acts that he ends up going as a prisoner

Sometimes we know God is taking us somewhere, or leading us into a ministry, but we just don't know how it is possible.

It was hard for me to understand the burden I had for Victorville 3 years ago.

I knew the Lord was working in me, and I wondered often if He would call me here to this church.

Then I had no contact with anyone in the ministry here.

You know looking back, so many interesting things happened to me and Jess regarding being called here to Victorville.

One morning after I preached for my dad in Apple Valley, this woman I did not know came up to me, her name was Sharon.

She told me, you are going to preach in Victorville one day, or something along those lines.

I disregarded it quickly because I had my plans on what was going to happen with my life.

But something about that moment, I just knew it was meaningful, but could not explain it.

When me and Jess were selling our stuff to move to Livermore to take a church there, one of the Elders came to me and was so concerned.

He explained to me that God showed him we would be going to Victorville.

Again I disregarded this again, we were going up North to Livermore.

Then the door closed for that move.

And here I am, after all this time preaching my first Sunday message in Victorville.

The Lord had been showing me for years I would be here, I guess not until this moment did any of it make sense.

Paul knew too he would go to Rome, his agenda was to stop there on the way to Spain, but God did it another way.

And Rome would be Paul's final destination.

He also says here he is a debtor to Greeks and non-Greeks, to wise and unwise,

The wonderful thing about this Gospel message, is it goes across all barriers, and races, nationalities, social statuses.

All are welcome to hear, and choose.

So let's finish up with this...

The Just Live by Faith

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. **17** For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "*The just shall live by faith.*"

Paul encountered a similar ideology in Rome as we do these days, whatever you believe is good for you, if it produces good results you are fine.

It was a pluralistic culture.

There were all kinds of different religions and cultures in the Roman Empire,

But Paul had to set things straight early in this letter, that he was not ashamed of this gospel, it is the only truth, and the only way for salvation.

Not Long after I started preaching...

If led, tell Mark Pogue story, a warning from God.

James 3 then 2 Tim 4. In short the Lord told me through Mark, I called you to teach, take this serious, it is not a bunch of nonsense, you study My Word, and do not preach any other message then My own.

Do not teach to itching ears, but teach sound doctrine. The man told me if I was faithful to teach His Word, honestly and faithfully, the ministry would be fruitful.

This gospel is serious, it is not something to toy around with, or take lightly.

Presented properly, in truth, it is the power of God to save.

It has power, like a secret weapon or something, we have to handle it just right, and then stand back, and watch God move.

We need to take it as warning church; we have to rightly divide the Word of Truth

This is a powerful Gospel, when taught or shared accurately it is the power (dunamis) of God to save, to everyone who believes.

That means nobody is excluded, that means everyone is invited, anyone who believes Jesus is the Son of God and all that that entails, and He died for them, and was

raised up to Eternal Glory shall be justified before God by their faith.

May this be our goal and main purpose in life, to not be ashamed of Christ and His gospel?

Are you embarrassed about it; it takes guts to tell someone all roads do not lead to heaven, especially when everyone around you thinks so.

It takes courage to have to tell someone you are sinning, you need to repent, “you can’t live with your boyfriend outside of marriage”

“No, God does not look past homosexuality, He has a better life for you”

“getting drunk to wind down from the week is not ok”

“smoking a joint is not ok”

“Pornography is adultery”

These things are hard to say, but without them knowing it is separating them from God.... how can they be freed?

How can they be saved from dying in their sins?

A few years ago, my father had a heart event, that turned out to be 3 clogged arteries, and they had to cut his chest open to operate.

Now what if the doctor approached my dad's heart problem, the way we approach sin.

You have three clogged arteries ha ha, LOL, but its ok, we don't need to take any immediate action, I know it will be agonizing

It is a trying ordeal to have to cut you open, it will be very painful and very uncomfortable, you know we don't need to address it if you don't want to, I know you are pretty comfortable living the way you live, you have a schedule to keep, it is fine.

My dad would eventually have had a heart attack and died.

Sin will be uncomfortable to talk about; it will be hard to tell the lost they will go to hell if they don't turn from it.

It might be horrible timing, it might cause pain and be uncomfortable. But they will die in their sins, not knowing this powerful gospel.

We need to present it accurately, not sugar coated, because as we will get into next Sunday, we will see the wrath of God is revealed.

It is very real and rarely talked about, but as we travel through the book of Romans we come across it.

How could you fully understand grace without understanding what we are saved from?

The wrath of God is real, there is only one way to be at peace with God, and it is through His Son, so do not leave here this morning without knowing Him, and putting your faith in Him.

The Gospel is the Power of God to Salvation Church, share it this week with your co-workers, with your family and friends.

Trust it's message, test this verse out. And watch how God changes lives!

Amen?