

“The Gospel Of God”
Romans 1:1-4

Introduction:

1. Please Turn With Me In Your Bibles This Morning:
 - To The New Testament Book Of Romans:
 - As We Begin Today:
 - A Series Through - What Has Been Described As:
 - “One Of The Most Profound Books In Existence!” (Allen Ross)
 - The Great German Reformer:
 - Martin Luther - Once Said This About Paul’s Letter:
 - To The Roman Church - “This Epistle Is Really The Chief Part Of The New Testament And The Very Purest Gospel, And Is Worthy Not Only That Every Christian Should Know It Word For Word, By Heart, But Occupy Himself With It Every Day, As The Daily Bread Of The Soul! It Can Never Be Read Or Pondered Too Much, And The More It Is Dealt With The More Precious It Becomes, And The Better It Tastes!”
2. And - I Believe - As We Work Our Way Through This Letter:
 - We Will Find His Words:
 - To Reflect Our Own Feelings:
 - Of This Inspired Book!
 - And The Main Reason For This Is Because:
 - The Book Of Romans:
 - Is All About The Essence:
 - Of Christianity Itself!
 - The Gospel! Used 10 Times!
 - The Good News Of Jesus Christ!
3. Now - As We’ve Seen Recently:
 - In The Book Of Acts - On Sunday Nights:
 - The Apostle Paul Was Not One:
 - To Beat Around The Bush!
 - He Was Usually Very Direct & To The Point!
 - Well - He Is No Different Here:
 - In Romans! Because - Right Up Front:
 - In The First Few Verses - He Gives:
 - The Essence Of The Christian Faith:
 - In His Initial Greeting & Salutation!
 - And He Writes - To A Church:
 - He Had Not Yet Met:
 - In A City:
 - He Had Not Yet Visited:
 - About What United Them As The Citizens Of Heaven!
4. The Gospel Of God!
 - Which We Find In 1:1-7:
 - “Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, / (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) / Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; / And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: / By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: / Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ: / To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ!”
 - Now - We Are Going To Only Get Through:
 - The First 4 Verses Of This Introduction!
 - But - Even Through These - We Will See:
 - What We Need To Know & Believe & Live! According To:
 - The Essence Of The Gospel!
5. Now - That Word - “Essence” - Has Become:
 - A Rather Popular & Familiar Word!
 - As People Have Become Enamored With Something Called:

- “Essential Oils!”
 - Maybe They Are Something You’ve Used Yourself!
 - Well - They’ve Become Something:
 - Of A Rage!
 - And - Depending On The Essential Oils You Use:
 - They Say You Can Have:
 - A Healthier Mind, Healthier Skin, A Healthier Heart, Eyes, Etc!
 - Those Are Some Claims!
 - Didn’t They Use To Call It:
 - “Snake Oil” - Back In The Day?
 - Just Kidding! Certainly Oils & Medicines:
 - Have Their Use & Place!
 - But - All An Essential Oil Is:
 - A Naturally Occurring Oil That Has Been Distilled Into A Concentrated Form!
 - And - *Sometimes* Those Oils May Help!
 - Other Times & For Other People:
 - They May Not!
6. Well - In The First Seven Verses Of Romans:
- This Is What The Apostle Paul Does For Us!
 - He Distills Christianity Down:
 - Into It’s Concentrated Essence:
 - 1:1 - “The Gospel Of God!”
 - And This Essence:
 - Is The Only Essence:
 - That Can Live Up To Its Every Claim:
 - For Those Who Believe!
 - And So - In The Very First Verse:
 - Paul Almost Immediately Turns The Focus Off Of Himself:
 - To The Subject At Hand!
 - The Gospel - Which Means:
 - The Good News!

7. Now - What Makes The News:

 - That He’s About To Describe:
 - So Good? Because - It Deals With:
 - Every Part Of Your Life!
 - The Gospel Is Good:
 - Because - Through It:
 - You Can Receive Remission & Forgiveness:
 - From Your Past & Your Sin!
 - The Gospel Is Good:
 - Because - Through It:
 - You Can Receive Restoration:
 - In Your Position & Relationship With God!
 - The Gospel Is Good:
 - Because - Through It:
 - You Can Receive Renovation:
 - In Your Present Life & Heart! And:
 - The Gospel Is Good:
 - Because - Through It:
 - You Can Experience - One Day - Your Own Resurrection:
 - From The Dead!
 - And That Is Why:
 - You Can & Should:
 - Believe In & Rely On The Essence:
 - Of The “Gospel Of God!”
 - And So - Paul First Reminds That Roman Church & Us Of:

1. *The Grace Of The Gospel!*

- Grace Is The Essence Of The Gospel!
 - And The Grace That Paul Describes For Us In 1:1:
 - Is The Undeserved & Unmerited Favor & Blessing:
 - Of God Upon Him!
- 1:1 - "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God!"
 - **IE:** Now - I Think We All Like "Object Lessons!" Sometimes It Is Easier To Learn When You See Something Done! YouTube!
 - Through These Words - Paul Uses His Own Life:
 - As An "Object Illustration":
 - Of What The Gospel Can Do!
 - And So - He Briefly Summarizes His Life Of Grace:
 - In Reverse Order!
 - Because - He Briefly Explains How He Was:
 - Changed By God's Grace!
 - He Was Changed By God's Grace:
 - Into - "A Servant Of Jesus Christ!"
 - Now - This Was Significant For Paul!
 - Because - Before He Met Jesus:
 - On The Road To Damascus:
 - He Thought He Was Doing:
 - The Service Of God - By Pursuing & Persecuting The Early Church!
 - He Felt Like He Was One:
 - In A Long Line Of Godly Servants:
 - Including Abraham & Moses & David!
 - But - In Truth - He Was A Servant & A Slave:
 - To His Own Flesh & To His Own Sin!
 - Though He Carried Chains Of Iron To Bind The Hands Of Christians:
 - His Heart Was Bound With Stronger Chains Than Those!
 - According To His Own Testimony:
 - Acts 26:9 - "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things *contrary* to the name of Jesus of Nazareth!"
 - But - When He Met Jesus:
 - And Believed On Jesus:
 - He Was Set Free & Became:
 - A "Servant Of Jesus Christ!"
 - What A Change!
 - He Had A New Master! And Now:
 - He Had A New Mission!
 - But - How Did All This Happen?
 - It Was Because - Before He Was Changed, He Was:
 - Called – Called By God's Grace!
 - He Says Again In 1:1 - That He Was "Called To Be An Apostle!"
 - Now - The Word "Apostle" - Simply Means:
 - A Person Who Has Been Sent:
 - On A Special Mission With A Special Message!
 - But - Paul Was Called By Jesus:
 - To Be An "Apostle" In "The Richest Sense Of The Term!" (H)
 - This Was Not Something Paul Was Looking For! It Was Something Jesus Called Him To!
 - And So - Jesus Himself Qualified Paul:
 - For His Mission! Like The Other 12 Apostles Before Him - Jesus - Personally:
 - Selected Paul!
 - Showed Himself To Paul!
 - Schooled Paul! And Then:
 - Sent Paul!
 - And It Became - For Paul - The Greatest Privilege:
 - In All The World - To Be:
 - "A Preacher, And An Apostle, And A Teacher Of The Gentiles!" (2 Timothy 1:11)

- But - How Did His Call Even Happen?
 - It Was Because Paul Had Already Been:
- Chosen By God's Grace!
 - In 1:1 - Paul Even Traces His Life In Christ:
 - All The Way Back To The Very Beginning!
 - To When He Was - "Separated Unto The Gospel Of God!"
 - To Be "Separated Unto" Something Means:
 - To Be Set Apart & Chosen! **IE:** How We Got Willow - Who Most Of You Have Met!
 - This Was Something Done **To** Paul:
 - **By** The Lord - Before Paul Ever Met Jesus!
 - Paul Describes This Further In:
 - Galatians 1:15-16 - "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, / To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood!"
 - God Chose & Set Paul Apart:
 - Not Just For The Service Of The Gospel!
 - But - First & Foremost - To Be **Saved:**
 - By The Gospel! God Chose & Set Paul Apart To Experience The Gospel / Good News Of God For Himself By Faith!
- And Isn't This - What God Has Done For You:
 - If You Are His Child This Morning?
 - If You Are Trusting In Jesus As Your Savior?
 - Paul's Testimony Is An "Object Lesson" Of Your Own Testimony!
 - You Too - If You Are Saved:
 - Were Chosen & Called & Changed:
 - By The Essential Oil Of God's Own Grace:
 - Through The Gospel!
 - And His Grace:
 - Is Absolutely Stunning! Amazing!
 - Stunning To Sinners Like Paul & To Sinners Like Us!
 - Never Get Over:
 - What God Has Done For You!
 - And - Give Him All The Glory!
 - After All, It Is **His** Gospel, Isn't It? It Is The "Gospel Of God!"
 - It Is **God:**
 - Who "So Loved The World!"
 - It Is **God:**
 - Who "Gave His Only Begotten Son!"
 - And - It Is **God:**
 - Who "Will Redeem [Your] Soul From The Power Of The Grave!" (Psalm 49:15)
 - But Then - Second - Paul Also Reminds Us Of:

2. ***The Ground Of The Gospel!***

- That Is - What Makes The Message Of The Gospel So Reliable!
 - **IE:** In Venice - Learned That Not Only Is The Water Rising, But The City Is Sinking - The City & Its Magnificent Buildings Were Built In A Marshy Lagoon On Wooden Pylons Embedded In The Mud - Not Solid Ground - Not Bedrock!
 - Paul Wants The Romans & All Christians To Know That The "Gospel" Is Reliable & Is Grounded In The Firm Bedrock Of God's Own Word!
 - And We See This In:
 - 1:2 - "Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures!"
 - So - The Ground Of The Gospel Is - First & Foremost:
 - The Promises Of God!
 - It Is Something:
 - "He Had Promised Afore!"
 - Over & Over Again In The Old Testament God Makes Promises To His People!
 - And God Remains Committed To His Promises:
 - Even When His People Reject Him:

- And Break His Laws & Covenants!
- One Of These Promises We Find In:
 - Jeremiah 31:33-34 - “But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. / And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more!”
- The Promises Of God Reveal:
 - The Ultimate **Target** Of God’s Plan!
 - Forgiveness & Salvation From Sin!
 - And - Whatever God Promises:
 - “He [Is] Able Also To Perform!” (4:21)
- But - How Did God Give Us His Promises? Through:
- The Prophets Of God!
 - 1:2 - “By His Prophets!”
 - The True Prophets Of God:
 - Were Inspired By God - To Give Us His Promises!
 - 2 Peter 1:21 - “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost!” - And So:
 - The True Prophets Of God:
 - Where Instruments Of God! So:
 - He Used - Not Just Any Prophet:
 - But Faithful Prophets! And Chosen Prophets!
 - Like Jeremiah - Jeremiah 1:4-5 - “Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, / Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations!”
 - Jeremiah’s Testimony Sounds A Lot Like Paul’s Testimony, Doesn’t It! (Galatians 1:15)
 - He Used Not Just One Prophet:
 - But Many Prophets! (Plural)
 - Not Just At One Time:
 - But At Various Times! (Hebrews 1:1)
 - Not Just In One Place:
 - But In Several Places!
 - And All These Prophets Confirm:
 - The **Truth** Of God’s Plan & Promises!
 - And You Can Rely On Them!
 - But - Where Do You Find God’s Promises? Through:
- The Publication Of God!
 - 1:2 - “In The Holy Scriptures!”
 - Here - Paul Is Especially Referring To:
 - The Old Testament Scriptures!
 - Which - Not Only Have Been:
 - Preserved For Us - But They Also:
 - Prove To Us - The **Trustworthiness**:
 - Of God’s Plan & Promises!
 - One Of Paul’s Goals In Romans:
 - Is To Show That The Gospel:
 - Is Rooted In The Old Testament!
 - And That Is Why He Quotes From The Old Testament 57 Times In Romans!
 - This Is What Jesus Did:
 - With His Disciples - After His Resurrection:
 - On The Road To Emmaus - Luke 24:27 - “And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself!”
 - And - This Is What Paul Would Do:
 - Later - When He Finally Makes It To Rome:
 - Acts 28:23 - “To whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets!”

- The Old Adage Is True:
 - The Old Testament Is But The New Concealed!
 - The New Testament Is But The Old Revealed!
- And This Is Why You Can “Believe The Gospel!”
 - Because Of The Essential Oil:
 - Of God’s Reliable Word!
 - The Ground Of The Gospel:
 - Is Sound! And - It Is Sure!
 - It Is Bedrock - Upon Which Your Faith & Life Can Rest!
 - As We Will Sing Later - “How Firm A Foundation, Ye Saints Of The Lord, Is Laid For Your Faith In His Excellent Word!”
 - So - Yes - The Essence Of The Gospel:
 - Is The Grace Of God & The Ground Of His Word! But - Then Paul Adds:

3. *The Glory Of The Gospel!*

- Because - This Is What The “Gospel Of God” Is Really All About:
 - “His Son” - Which We Find In 1:3-4:
 - “Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; / And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead!”
 - The Good News Of God Is Made Possible By:
- The Arrival Of His Son!
 - Which Paul Describes For Us In 1:3:
 - Who Was - “Made Of The Seed Of David According To The Flesh!”
 - Isn’t This One Of God’s Special Promises:
 - That We Find In His Word?
 - That “According To The Flesh” - The Hope Of Israel & The Hope Of The World Would Come Through:
 - The Line Of King David?
 - 2 Samuel 7:12-14 - Is Just One Prophecy Of Many:
 - “And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. / He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. / I will be his father, and he shall be my son!”
 - And This Promise Was Fulfilled:
 - When Jesus - The Son Of David:
 - Was Born Into This World To The Virgin Mary! But His Glory Was Concealed! He Came In Great Humility!
 - But - How Did People See His Humility?
 - Isaiah 53:2 - “He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him!”
 - And So - The Good News Of God Was Further Revealed Through:
- The Affirmation Of His Son!
 - Which Paul Describes For Us In 1:4:
 - Who Was - “Declared To Be The Son Of God With Power According To The Spirit Of Holiness, By The Resurrection From The Dead!”
 - Isn’t This Also One Of God’s Special Promises:
 - That We Find In His Word?
 - That “According To The Spirit Of Holiness” - The Hope Of Israel & The Hope Of The World Would Come:
 - As The “Son Of God!”
 - This Title - “Son Of God” - Was Held By The Jews:
 - To Be A Divine Title!
 - When Jesus Said “That God Was His Father” - In John 15:8 - We Are Told That - “The Jews Sought More To Kill Him” - Because He Was - “Making Himself Equal With God!”
 - And Yet - This Is What God Promised His Son Would Be!
 - Isaiah 7:14 - “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel!” - Which Means - “God With Us!”

- Isaiah 9:6 - "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given – and his name shall be called – [Among Others] The mighty God!"
- And These Promises Were Proven Fulfilled:
 - When Jesus - The Son Of God / God The Son:
 - Lived His Life In Complete Holiness!
 - As Well As - 1:4 - "By The Resurrection Of The Dead!"
 - And When This Took Place:
 - The **Concealed** Glory Of The Son Was **Revealed!**
- The Resurrection Of Jesus From The Dead:
 - And Even His Power To Raise Others:
 - From The Dead - Provides All The Evidence And Proof We Need:
 - That Jesus Came As Both:
 - The Son Of David According To His Human Nature & As The Son Of God According To His Divine Nature!
 - He Is God & He Is Man & Is The Only One Who Can Bridge The "Mighty Gulf" Between God & Man!
- And This Is What Leads Paul To:
- The Acceptance Of His Son!
 - Because - In Paul's Original Letter - He Identifies The Son:
 - Not At The Beginning Of 1:3 - Like It Is In Our Translations:
 - But - At The Very End Of 1:4:
 - For Emphasis & Dramatic Effect!
 - This Son! God's Son!
 - Is None Other Than:
 - "Jesus Christ Our Lord!"
 - As The Son Of David:
 - He Is The Only One:
 - Who Can Fulfill:
 - God's Promises - Found All Throughout The Holy Scriptures!
 - And - As The Son Of God:
 - He Is The Only One:
 - Who Can Forgive:
 - Your Sin! As The Unbelieving Jews Understood In Mark 2:7 - "Who Can Forgive Sins But God Only?"
 - But Jesus Could! And Did!
- And So - The Jesus Christ Himself:
 - **Is** The "Essential Oil" Of The Gospel!
 - **He Is** The "Balm Of Gilead"
 - **He Is** The "Great Physician!"
 - And You Can Trust Him:
 - Because As The Glorious Essence Of Gospel:
 - For He Alone Can Save!

Conclusion:

1. You Know - There All Kinds Of:
 - Ointments & Oils Out There:
 - That Make Great Claims:
 - About Treating All Kinds Of Problems:
 - That We Have In Our Lives!
 - Physical Problems:
 - Mental Problems:
 - Emotional Problems:
 - And Even Spiritual Problems!
2. But There Is Only One Treatment:
 - That Is True To Its Claim & Its Promise!
 - The Essential Oil Of The Gospel!
 - It Alone Can Heal The Weary Soul:
 - And - In Time - In Heaven - Heal All Of The Rest Of Those Problems Too!

- This Is Why Jesus Himself Said:
 - Matthew 28:28-30 - “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. / Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. / For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light!”
- 3. This Is What Makes The Gospel:
 - Such Good News!
 - The Grace That You Find In The Gospel:
 - Is Stunning!
 - The Ground Of The Gospel:
 - Is Sure!
 - And - The Glory Of The Gospel:
 - Is Saving!
- 4. So - Do Not Rely On:
 - And To Not Rest In:
 - Any Other “Gospel” Or “Good News”:
 - Whatever Form It May Take:
 - For The Health Of Your Soul!
 - Rely On & Rest In:
 - The “Essential Oil” Of The Gospel Of God!
 - Jesus Came To Give Unto Us:
 - “The Oil Of Joy For Mourning!” (Isaiah 61:3)
 - And - He Is The Only One:
 - That Can & Forever Will:
 - Live Up To His Promise!

* What “Good News” Are You Trusting In Today?

* Is Jesus The “Essential Oil” For Your Weary Soul?

* Have You Forgotten About The Grace Of The God In The Gospel - To Choose You, To Call You, And To Change You Into His Servant?

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