

Romans 1:1-7 – The Gospel: Promised, Procured, and Potent

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Rienecker, Handfuls, Steele, Vincent, Trapp, Geneva, Family, Godet, JFB, Clarke, Henry, Robertson, Gray, de Koning, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus: If you understand the Epistle to the Romans, you can understand the rest of the Scriptures. **Every part of the Scripture points forward to it or back to it.** It is the **best systematic theology in human history.** It is the **foundation of all Christian life and doctrine** (salvation, sanctification, service). It is often referred to as **the greatest book** in the Bible, the **richest book** in the Bible, and **the most important book** in the Bible. It covers the **spectrum of the entire human existence and purpose.** I use all these superlatives on purpose.

The first part of Romans deals with how you are saved-justified. **We'll begin by looking at the means of justification, the Gospel.**

Our headings are:

The Gospel: Promised

The Gospel: Provided

The Gospel: Potent

Our goals are: **That you will see that human existence means nothing without the Gospel and without it you would never know your sin, how you are set free from your sins, and how you are to serve the living God who freed you from your sins.**

The Gospel: Promised

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

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

1. The Epistle to the Romans was written by Apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit while he was in Corinth, on his 3rd missionary journey there.

a. Apostle Paul said he was a bondservant of Christ. He meant he belonged to Christ. He was nothing of himself. He even used the Greek version of his name to show he was not interested in being known after the first, tall, and handsome king of Israel - Saul. He wanted to be called "little," or Paul.

1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

But Apostle Paul did not see serving the Lord as servitude. Rather, he saw serving God as an **expression of his gratitude!**

1 Corinthians 7:22 For **he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord's freedman...**

Galatians 4:7...you are **no longer a slave but a son**, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

1 Corinthians 6: 20 For **you were bought at a price;** therefore **glorify God** in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Peter 1: 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

b. Apostle Paul, one of the redeemed, was appointed apostle. He was directly called by Christ to speak on his behalf. It was therefore incumbent on the Roman Christians to listen. (He had not visited Rome as yet so they did not know him personally.)

c. Apostle Paul was separated (to preach the Gospel). He did not take up this position by himself.

2. This Gospel Apostle Paul preached was not new but was promised in the Old Testament many, many times.

It was not some new idea he concocted like ideas were in the Greek and Roman world.

That same Gospel from the Old Testament Gospel had not changed. The same "Sun of Righteousness" was still shining. Malachi 4. Hebrews confirmed it was the same Gospel! Here is a snippet.

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

3. So what is the Gospel that was promised that Apostle Paul proclaimed?

It was the good news of how man can be saved by a holy God through the Word of his holy Son, with the inward working of the Holy Spirit – considering that man was hopelessly lost in sin.

4. Lessons:

a. Do you see yourself as a servant of Christ? If you are a Christian, you are a servant! **This must guide how you live.** This goes against individualism of our day, but you must realize the price of your salvation! You belong to Christ. **Don't see it as slavery, but see it as an expression of your love.** After all, though you are a servant, your Master truly loves you.

b. Servants are expected to speak of the wonder of their Master! If you don't do it directly, you must support and pray for those who do. This is the most important thing you can and must do for him. **Speak of the Gospel and its power by your word and your life.**

c. This Gospel has never changed from Genesis 3 to the end of the age. It can't change. If it changed, then there are two or more ways to be saved, but Jesus said he is the only way!

The Gospel: Provided

3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was **born of the seed of David** according to the flesh, 4 and **declared to be the Son of God** with **power** according to the **Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.**

1. This Gospel was provided in and through Jesus Christ.

For God so loved the world... So the Gospel wasn't just a promise, like men make promises and fail to live up to them. This promise was fulfilled.

Acts 17:31 "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. **He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.**"

2. Jesus met all the conditions required by the Gospel.

a. He had to be man – so he was from the seed of David from his mother's and father's sides. Man sinned so man had to die.

2 Samuel 7:12 "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.

The **prophecies showed Divine guidance and control** of the one who would come to do this great work.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

b. He had to be God and declared so – so that he would be great enough to die for the sins of the world.

Colossians 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

Jesus laid down his life and took it up again. This power is set in opposition to the weakness of the flesh – the weakness of humanity. **Jesus himself confirmed he would be buried like Jonah and be raised triumphantly!** Mt 12:39-40.

The Spirit of holiness raised him from the dead and confirmed by testimony that Jesus was raised from the dead. It wasn't power from the Devil. The Devil did not want Jesus to be raised from the dead.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but **made alive by the Spirit,**

The Father confirmed he raised Jesus from the dead.

Ephesians 1:20 which He worked in Christ **when He raised Him from the dead** and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

3. Lessons:

a. This Gospel was not just that Jesus lived and died for sinners; the Gospel demands that he be raised from the dead for you! And he was!

b. The Gospel guaranteed you would have eternal life -beginning now, and enjoyed in fullness in heaven!

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, **that He might bring us to God...**

The Gospel: Potent

5 Through Him we have **received grace and apostleship** for **obedience to the faith** among **all nations** for His name, 6 among whom **you also are the called of Jesus Christ;**

1. Christians received grace (and apostleship in some cases) on account of the work of Jesus Christ.

Even in the midst of apostles being tortured and killed, Apostle Paul saw it as a privilege to be an apostle and took the risk! Why? He knew he was a means of saving souls from hell.

2. This grace was so effective, it caused people to be able to obey God – something a pagan cannot do.

"Obedience of faith is **the obedience which characterizes and proceeds from faith.**"

Matthew 17:5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

This is ***man's response to the Gospel.***

Psalms 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

Simply: Men, through faith, are able to obey God.

3. This grace through the Gospel was so effective, it caused blessings to all the nations.

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.**

4. Apostle Paul then greeted those who were God's children, the beloved of God and saints.

This was not just peace with God the Apostle Paul wished for, but for peace in all things in this world.

Colossians 1:20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

"Beloved," a term of endearment, was used to describe affection for one's wife, so this showed God's love for his church.

5. Apostle Paul greeted them with the knowledge of what they had from God the Father through Jesus.

In doing this he **asserts the unity and equality of the Godhead!** Jesus is listed jointly with the Father.

6. Lessons:

a. There is none other through whom man receives grace and peace. None other has anything to give that can remove sins and give men the hope of heaven. There is none other who can give one calm in a warring world.

b. There are no great blessings than grace and peace! Grace and peace come in your mind and soul!

c. God's Gospel which brings grace and peace is promised to the nations. You are from those nations. Rejoice.

Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, and **on earth peace, goodwill toward men!**"

d. God's Gospel must go to other nations. Take it to the nations or send it to the nations!

e. You don't have to wait to die to become a saint, as Roman Catholics believe. You are a saint because of the powerful working of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You are royal priesthood! Potent stuff!

Conclusion:

There is one Gospel that was promised to Adam. It was procured in Jesus Christ. And it is potent – so potent it brings blessings to the whole world.

Beloved in the Lord:

1. If you want revival in the church of Jesus Christ for the glory of God, start with understanding the Epistle to the Romans, live it, and promote it. This was what brought the Reformation!

2. If you struggle with peace in your life, go back and remind yourself of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

3. Tell others so they can know of this peace through this Gospel. Too many are trying drugs, pleasures, wealth, high positions, marriage, power, and every else in order to get peace...but they lack the true source. You have it. Share it.

Finally: If you want peace with God, who also gives you peace in your heart now, receive the Gospel of Jesus and cry out to him for that. That Gospel reminds you that Jesus died on the cross for your sins!