

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 8-23-09 PM NOTES  
"THE GOSPEL OF GOD"  
ROMANS 1:1  
#1 in Series, "Verse by Verse Through Romans"

**INTRODUCTION**

"Christianity has been the most powerful, transforming force in human history—and the book of Romans is the most basic, most comprehensive statement of true Christianity."

—James Montgomery Boice

"This epistle is in truth the most important document in the New Testament, the gospel in its purest expression. Not only is it well worth a Christian's while to know it word for word by heart, but also to meditate on it day by day. It is the soul's daily bread, and can never be read too often, or studied too much. The more you probe into it the more precious it becomes, and the better its flavour."

—Martin Luther

"I think that the epistle to the Romans is the most profound work in existence."

—Samuel Coleridge

"The Reformation was certainly the work of the epistle to the Romans and that to the Galatians, and it is probable that every great spiritual renovation in the church will always be linked, both in cause and effect, to a deeper knowledge of this book."

—Godet

**OVERVIEW**

Romans 1-11 – Foundational doctrine

Romans 12-16 – Practice that flows from the doctrine

**Romans 12:1 (NKJV)** "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.*"

Romans 1:1-17 – Introduction

Romans 1:18-3:20 – Our desperate need for the mercies of God

Romans 3:21-11:36 – The mercies of God

I. The Messenger (vv. 1a,b)

A. A Bondservant (v. 1a)

**1 Corinthians 6:19b-20 (NKJV)** <sup>19</sup> "...you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

**Romans 6:17-18 (NKJV)** <sup>17</sup> But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. <sup>18</sup> And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness."

"True faith as it casts itself into Christ's arms to embrace Him, so it casts itself at Christ's feet to serve Him."

—Thomas Watson

## B. An Apostle (v. 1b)

“Apostle” is used in a general sense of one sent with a message (Acts 14:14; 1 Corinthians 4:6,9 ; Philippians 2:25; 1 Thessalonians 2:6). The word is also used in a specific sense as an office in the 1<sup>st</sup>-century church.

Requirements for an Apostle:

### 1. An Apostle Must Be an Eyewitness of the Resurrection

**Acts 1:22b (NKJV)** “...one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

**1 Corinthians 9:1a (NKJV)** “Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord?”

### 2. An Apostle Must Be Called by God

**Acts 9:15b (NKJV)** “...he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.”

### 3. An Apostle’s Ministry and Message Was Confirmed by Signs and Miracles and Much Fruit

**2 Corinthians 12:12 (NKJV)** “Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.”

### 4. An Apostle Spoke With the Authority of God

## II. The Message (v. 1c)

**Galatians 1:11-12 (NKJV)** “<sup>11</sup> But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. <sup>12</sup> For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught *it*, but *it came* through the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

**Romans 3:20 (NKJV)** “Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.”