

Romans 1:1-17
“The Man, His Message and Motivation”
4/11/12

Introduction

- Alright – the book of Romans here we go
 - I am so excited to study this book with you on Wednesday Nights and the Weekend services that I have the privilege to share with you
- I am excited to study this book together, because I am certain that no other book of the Bible has had a greater impact on church history than the book of Romans

The man who would go on to be known as Saint Augustine as a younger man was in deep despair over his sin, and his deep bondage to sin, he wondered if he ever would be free

- he would record later that he heard a young boy saying in Latin, take up and read, take up and read, and before him was a scroll with the book of Romans which he did just that – He took up and read
 - and before he was done reading Saint Augustine had surrendered his life to the Lord and would become one of the foremost theologians the church has ever known
 - and it all started for him with the book of Romans

Year later a young monk by the name of Martin Luther was having some of the same struggles – not feeling like he ever measured up to what the Lord wanted of him

- he was climbing up the Lateran staircase in Rome, doing it to make the Lord proud of him when verses from the first chapter of Romans – the just shall live by faith – kept ringing in his mind

Martin Luther realized it is not me working my way to righteousness, but believing and receiving righteousness by faith

- the work that begun with Romans chapter one in Martin Luther’s life started the protestant reformation and of course every non catholic demonization in the world today is the a result of the fruit of Romans chapter 1

John Wesley, a minister who was sent to America to minister to the American Indians but wrote in his journal, but who will save me

- wrote later that as he was reading Martin Luther’s commentary on the book of Romans he felt his heart strangely warmed
 - he was radically transformed by the book of Romans and the revivals that God brought through John Wesley’s life changed church history, again because of the book of Romans

And even in our own movement of Calvary Chapel – the book of Romans was one the first books the Pastor Chuck taught chapter by chapter verse by verse to the church there in Costa Mesa

- and he writes in his book Harvest, I John was the first book then Romans and by the time we had finished Romans our church had doubled in size
 - God uses the book of Romans to transforms lives

Now one of the things that makes this book distinct and different from the other books of the Bible that we all known are amazing as well is the reason this book was written

- it is very different than most New Testament letters that Paul wrote

Most of the letters he wrote such as Ephesians, Corinthians, Galatians, were letter written to churches he had pastored

- He as aware with the particular challenges they were facing by either first hand knowledge or because of friends who in the church currently
 - And Paul would write to correct and encourage the believers in specific and particular issues
 - But Romans is different

Most Bible scholars believe that Paul wrote the book of Romans while he was ministering in the Greek city of Corinth, during his third missionary journey

- while ministering there a co-laborer of Paul's, a lady by the name of Phoebe arrived in Corinth
 - she was heading to Rome to minister to the group of the believers in that capital city there
 - And Paul decided to write her a letter of commendation and at the same time a letter of encouragement to the believers of Rome
- When Phoebe left Corinth she was carrying in her possession one of the greatest masterpieces of theology, information about God, that has ever been written
 - As Paul again was not addressing any particular problem or concern in Rome, he was just writing about Jesus and what a magnificent savior He really is

Now in order to understand this book in a broad sweeping view kind of like we did when we studied the book of Revelation, remember – chapter one verse 19, writes the things which you see...

- to have the same type of broad overview of this book we need to think of the book of Romans as a great theological city with four main buildings there in

The Book of Romans – The Great Theological City

#1 – The Courthouse – Romans 1-5

- Paul spends the first five chapters of this book detailing how man is guilty before God, whether Jew or Gentile, whether slave or free, we are all guilty before God
 - We are guilty, but we are also saved – not by works that we have done, but by Grace
 - But man is evaluated and show to be guilty in the Courthouse – Romans 1-5

#2 – The Power Plant – Romans 6-8

- in Romans chapters 6-8 that Pastor Rob is going to study in detail over the next few months, but we are not going to skip over those chapters either here on Wednesday Nights, we will just cover them a lot faster
 - but what they detail for us is where the Power comes from to walk this Christian life
 - how can we have power over sin and condemnation – well we learn that in the Power Plant – Romans 6-8

#3 – The Synagogue – Romans 9-11

- in chapters 9-11 Paul shares with us how Israel fits into God plan now that there is this new thing called the church
 - has the church replaced Israel, where do they fit into the scheme of things, as well as a great balance to God's sovereignty and man's free will all in Romans chapters 9-11 – the Synagogue

#4 – The Church – Romans 12-16

- in Paul's final section of this book we will study how the church is practically suppose to operate in light of the all the amazing truths about God is this book
 - Paul ends all of his letters very practically, and The Church - Romans 12-16 is no exception

Well without further ado – that is plenty as far as an introduction, let's get into this life changing, church history changing book tonight

- the first 17 verses of the book is Paul introduction to his letter and we will get no further than that tonight
 - I don't really feel in a hurry to finish this book fast
 - Now that just means I have no intention to study this book 2 to 3 chapters at time
- When I taught this book at Calvary Chapel Paris early in the ministry there I covered the whole book in 8 weeks – two chapters a night
 - I wrote myself a note and I looked at it in preparation for our study tonight and it said, next time – slow down!!!!
 - Well Amen – not Martin Lloyd Jones slow who took 16 years to teach through this book, but Jason Duff slow which means like half a chapter to a whole chapter per week

Anyway – we are just going to cover the introduction tonight and Paul's introduction to the book of Romans breaks into 3 parts for you note takers...

Romans 1:1-17

#1 – The Man – Romans 1:1

#2 – The Message – Romans 1:2-6

#3 – The Motive – Romans 1:7-17

- this week is brought to you by the letter "M"
 - so lets look at these one at a time tonight

Romans 1:1-17

The Man – Romans 1:1

- I know we are told that this guy is the most interesting man in the world (**Picture of "The Most Interesting man in the world"**)

But to me Paul is one of the most interesting men in the Bible

- In the beginning of Acts he is known as Saul of Tarsus
 - Tarsus was the center of Greek Philosophy – it contained one of the three most pretentious universities in the Roman World
 - But Paul was not a Greek or a Roman

Paul was a Jew, and as a young man he was sent to Jerusalem to study under Rabbi Gamaliel

- the Grandson of Rabbi Hillel, the most famous Rabbi of all time
 - He was uniquely prepared, the best Greco, Roman education as well as the best possible training in the Jewish scriptures we would call the Old Testament

Paul many years after He was saved on the road to Damascus, (if you are not familiar with Paul's story I encourage you to read Acts chapter 9 for homework) but after His conversion, Paul went on three Missionary Journeys recorded in the Bible

- probably a fourth – we have knowledge from history and tradition

The first he began many churches and experienced much persecution – including being stoned, beaten

- The second – he started many famous churches like Ephesus, Thessalonica, Philippi, and one very important one – Corinth
- The third – He goes back to check on the churches and spends some time at many of them, ministering. While at Corinth as we already mentioned – Phoebe, a co-laborer is going to Rome, Paul is excited and sends with her a letter. Originally meant to be a commendation for her to the church at Rome, when Paul was finished, Phoebe was carrying in her hands a theological masterpiece.

But it is important to note that on none of those three missionary journeys had Paul yet been to Rome – unlike so many New Testament fellowships, the believers in Rome had no first hand knowledge of who Paul was

- so he opens his letter with a description of who he is and what He is about
 - His description is three fold – [read verse one](#)

Paul's Threefold description of Himself

#1 - A bondservant of Jesus Christ

- Now most of you know the word there translated bondservant is “doulos”
 - And the Old testament tells us what that is
- In Israel a slave could only be a slave for 6 years
 - No lifelong service
 - However if you loved you master, and he treated you well – you could choose to stay in service to him – and they would call that type of slave a “doulos”
 - A slave by choice

I point this out to you because my prayer is that would be the way all of us would approach our relationship with Jesus

- I pray God would free us from grudging obligation in our walk with him
 - There is a fundamental difference between religion and relationship with God
- One is because you have to
 - One is because you want to

In the Book of Romans God is pointing all of us to freedom in our walks with the Lord.

- you don't have to read your Bible for him to love you
- You don't have to go to church to gain his favor
 - You all ready have his favor
 - In fact – He is desperately in love with you

I don't know how that makes you feel??? – that He knows you totally and still love you completely – if most people really knew you, most of us realize they probably would like us – but God knows us and loves us

- That doesn't make me not want to read my Bible, or not go to church – it make me long to be here, and be with him
 - Paul understood this about the Lord
 - God knew who he was and what he done but loved him totally
 - And Paul said – that is someone I want to serve with the rest of my life
- Paul said “I'm a bondservant of Jesus”

Paul's Threefold description of Himself

#1 - A bondservant of Jesus Christ

#2 – Called to be an Apostle

- Now Paul was called to this, this was his ministry
 - Paul wasn't sitting around and all of sudden decided to be an apostle – He was not a volunteer
 - It was what God called him to do

An “Apostle” – means one who is sent out

- it can broadly refer to any believer who is sent out
 - But specially in the New Testament – it was men who were gifted by God for that ministry, and was a witness to the Resurrected Lord
- And Paul was specially gifted and called to that ministry
 - He grew up in Tarsus – so he knew the gentiles
 - He was taught by Gamaliel – so he knew the old Testament, understood the Jews

- His whole life God was getting him ready for what He was called to do. – to be an Apostle

Now that is great to understand what was Paul's calling, but I hope you understand that just like we should be bondslaves of Jesus Christ just like Paul, so like Paul we need to understand what we have been called to do as well

- Paul said he was called to be an apostle
 - Fill in the blank for your life
 - Jim, called to be _____ for Jesus Christ
 - Tammy, called to be _____ for Jesus
 - Dan, called to be _____ for Jesus Christ
- Every single one of you is called to be something by the will of God
 - I know I am called to teach the Bible
 - There are lots of things that go along with being a pastor that I am honored to do – discipleship, tending and caring – I love those things
 - But I know, I am called to teach this book, its just different for me – its not even work
 - Don't misunderstand me – I work hard at it, I put in hours of study, prayer, coming up with funny stuff
 - But its not a burden, it's the joy of my life, I sense the pleasure of the Lord when I am doing this

Now not every Christian is called to be a Bible teacher, I believe not every pastor is called to be a bible teacher

- but all of you who are called by His name, are called and gifted by God to do something.
 - And part of the adventure of your life is discovering what God has gifted and called you to do.
- I encourage you to pray, because until you figure it out – listen – the body of Christ suffers, because we are missing something and so do you

There is a great picture of that in the book of Genesis with Isaac – Genesis 26

When he began to be out on his own. He would dig wells. And the first one the herdsmen of Gerar stopped him, and he called the place Esek or quarreled. Then He went to another place and dug again, and again the herdsmen came back and filled up that well with dirt, and so he called it Sitnah – enmity or striving. Finally he dug a third well, and called it Rehoboth – because here God had made him fruitful

I think in our lives you will go down one path, and it will be nothing but problems

- You will go down another and it will be you striving
 - But as you seek the Lord, you will find your Rehoboth – where God makes you fruitful

But when you find it do it with all of your heart – so you can say with Paul, I am a bondservant, and I am called

- a bondservant of Christ – willingly serving the Lord
- called to be an Apostle – Paul had found his ministry

Paul's Threefold description of Himself

#1 - A bondservant of Jesus Christ

#2 – Called to be an Apostle

#3 – Separated to the Gospel

- Now the last thing Paul says about who he is, is that He was separated to the gospel

To be "Separated" literally means to be sectioned off with boundaries

- As believers we are to be separate, sectioned off and complete consumed - consumed with what???
- Paul tells us...

The gospel of God

- Gospel meaning good news
- God – meaning God
 - We are to be separated, sectioned off, and consumed with the good news of God.
- The fact that He loves us
- The fact He wants to be involved in our lives

The fact He died for us

- The fact we will rule and reign with him forever
 - Friends it is the Good News of God

And Paul says we are to be sectioned off to that good news

- Sectioned off by the word – a boundaries in our hearts
 - Letting God's word shape our priorities and morals, not the morals and priorities of this world
- Sectioned off by prayer – surrounding, barricading our day and others with a covering of prayer
- Sectioned off by not allowing some liberties that world is caught up in
 - John Wesley said – “some can, I can't”
 - I think that is so important – I know in my life there have been some decisions I have made to not have certain things in my life
- Certain things that are not necessarily sinful, certain things that are not necessarily bad, but certain things that the Lord and I have come to an understand
 - Jason some can participate in that thing
 - Some can partake of that
 - But I want you sectioned off, I want you to be separated
 - We are called to be sectioned off

We are also called to be consumed – when Cortez and his men landed on the shores of what is now Mexico. They were up against a powerful army defending their homeland. So Cortez ordered that the ships be burned, showing the men it was this or die. With that motivation the Spanish conquered the Inca Indians

- God wants to make you like Paul – victorious
 - But are we willingly in His service
 - Do we know are place and do it whole heartedly
 - Are we willing to be set apart
 - God is willing to amaze you

Romans 1:1-17

#1 – The Man – Romans 1:1

#2 – The Message – Romans 1:2-6

- Paul describes himself as bond slave, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God
 - But what was that message he was separated to specifically
 - And why was it so gripping to the Apostle
- The message of course was the “gospel”
 - But that word is used so much today it is really hard to understand what it means
 - We know the term means ‘good news’ but if you read magazines about what current in Christianity as I do – man everything is the Gospel
 - Feeding the hungry is the Gospel
 - Providing clean water for Africa is the Gospel
 - Great Small Community Groups is the Gospel
 - Being relevant is the Gospel

- But what really is the Gospel?

Understand friends the word gospel was not invented by the apostles

- It was actually used first by the Romans concerning Caesar's orders – Caesar's orders were considered good news, glad tidings
 - No matter if they were or not, the Romans generals considered them – The Good word
 - The Christian Church picked up on this phrase to describe some really good news they had for the world
 - But again – what is it?

Well Paul in verses 2-6 answers that question of the Gospel really is

- Three things Paul says about the Gospel...

The Gospel????

#1 – The Gospel is a Promise – Romans 1:2

- The term “gospel” did not begin with the apostles, but neither did the concept of what they meant when they said the gospel
 - The gospel is all over the Old Testament
 - It was Jesus who said in Luke 24:44 – that the entire Old Testament declared Him.
- This plan of salvation was not an afterthought

God saw long before we were around the lostness of man, and that we would need a savior

- And seeing that – He made you and I a promise – a promise saying – I will save you
 - Not you need to figure things out on your own
 - Not that you need to work up your own righteousness
- No – that wouldn't be good news at all
 - But a promise that said – I will save you
 - A promise that said that He would die in your place. That He would give all that He had so that you could have all of Him

That is great news, the news of God's love

- And it was declared all over the scriptures.
- In the book of Genesis
 - The prophecies even in the 3rd chapter
 - The pictures of Abraham offering Isaac
 - He is the only begotten son
- It in the book of Exodus
 - When the Jews were told to take an innocent lamb and slaughter it for their sins
 - He is the lamb
- Its in the Book of Numbers
 - Where they put a brass serpent on the pole, and to be saved the men only had to look to it
 - He was lifted up on a cross – and so on...

The Gospel????

#1 – The Gospel is a Promise – Romans 1:2

#2 – The Gospel is a Person – Romans 1:3-4

- The gospel was more than just a promise, it was a person
 - The person of Jesus Christ.

And I want to draw your attention to two things in these verses, and get these it is the heart of the gospel.

- Jesus was we are told by Paul...

- #1. Born of the seed of David
- #2. Declared to be the Son of God.

Born of the seed of David

- This verse speaks volumes

It speaks of His preexistence – “born”

- The word Paul used implies previous existence, a change of condition
 - Yes Jesus was born here on earth – but you know His life did not begin in the town of Bethlehem
 - He has preexisted with God forever

It speaks of His position – “of the seed of David”

- He was the Messiah Israel had been waiting for
- Back in the OT – David wanted to build God a house, Nathan the prophet said, “Go for it”. But God said no, David is a man of war, his son will build the house.
 - But then God says, David I’m going to build you a house. Your sons are going to rule Israel, and the Messiah will come from your line.

From the genealogies in Matthew and Luke, we learn Jesus is a direct descendant David on both side.

- He has the right to the throne as Joseph’s adopted son, but He also has the uncursed blood of David from Mary through Nathan instead of Solomon.

It speaks of his humanity – “according to the flesh”

- He was born flesh.
- John says the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.
 - This is the gospel...

God – who had always existed, came through David, just like He promised, and became a man.

- He experienced all that we experience
 - So that He could be a faithful High priest.
- He became a man, but He was much more than a normal man.

The second description is – “declared to be the son of God”

- The phrase “declared to be the Son of God” is akin in Greek to our English word “horizon” –
 - And it shows the force of what God is saying – God the Father Horized Jesus, made it so all would see the distinction, the difference between Him and every other religious leader
 - When He just did not teach good principals or even die for our, but God marked Him, Horized Him when Jesus rose from the dead
- Jesus Christ horized Him for all of human history

The gospel is God who had always existed, saw the lostness of man, came to earth as a man – but not only that – died in our place – and more still – rose again

The Gospel????

#1 – The Gospel is a Promise – Romans 1:2

#2 – The Gospel is a Person – Romans 1:3-4

#3 – The Gospel is a Privilege – Romans 1:5-8

- There are things we have through Him, because of Him loving us and saving us
 - Paul mentions 2 things we have been given – grace and apostleship

#1 - Grace – God unmerited favor lavished upon the infinitely ill deserving

- Because He died in our place, He can give us grace
- And notice this come before apostleship
 - Before we can be sent out – we need to be hit with the knowledge of Grace
- Or else we are just sharing academics
 - We have been saved by grace

- Have you let it hit you?

Because then God wants to give you then apostleship

- Send you out, as the grace He has given you overflows from your life.
 - Now why does He want to send you out?

So that you may be famous, or have your ministry

- no, verse 6 says “For Obedience”
- The NIV says to bring obedience.
 - God calls us to see these truths and have it be not something we just agree on, but something that we live out.
 - And something we teach others to live out.

In the Sermon on the Mount – Jesus says blessed are those who do these things and teach others to do them also.”

- It is the call of our life, and as you can see from verse 6, it is the call of your life as well.
 - God is calling you to see the good news of God
 - To let it impact your heart
- For obedience in you
 - And so that you would teach others to do the same.

Romans 1:1-17

#1 – The Man – Romans 1:1

#2 – The Message – Romans 1:2-6

#3 – The Motive – Romans 1:7-17

We have consider Paul the Man

- we have seen His message
 - Now finally tonight we need to focus on what was his motive, what drove Paul to do what he did????
 - Motive is so important
- We can be doing the same activity but our hearts can be in totally different places depending on our motive

Take fishing for example – Christy, my wife, has had many of fish in her life. All named after Old Testament characters – Mahelshaelhasbaz I think was my favorite – but she would feed them faithfully, to bless them, to take care of them. Now we used to around here, we need to start it again, that once a year the pastors here at Calvary Chapel Vista would go fishing. Now I, like my wife was trying to feed the fish, using the same words Christy was, “here little fishy” but I was doing it for a completely different motive. Not to feed the fish, but to feed me!!!!

- We can do the ministry God has called us to, but we can either do it with a wrong motive
 - All for ourselves
- Or we can do it for the motives we see Paul operating under
 - So what were His motives????

Well first of all we see Paul loved the People

- He wanted to bless them and be with them
 - Love is one of the greatest motivations.

Remember when you were a teenager and your parents asked you to wash the car. Bummer!!! But remember when you were going out on a date guys, you washed that car with passion. No more fries under the seat, spilled soda, cleaned out. Dirty socks – no way – and It was not a chore, it was a joy – why – you were in love Or you thought you were. It love!!!!

- And Paul loved these people - But why?????
 - I suggest to you it was Because God did, - notice verse 7
- Beloved of God/called to be saints, Grace and peace from God, not Paul, from God

Beloved of God – He is letting this church know that God loves them; He is desperately in love with them

- You need to grasp this – but please never get over it.

He calls Himself your father

- It is Him that is pouring out **grace** and **peace** to these believers
 - It is not Paul
 - “from God the father” – it’s the Lord
- wants nothing but blessings for his children

He calls them “Beloved of God”, and then....

“Called to be saints.” – Not only are they beloved, but they are called.

- And not just called to anything – called to be saints.
 - Those that are set apart
 - Paul was set apart – and that is what God wants to do with everyone of us

Notice we are not called because we are saints

- We are called for the purpose of being set apart.
 - It what Paul says again in Eph, chapter one, “He choose us in Him before the foundation of the world,” – why???- “that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.”

He is calling you, not because you are holy, but because He wants to make you holy, set apart, saint.

- That happens when you draw close to Him
 - We will study that in a few chapters.

But this is how God felt about this church

- and it is how He feels about you

Beloved – He sees Himself as your father

Called to be saints. – He sees himself as your Lord Jesus

- Wanting to shape and mold your life.
 - Let Him this morning.

Paul loved the people, because God loved the people

- But consider for a moment how that happened, remember he had never met them – How????

He received a heart for this church because of his time in prayer.

- Do you ever feel a coldness or distance toward the Lord and ministry
 - How much time to do you really spend in prayer with the Lord or the things He is calling you to do

When I first was ask to come along side Scott it scared me, because I was un-cool and I really didn't know how I could help. But I began praying for the kids in the youth ministry and God did an amazing thing. He put a love in my heart for them I still carry to this day.

- This will happen for your relationship to the Lord, for what He is calling you to **and toward others**

You may have problems with other people or maybe even hate others

- But I ask you, are you praying for them
 - “That wont' work they are pains in the neck
 - Pray for them

Paul had never met these people – yet he loved them

- He had spent time with the Lord and God had put his heart into Paul for them
 - And the result was this desire to come to them
 - A challenge you to live the same way

Paul was motivated by His love for the people, but not just that, Paul was motivated by his love for the message he wanted to bring the people of Rome

- Why????

He loved the message because of what He had seen it do in His life

- changing Him from Saul to Paul

He had seen what it had done in others lives

- it was a powerful message

But even more than being powerful, the gospel was also through which people could see “A righteousness from God.”

- and it was this that was the source of the power, understand with me
 - Paul before He met the Lord was Pharisee, and Pharisees at least at this time in Israel’s history were quintessential legalist
 - It was all about the law, and following the law, and the law somehow making you holy

Now that sounds good, but there is one problem with that

- no one can keep the law
 - and we will examine this further in the book
 - but that was the place Paul was in
- Trying to make Himself acceptable to God by keeping the law, but not keeping the law, so constantly living in condemnation
 - But then Jesus brought to Him the gospel
 - And in it “The Righteousness of God or literally from God was revealed...”

Paul understood for the first time that Jesus’ death on the cross paid for his sin, and by receiving Christ’ life, His righteousness for his own, He know was clothed with a righteousness from God

II Corinthians 5:21 says it best “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

- On the cross God poured out all of the sin of mankind on him. – God treated him like he lived my life of failure, your life of failure, and every lowlife’s life of failure.

But also is this verse we have the reason God did it.

- That God might give us his righteousness, his life, He treated Jesus on the cross as if He had lived your life, so that he could treat you as if you had lived his

It is a righteousness that is from God to you

- God no longer looks at your as you are
- He looks at you covered in His righteousness
 - Paul says, “I am not ashamed”, **I love this message**

For it, (the gospel), is the power of God

In it, we learn about the righteousness that comes from God.

- Now as we come to the end, Paul explains how this faith is revealed.

“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

- How is this righteousness from God revealed
 - From faith to faith
 - it has the idea of continuing

It takes faith at the beginning

- and as you do – God gives you his righteousness

It takes faith all the way through

- as you do things which are displeasing, and God has to pick you up again
 - you realize it is his Righteousness

It is in the beginning, is it all throughout

- So Paul summarizes. ““**as it is written, “The just shall live by faith”**”

If you are in right standing with God, it is because you are living by faith. Trusting that He and He alone is the only reason you are acceptable to God.

Martin Luther was a frustrated young man. Never living up to what he thought God wanted from him. He was in Rome and crawling up the Lateran staircase, when God brought to mind this verse. It changed him, He realized God loved Him and had died for him, giving him His very righteousness – God had done His part. Luther's part was to accept that by faith, and live in it. It set him free; I hope it does for you tonight

Paul was a man separated because of message, a message of hope that motivated him to be sold out – may the same thing happen to you and me as we study this message....