

Romans 1:8-17

Rom 1:8-17 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. (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. (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."

Questions On The Text

What was it about the Romans that Paul thanked God for?

Verse 8: He thanked God for their faith; it was significant that the Christian faith had followers even in Rome, the capital of the Empire.

How did Paul serve God?

Verse 9: Paul served God with his spirit. In other words, Paul didn't serve just as a matter of obligation, but from his heart. Compare this with observation on serving what Paul says about giving in 2 Cor 9:7.

Why did Paul want to visit the Romans?

Verses 11-13: The answer is threefold, and one of mutual benefit. First, he wanted to impart to them some spiritual gift. Second, he expected himself (as well as them) to be encouraged by each other's faith. Third, he expresses his desire to be fruitful. The important thing to notice is that he didn't desire to see them just so he could get something from them, which is what often happens in the attitudes of Christians towards church today.

What did Paul want to do in Rome?

Verse 15: He wanted to preach the gospel to the Romans.

What was Paul's attitude towards the gospel?

Verse 16: He was unashamed of the gospel. He preached the gospel with boldness. Compare this with what Christ said in Matthew 10:32-33 about admitting to being a Christian.

Why was Paul not ashamed of the gospel?

Verse 16: Paul understood that the gospel is God's power for bringing salvation to the lives of those alienated from God, a salvation that is available to anyone who believes, no matter who they are.

How does the gospel become the power of God for salvation?

Verses 16-17: It brings salvation only to those who believe. God's righteousness is revealed "from faith to faith". In other words, not only does the person who preaches have faith in their preaching of the gospel, but it

is essential for the hearer to receive the gospel message with genuine faith, so it is from faith and to faith. Without faith, the gospel message will have no effect.

The gospel message is a fulfilment of the Habakkuk 2:4 prophecy that the just would live by faith, foretelling the truth that eternal life is only possible through faith and not works.

Further Questions For Discussion:

Do you serve God with your spirit, or is it just something you feel obligated to do? If you are serving Him from obligation only, what can you do to change that?

Paul wanted to be a blessing to the Roman church. How can you best be a blessing to your church?

Are you ashamed of the gospel? Are you embarrassed to own up to being a Christian? When was the last time you shared your faith?

Do you really believe in the power of the gospel? If so, how has it affected your life? How bold are you in preaching that same gospel?