

Introducing Righteousness

Romans 1: 1-17

Romans background:

“It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul.”
(Luther)

“If we have gained a true understanding of this Epistle, we have an open door to all the most profound treasures of Scripture.” (Calvin)

Romans 1:1-6

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. ⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:14-17

¹⁴ I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. ¹⁵ That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Five Fundamental Truths about the Gospel

1. The origin of the gospel is God
2. The substance of the gospel is Christ
3. The scope of the gospel is all the nations
4. The purpose of the gospel is to bring people to the obedience of faith
5. The goal of the gospel is the honor of Christ's name

(John Stott)

The righteousness of God

“I had greatly longed to understand Paul’s letter to the Romans, and nothing stood in the way but that one expression ‘the righteousness of God’, because I took it mean that righteousness whereby God is righteous and acts righteously in punishing the unrighteous... Night and day I pondered until I grasped the truth that the righteousness of God is that righteousness whereby, through grace and sheer mercy, he justifies us by faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn into and gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of scripture took on a new meaning, and whereas before ‘the righteousness of God’ had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet in greater love. This passage of Paul became to me a gateway into heaven.” (Luther)

The obedience of faith

- “We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone.”
(Luther)
- V. 11-12 “¹¹ I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— ¹² that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.”
- “You never have the righteousness of God put UPON you without at the same time finding that it has been developing WITHIN you.” (Keller)

Conclusion

How has the gospel transformed your life?