

Romans 1:1-17

Every journey begins with a first step. That first step is crucial; it must be made in the right direction. Our journey this semester is to hear from God through our study of Paul's letter to the Romans. Please stop and pray. Ask God to open your mind and heart to all he has for you. Then read or listen to Romans 1:1-17 two or three times so that you will become familiar with it before you begin.

Observation

1. This letter to the Roman believers opens with Paul clearly stating that he is the author. The church in Rome was not a church established by Paul. He has never been to Rome at this point. The first thing Paul does is introduce himself to the reader. What does Paul say about himself in verse 1? Fill in the blanks below.
 - a. Paul a _____ of Jesus Christ
 - b. Called to be an _____
 - c. _____ to/for the gospel of God

Dig Deeper: Look up the definition of the words you filled in above to gain a better understanding of what Paul was saying to the Romans and to us.

2. What do we know about the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, from verse 2?
3. Romans 1:3 mentions the promises God made to King David. Read 2 Samuel 7:8-13, Isaiah 9:6-7 and Luke 1:31-33 provided at the end of this chapter. What had God promised David? How was this promise fulfilled?

Dig Deeper: Read Matthew 1:1-16 and Luke 3:23-38. What would you title these two sections of Scripture? Why are these Scriptures important to our faith today?

4. Jesus is the promised descendant of King David who will sit on his throne forever. He was given power by the Spirit. Read Acts 13:29-33 and Romans 1:4. What was the conclusive evidence of Jesus' divine power and Sonship that proved he was the Messiah?
5. Notice the words Paul used in Romans 1:5 to describe his salvation, "we received grace." When we consider this verse in connection with Ephesians 2:8, we glean a greater understanding of God's amazing grace. Define grace in your own words.
6. Paul is a Jew by birth. God divinely called him to share the gospel. According to Romans 1:5, with whom does Paul say he is called to share the gospel? _____
7. In Romans 1:7 Paul identifies his audience. Who are the original recipients? _____

Fill in the blanks from verse 7.

Who are _____ by God and _____ to be his holy people.

Dig Deeper: Look up the definition of the above answers.

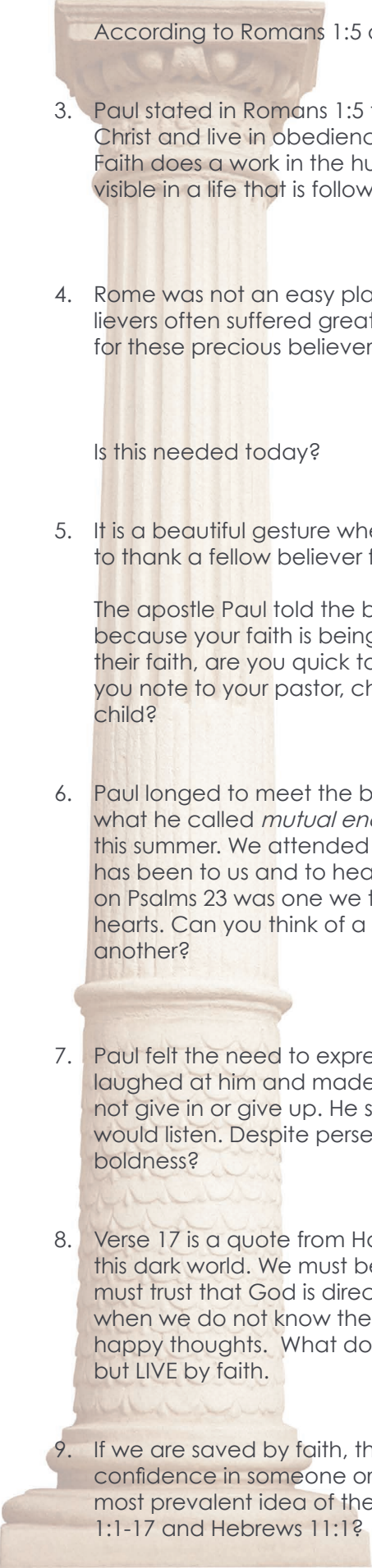
8. Paul's prayer for the believers in Rome is a two-fold blessing of grace and peace. Who is the source of all blessings?
9. In verses 8-12 Paul expresses the attitude of his heart and his purpose for writing to them.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
10. Romans 1:13 reveals the apostle Paul's longing to visit Rome and meet these brothers and sisters in the faith. What do you believe prevented him? If you were with us during our study of Acts, you might recall the trials and tribulations Paul experienced. If not, there is a summary in 2 Corinthians 11:24-28.
11. The word "obligated" has been defined as bound by contract or promise. In Romans 1:14 Paul said, "I am obligated." Some translations say, "I am a debtor," or "I am under obligation." To whom is the apostle Paul under obligation? Why does he feel this strong sense of obligation?
Hint: Read Acts 9:15
12. Romans 1:16-17 reveal Paul's heart and mission as an apostle. The apostle Paul felt compelled to share the gospel as often as he was given the opportunity. What do you believe compelled his strong desire to share the good news?
13. In Romans 1:17 Paul quoted Habakkuk 2:4 "The righteous (just) shall live by faith." The word righteous can be defined as, one approved of or acceptable to God. Who are "approved or acceptable" in God's sight?

Application

1. Paul described himself as a servant of Christ Jesus. Today, the idea of servitude has a very negative connotation. The servitude Paul refers to is complete dependence on and obedience to his Master, Jesus. If we are to share this attitude, we must first die to self. We cannot have two masters. We cannot rule our life and say Jesus rules. What is your attitude toward servitude?

Is there an area of your life that has not been turned over to Jesus? Is there some area where you still call the shots?

2. Jesus is the true Light which gives light to everyone in the world. Our purpose is to reflect that light to the world. John 1:11 says, "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him." God's purpose for the nation of Israel was to enable others to see and know God by their example and worship Him. When they rejected Christ, he directed his followers to take the gospel to "the ends of the earth." Read the different translations of Revelation 22:17 provided. To whom is the invitation of grace extended?



According to Romans 1:5 and Revelation 22:17, what is the scope of the gospel invitation?

3. Paul stated in Romans 1:5 that he was called to share the gospel with all Gentiles so they would know Christ and live in obedience that comes from faith. The anticipated result of faith is always the same. Faith does a work in the human heart. Read Romans 1:5 and Galatians 5:22-25. What fruit should be visible in a life that is following Jesus?
4. Rome was not an easy place to be a follower of Jesus. The Romans ruled with brutal force. Roman believers often suffered great misunderstanding and persecution. In your own words what is Paul praying for these precious believers in verse 7?

Is this needed today?

5. It is a beautiful gesture when we thank military personnel for their service to our country. Are we quick to thank a fellow believer for their service?

The apostle Paul told the believers in Rome that he, "thanked God, through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world." When you hear about someone living out their faith, are you quick to speak words of encouragement to them? Why not stop and write a thank you note to your pastor, church staff or perhaps a Christian friend who has helped mentor you or your child?

6. Paul longed to meet the believers in Rome to encourage them and be encouraged by them. This is what he called *mutual encouragement*. John and I were in Seattle, Washington on vacation earlier this summer. We attended Judah Smith's church in order to see him and tell him what a blessing he has been to us and to hear him preach in person, Unfortunately, he was out of town, but his message on Psalms 23 was one we thought about and discussed several times that week. He encouraged our hearts. Can you think of a fellow believer you would like to meet for the purpose of encouraging one another?
7. Paul felt the need to express that he was not ashamed of the gospel. Even though others had laughed at him and made fun of the simplicity of the truth he tried to share, Paul was unmoved. He did not give in or give up. He shared the gospel without shame as often as he possibly could, with all who would listen. Despite persecution or trials, do you continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ with boldness?
8. Verse 17 is a quote from Habakkuk 2:4, "the righteous shall live by faith." Christians are to be a light in this dark world. We must be prepared to live through difficult times without giving up or giving in. We must trust that God is directing all things for our good and his glory. What will it look like to live by faith when we do not know the outcome of a troubling situation? This will require more than simply thinking happy thoughts. What do you believe it means to "live by faith"—not merely think faith-filled thoughts, but LIVE by faith.
9. If we are saved by faith, then we should live by faith. Faith has been defined as a complete trust or confidence in someone or something. Having faith in the love and sovereignty of God is arguably the most prevalent idea of the Bible. Read Hebrews 11:1. What have you learned about faith from Romans 1:1-17 and Hebrews 11:1?

Extra Verses

◆ 2 Samuel 7:8-13 KJV

Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel.⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth.¹⁰ I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the [a]wicked afflict them any more as formerly,¹¹ even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord also declares to you that the Lord will make a house for you.¹² When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your [b]descendant after you, who will come forth from [c]you, and I will establish his kingdom.¹³ He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

◆ Isaiah 9:6-7 NIV

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

◆ Luke 1:31-33 NIV

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

◆ Matthew 1:1-16 NIV

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:² Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,³ Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram,⁴ Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon,⁵ Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse,⁶ and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,⁷ Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa,⁸ Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah,⁹ Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,¹⁰ Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah,¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.¹² After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,¹³ Zerubbabel the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor,¹⁴ Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Elihud,¹⁵ Elihud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob,¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

◆ Luke 3:23-38 NIV

Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli,²⁴ the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melki, the son of Jannaï, the son of Joseph,²⁵ the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Eslï, the son of Naggai,²⁶ the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josek, the son of Joda,²⁷ the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Nerï,²⁸ the son of Melki, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er,²⁹ the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi,³⁰ the son of Simeon, the son of

Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim,³¹ the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David,³² the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon,³³ the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah,³⁴ the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,³⁵ the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah,³⁶ the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,³⁷ the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Kenan,³⁸ the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

◆ Acts 13:29-33 NIV

When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb.³⁰ But God raised him from the dead,³¹ and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.³² "We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors³³ he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: "You are my son; today I have become your father.

◆ Ephesians 2:8 NIV

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

◆ 2 Corinthians 11:24-28 NIV

Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one.²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea,²⁶ I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers.²⁷ I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.²⁸ Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

◆ Acts 9:15 NIV

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.

◆ Revelation 22:17

KJV: And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

NLT: The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let anyone who hears this say, "Come." Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life.

Message: "Come!" say the Spirit and the Bride. Whoever hears, echo, "Come!" Is anyone thirsty? Come! All who will, come and drink, Drink freely of the Water of Life!

◆ Galatians 5:22-25

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

◆ Hebrews 11:1 NIV

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.