



August 27, 2023

***Romans: Rooted in Jesus  
Gospel Foundation***

Romans 1:8-17

**For Discussion and Reflection**

1. Paul says that he is “eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome,” v15. Based on our study today, why do the believers need to hear the gospel preached to them? Do you think that you need the gospel on a regular, even daily basis? Do you remember the heart of the gospel from Romans 1:1-7?
2. Paul says, “I’m under obligation...” The obligation, or “debtor”, doesn’t proceed from anything he owed the Gentiles, but from God’s call on his life expressed in his introduction. What is the basis of Paul’s sense of obligation? Pay special attention to Romans 1:5. How does that apply to us?
3. Paul makes the statement, “I am not ashamed of the gospel.” In Acts, Paul is accused by the Jewish believers of diminishing the law, and the Gentiles mocked him at times. He faced criticism from both sides, but he refused that shaming. Does the “foolishness” of the cross ever result in shame from others for you? Does it hinder you from sharing your faith or inviting others to investigate Jesus?
4. The gospel is the “ability (power) of God to rescue (salvation).” While this phrase connects to the power of God in Exodus, rescuing his people, his emphasis is on salvation through faith. As he says, “to everyone who believes.” How does verse seventeen explain that ability? How does God have the ability to remain just while justifying the ungodly by faith? Romans 3:21-26 gives the answer.
5. Why is it important for God to maintain his justness, 3:26, or as Paul says here his righteousness, 1:17? Why can’t God just forgive our sin? How does Paul say God maintains his righteousness? Read Romans 3:24,25 backwards like this, “This was to show God’s righteousness...we are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.” What did God do to show his righteousness?
6. The original from Paul here says, “the one who is righteous by faith shall live.” What doctrine is he citing here as “righteous by faith”? What alternatives to righteousness by faith had the Jews and Gentiles erected?
7. What did you learn today? How has it encouraged your faith? What can you do to move further into the grace of God for you?