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| 1  Romans 1:1-17 Sermon Outline  09/22/24  “The Power of the Gospel”  **INTRO:**  “Righteousness of God” = what comes to mind?  = Attribute of God = always just + right  Man named Martin Luther = back in 1500s hated phrase “righteousness of God”  = only saw God’s wrath against his unrighteousness  = R.C. monk who tried to live holy and righteously  Luther = most fanatical of the monks  “I was a good monk, and I kept the rule of my order so strictly that I may say that if ever a monk got to heaven by his monkery it was I. If I had kept on any longer, I should have killed myself with vigils, prayers, reading, and other work.” | 2  Luther known overconfess his sins so much priest got annoyed and told him to come back when he had actual sin to confess!  Paul = most zealous Pharisee  Luther = most zealous monk  Despite efforts to be righteous = increasingly grew to hate righteousness  “Though I lived as a monk without reproach, I felt that I was a sinner before God with an extremely disturbed conscience. I could not believe that he was placated by my satisfaction. I did not love, yes, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners, and secretly, if not blasphemously, certainly murmuring greatly, I was angry with God, and said, “As if, indeed, it is not enough, that miserable sinners, eternally lost through original sin, are crushed by every kind of calamity by the law of the Decalogue, without having God add pain to pain by the gospel and also by the gospel threatening us with his righteousness and wrath!” Thus I raged with a fierce and troubled conscience." |
| 3  Luther’s soul = tormented by misunderstanding until one day = soul set free  He writes,  “*Finally by the mercy of God, as I meditated day and night, I paid attention to the context of the words, ‘In it the righteousness of God is revealed, as it is written, ‘He who through faith is righteous shall live.”  Then I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that by which the righteous lives by a gift of God, namely by faith.  This, then, is the meaning: the righteousness of God is revealed by the gospel, viz. the passive righteousness with which the merciful God justifies us by faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous one lives by faith.’  Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates.  There a totally other face of all Scripture showed itself to me.  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 to heaven.*” | 4  What Luther experienced = power of gospel  God takes away your sin = credits you with His righteousness as if you lived perfectly  What kind of God would do that?  Tell me of another religion or belief system that has the God of the universe exchanging the place of undeserving, hell-bound sinners like you and me?  Tell me of another religion that teaches that salvation is based upon faith and not works  This is = power of the gospel and Paul starts off the first chapter exalting the power of this gospel to those who receive the righteousness of God by faith alone  So how does Paul start this letter?  Starts by introducing himself…  Church of Rome = “Who is this Paul that is writing to us?” |
| 5  1:1  “*Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, having been set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, who was designated as the Son of God in power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we received grace and apostleship for the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of His name, among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ*.”  Out of all:  accomplishments  Best education = Greek + Jewish (Gamaliel)  Pure Jewish lineage = pharisee of pharisees  leader of Sanhedrin  privilege of writing over half of NT  What he identified most = slave of Jesus Christ  Paul was as free as you can be = Roman citizen = but he saw his freedom not in being a Roman citizen… | 6  but in being a slave of Jesus Christ  He counted it privilege to be bound to His master’s will and commands  And His Lord and master Jesus Christ “set him apart” for the gospel of God  ILLUST:  When he “set himself apart” from other Gentiles as a Pharisee, not he is “set apart” unto the Gentiles  BTW “Gentiles” = non-Jew  Gentiles = “gentilis” = Latin = belonging to same people, group, nation  Originally = Hebrew = goy = non-Jewish nation  “Gospel of God” = “Good news”  ILLUST: Like herald proclaiming “behold, the king has an heir to the throne!” |
| 7  = Good news “from” God and good news “about” God  “Gospel of God” = not new = started back in OT  Gen. 3 = Adam = Eve = sinned  God to serpent = promise = one day messiah would come to crush the head of the serpent  Speaking of seed of woman  Gen. 3:15  “*He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the* heel.”  And this seed concerned God’s one and only Son who was  “*born of the seed of David according to the flesh*.”  = Messiah come from line of David = royal line | 8  And this Messiah Paul says in verse 4  “*designated as the Son of God in power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord*.*”*  What is Paul saying here V. 4?  Not = Christ “BECAME” Son of God at resurrection  Always = eternal Son of God  Rather when Jesus was raised, raised in power to be Lord over all  In incarnation = divine glory veiled by human flesh  Now resurrected = Christ’s divine glory is fully revealed  Phil. 2:9  “*God also highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow,* |
| 9  *of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*.”  Christ = designated/appointed = King and Lord of the nations in which all = owe obedience  Which leads us to V. 5  *through whom we received grace and apostleship for the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of His name, among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ.”*  Paul = recipient of grace just like any sinner  Pure grace = nothing more, nothing less  And received “apostleship” = commission to bring about the obedience of faith in all the Gentiles  “Apostle to the Gentiles”  Church of Rome = “called of Jesus Christ” | 10  Weren’t chosen to be frozen  But rather you were chosen because God loved you!  V. 7  “*to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*.”  To be called of Jesus Christ = called to be “saints” = a people marked by sanctifying obedience to Him  You are “beloved” beloved not because you loved God first, but because God loved you first and chose you out of this world  **TRANSITION:**  Because Jesus = crowned Lord over all by His resurrection from dead…VV. 8-15 Paul talks about how we must go to all to preach the lordship of J.C. to all peoples |
| 11  **BODY:**  VV. 8-10  “*First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world. For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how without ceasing I make mention of you, always in my prayers earnestly asking, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you*.”  Although never met personally church of Rome Paul = overjoyed that their faith is being spoken of by the whole world  Paul = prays that he can visit them…to do what?  Do we pray without ceasing for opportunities for ministry and for the Lord to sanctify certain people  ILLUST:  National day of prayer = Milton = Bill Griggs’ dad prayed for me every day | 12  Why does Paul want to see them? V. 11  “*For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be strengthened; that is, to be mutually encouraged, while among you, by each other’s faith, both yours and mine. I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may have some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles*.”  **ILLUST:**  Can you imagine if Apostle Paul alive today and wrote us a letter saying he wanted to come visit us?!  What would our response be?  “Waahhh…it’s the apostle Paul! What do we do?!!”  Am I holding the Bible the right way?  Do I know my memory verses?  As gifted as Paul was = normal Christian guy |
| 13  Like any others, he needed to be encouraged as well even though he wanted to strengthen and encourage the churches  Not only that V. 13 = wanted to share in salvation among Gentiles = “that I may have some fruit among you”  One of the greatest joys = to see a sinner come to know Christ  1 Thess. 2:19  “*For who is our hope or joy or crown of boasting? Is it not even you, before our Lord Jesus at His coming?*”  Then V. 14 speaking of fruit of gospel  “*I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. In this way, for my part, I am eager to proclaim the gospel to you also who are in Rome*.” | 14  Not only desire, but under obligation = apostle = sent by Jesus for that purpose!  Not sent for specific group of Gentiles, but to all Gentiles!!  To Greeks = those who spoke Greek  Barbarians = didn’t speak Greek (at least well)  BTW = Barb = comes from “barbarian” =  Kind of insulting word = describe those who couldn’t speak Greek well onomatopoeic word = “bar, bar, bar, bar”  if Charlie Brown = Greek speaking Roman  Teacher = barbarian = “wah wah wah wah”  But also to “wise” and “foolish”  “Wise” = Greek philosophers = white collars  “Foolish” = simple blue collar agricultural worker |
| 15  But Paul is the gospel really that powerful despite:  Intelligence level?  Social Status?  Economic Status?  Yes! V. 16  “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek*.”  Paul’s day Greeks believed foolishness that all powerful deity like God would show weakness by allowing himself to be crucified as a criminal = utterly incomprehensible to them  = mind as well be a fairy tale  = laughable  That’s why Paul said cross is stumbling block to the Jews and “FOOLISHNESS” to the Greeks | 16  It’s FOOLISHNESS TO THEM!  **ILLUST:**  I don’t recall being mocked and laughed at for sharing the gospel but I could imagine temptation to be embarrassed if someone did do that to me.  Maybe you can relate to that experience  Acts 2: Pentecost = proclaiming in tongues  Some knuckleheads who thought they were funny said in response  Acts 2:13 “*They are drinking new wine*” =  Oh look at that, looks like they had a little bit too much to drink!”  Felt temptation = but was not embarrassed = ashamed = boldly proclaimed  Not guilt of doing something wrong |
| 17  Rather embarrassment like mom holding your hand in school  The Gospel is not some embarrassing fool’s tale told by some ragtag nutty individuals who proclaim that Jesus is God  No it is the “POWER OF GOD FOR SALVATION TO EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES…”  1 Cor. 1:18  “*For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God*.”  Wait Paul…you said salvation is for “everyone” why Jew first?  Why not Jews + Gentiles first? | 18  True technically Jews first  1. God chose Israel out of pagan world  2. Revealed first of special revelation  3. Instrument of salvation to Gentiles  4. They received God’s Law through Moses  5. It was from Israel that Messiah would come  Jesus did instruct twelve Matt. 10:5-6  “*Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans;**but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel*.”  Matt. 15:24 = Canaanite woman = daughter demon  “*I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel*.”  Acts reflected this ordering Paul + Barnabas |
| 19  Acts 13:46 *“It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first. Since you reject it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles*  Jesus in John 4:22  “*You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.*”  Pretty clear that Jews were the priority for salvation but…we know that it wasn’t because they were special or were inherently righteous or good looking  So why?  A: Paul wants us to be deeply aware that salvation is not dependent on ethnicity or where you come from, but that salvation = entirely dependent on God’s mercy  Because Jews reading this = “Yeah, that’s right, of course we get first dibs of salvation…we’re just that awesome! | 20  You Gentiles, you come up to that line, but no further, we don’t want to be defiled by you  ILLUST:  Even to this day, I heard that if you visit Jerusalem near the temple, you will still come across a sign that tells the Gentiles to keep out!  But Paul says something equally offensive to Jews…  To the Jew first “AND ALSO TO THE GREEK”  What?! How dare you Paul!  You mean to say God that your plan of salvation this whole time, even all the way back to Abraham was for the Gentiles to be saved too??!!  Precisely…  How about this? Romans 2:29 “*But he is a Jew who is one inwardly*” |
| 21  = Made Pharisees absolutely tear their clothes  Why is Paul not ashamed of the gospel?  = Power of God unto salvation…  Why is the gospel of God the power of God unto salvation…?  Because V. 17  “*For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS WILL LIVE BY FAITH*”  When God by His power saves you = see “righteousness of God” = credited  We were furthest thing away from “righteousness”  But God in mercy = gave you the righteousness of Christ | 22  And that righteous life is revealed from faith to faith to faith  Every time a sinner is saved from his sin, it declares to the whole world = gift of righteousness that God gives to everyone who receives it  But how do you receive that righteousness?  Do you earn it? No  “By faith”  Hab. 2:4 “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS (OR JUST) SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”  Habakkuk lived = wicked/idolatrous period of Israel  = confusing time = seemed God wasn’t doing anything  Habakkuk cried out to the Lord  Lord answered = but not what Habakkuk thought |
| 23  God raise up Chaldeans = Babylonians = siege punish Israel  Habakkuk = “why God using more wicked nation to punish us?”  The answer God gives  Hab. 2:4 “*Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith*.”  In other words = Habakkuk, if you trust in me and my promises you will live  I think Paul quoting Habakkuk here because Israel similarly confused by God  “God why is Israel like it is? Under Roman power?”  Same answer: For the righteous will live by faith  It is not your righteousness, it is not Israel’s righteousness, it is not ANYONE’S righteousness for that matter that will make one live | 24  It is only by trusting in my righteousness that you will live  Gospel is powerful = save most unrighteous of sinners  No amount unrighteousness = strong enough to overcome righteousness of God  And that my friends is good news  And that is why the gospel is good news = you can be end of rope like Israel was  Devastation + apostasy = all hope seems lost  And God can still promise you “the righteous shall live by faith”  If salvation was dependent on your righteousness as Martin Luther thought you will come to hate the righteousness of God  You will feel hopeless and in despair |
| 25  Every other religion and belief system is banking their eternal destiny on the righteousness of men  But if you realize salvation = dependent = righteousness that comes from God  Gates of paradise will be opened to you  You will have every reason to rejoice  *“You will be unashamed of the gospel*, *for it is the* *power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and then to the Greek*.”  Let’s pray  Benediction:  “*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him*.” | 26 |