

Sermon Series: Book of Romans
Sermon title: "The Message of the Gospel"
Scripture Reading: Romans 1:8-16
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church
September 18, 2022
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Let's pray.

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you **10** always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.

11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— **12** that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

13 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. **14** I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. **15** So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel

Last week we took a look at **the Message of the Gospel**, and how Paul wanted the church in Rome to hear clearly that:

- (1) He can be trusted cause he is a true servant of Christ, called to be an Apostle and called before he was born to the task of the gospel.
- (2) His gospel is the real gospel. The Old Testament spoke of Jesus, He is the king in David's line and He rose from the dead.

Today we will look at the second part of Paul's greeting and introduction to the book of Romans.

Today we want to look at Paul, the Messenger of the Gospel. And in Paul's example we will see some things that pertain to us.

The Messenger of the Gospel has:

- I. A Love for the Church**
- II. A Love for the Gospel**

First,....A Love for the Church.

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9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you **10** always in my prayers, asking that somehow by

God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.
11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you– **12** that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

We see here 4 ways that the Messenger of the Gospel loves the church.

- He is **thankful** for the church.
- He is **prayerful** for the church.
- He wants to **strengthen** the church.
- He wants to **partner** with the church.

1. He is thankful for the church.

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

Notice what he is thankful for. Their faith.
Here it looks like it could be read a few different ways.

It could be read: "I am thankful for you all because Christianity is spreading around the world." Not 'your faith' but 'the' faith.

The correct interpretation is "*your faith*" meaning the faith of the Romans specifically.

Why is this a big deal?

Just think of it. In the imperial city...the heart of Rome, where temples and shrines abound to the Emperor and all kinds of other goddesses and deities.... There is a church! The pillar and buttress of the truth abides in Rome.

And it has become known all over the churches of the Roman Empire that there is a household of faith in Rome.

He is thankful for that.

2. He is prayerful for the church.

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you **10** always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.

Paul prays for the Romans.

He doesn't just pray....but he prays 'without ceasing' and 'always'.

He's always consistently mentioning them to God.

Some of you know what that is like.

You are always praying for this church or that group of believers. Why? Because you love them.

What's his biggest prayer for them?

He wants to see them.

3. He wants to strengthen the church.

In his heart he is thankful.

With his lips he is prayerful.

With his spiritual gift he desires to strengthen them.

11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—

'Some spiritual gift' means what?

This word means to establish...to give them a solid footing...to *reinforce* them per se.

Guess what the the gift is here?

It's the gospel. He wants to teach them the gospel.

That's why he wants to go there. We will see this more in later verses.

4. He wants to partner with the church.

11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—

12 that is,.....that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

Paul is thankful for the Roman church.

He is prayerful for the Roman church.

He wants to do what he can to strengthen the Roman church.

He wants to not only give but also receive from them. He wants to be encouraged BY THEM and their faith. Partnership.

This is how Paul demonstrates his love for the church.

Let's apply this section now and not later.

How can we love this church and love and support the churches of God around the world?

Simple.

Give thanks to God for their faith.

Pray for them constantly.

Look for ways to strengthen the church with your gifts.

Partner. Receive as well as give.

Maybe you need to visit the churches in Burma to encourage yourself AND them.

How might you we all do those things for CBIBC and churches that we partner with and have a close relationship with?

So, in summary....**point number one**....Paul, the Messenger of God loves the church in Rome and it shows in 4 ways here in this passage:

Thankfulness

Prayerfulness

Desire to strengthen the church.

Partnering with the church in mutual give and take.

Paul doesn't just love the church though.

He loves the gospel.

II. A Love for the Gospel

13 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (*but thus far have been prevented*), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.

14 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. **15** So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel

Paul has already said in verse 11, "For I long to see you" and here he says that he has "often intended to come to you (*but thus far have been prevented.*)"

Hey Paul, if you love the Romans so much and you long to see them and you have intended to see them, why didn't you just get on a boat and head over there?

Do you know why? He says he has been 'prevented'.
Prevented by what?

In order to find the answer we need to go to **Romans 15:20-24**

20 Thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, 21 but as it is written, *"Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."*

22 This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. 23 But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions and since I have longed for many years to come to you, 24 I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.

What prevented and hindered Paul from going to Rome? The gospel.

Paul's love for the gospel manifests itself in 4 ways here:

1. Fairness
2. Obligation
3. Eagerness
4. Unashamedness

1. Fairness in the preaching of the gospel.

Why?

Paul understands that those who have never heard of Jesus should have a right to hear.

And that it's not right that some people groups get to hear it every day and some get to never hear.

Paul couldn't go to Rome, where there was a church already established/ a foundation laid, while he knew there were places where there was no foundation.

As William Borden said,

“If ten men are carrying a log—
nine of them on the little end
and one at the heavy end—and
you want to help, which end
will you lift on?” - William Borden

Now, he wants to reap a harvest (literally: fruit) in Rome and preach the gospel there but mainly to believers. Surely some non-believers will hear and be saved but he has no desire to settle down there.

He says in chapter 15 that he will see them *'in passing'* as he goes to Spain. In fact, part of the reason he is writing the letter is to secure their help in that effort.

Notice secondly that Paul feels:

2. A sense of obligation to the gospel.

To the educated Greeks who study philosophy, the Barbarian tribes who are foolishly worshipping idols... he doesn't care. They all need to know. Literally, this phrase 'obligated' means 'indebted'. He owes it to them.

3. An eagerness in preaching the gospel.

Paul is not only obligated but he wants to do it. Eagerness here means that he has a 'prior-passion' and is ready. Willing is too weak a word. He's jumping at the chance.

4. Unashamedness in preaching the gospel.

14 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

15 So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. **16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel

We don't need to dissect these words to try to find out what they mean.

What we need is to wrestle with God over these words.

Gospel fairness.

Obligation.

Eagerness.

Unashamedness.

We need to pray that God will make us care that there are over 2 billion people in the world who have never heard. Is it right that we stay here and not go to them? Is it fair that we are saturated with the gospel while they have no access?

We are like people gorging ourselves at a hotel all-you-can-eat-buffet while people dying of hunger cling to the windows watching us get up and get another plate.

Would that be fair?

But that's the state of the world when it comes to the gospel.

We surely need to pray and ask God to change our hearts to feel obligated, eager and unashamed.

Do I love the church of Jesus Christ?

Do I seek to be thankful for her, prayerful for her, to strengthen her with my gifts and to partner with her in reaching the world.

Do I love the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Do I care that it goes to the unreached?

Do I feel obligated to tell those around me, eager, unashamed?

May the Lord help us.

You may be here and not be a Christian and say, *'Wow, this guys is getting all worked up about this thing called the gospel.'* *"What's the deal?"*

This good news about Jesus is the only message that will save you from your sins and judgement.

You must believe it or when you die, you won't go to heaven.

There's only one way.

Jesus is the way.

He died on the cross for sinners.

He rose from the dead.

He's coming again to judge the world.

Turn to him and be saved and then.....

go be a Messenger.