

# “Grace & Peace to You”

## A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia  
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### ROMANS- Lesson 12, Part 1: THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

ROM 1:13-17 *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.* <sup>14</sup> *I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.* <sup>15</sup> *So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.*

<sup>16</sup> *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.* <sup>17</sup> *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith unto faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”*

### GOD’S DESIRE ... MY OBLIGATION

ROM 1:14-15 *I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.* <sup>15</sup> *So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.*

As we have already stated, Paul had a deep and humble regard for the ministry to which God had called him: an Apostle. But it was not to be treated as an “assignment” that he could DO and be done. It was as a “service of worshipful devotion” which issued from deep within him... “from his spirit” not from his head. So here, Paul does NOT direct the attention to an “obligation to God” but an “obligation to the intended recipients OF his message: THE GOSPEL.”

**Obligation** – a debt that is to be repaid / Passed on – a kindness shown that is to be passed-on to others

- As “recipients of the GOSPEL” we are indebted to others to “pass the message along”
- The “debt” is NOT to God... otherwise it would NOT be GRACE!
- This *obligation* arose from the favor [grace] that God had shown him ... NOW I must pass it on...

1 TIM 1:13-16 “...though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

<sup>16</sup> *But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.*

TITUS 3:3-8 *For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others, and hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the*

Holy Spirit,<sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,  
<sup>7</sup> so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.  
<sup>8</sup> The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, **so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works.**  
These things are excellent and profitable for people.

- To fail to “fulfill my obligation” is to **“transgress”** – step aside from the path God intended - **NOT “sin”** as in a direct violation of God’s holiness

**1 COR 9:16** For if I preach the GOSPEL, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me **if I do not preach** the GOSPEL!

## ROMANS- Lesson 12, Part 2: THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

**ACTS 26:16-20** But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you ...<sup>19</sup> **“THEREFORE, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision**

- **Greeks / Barbarians** – Cultured and UN-cultured -
- **Wise / Foolish** – Educated and UN-educated -
- **“To you in ROME...” / “...as I go to SPAIN...”** – To **ALL ethnic regions** – the great city of Rome / the distant uncivilized boundaries of the Empire
- **Everyone** – **“pas”** – ALL as viewed as ONE unit / no divisions – ALL Humanity
- **“The Jew first ... also to the Greek...”** – Jews as the first objects of the GOSPEL Message / The Greeks as God’s intention to reach the whole world

**ROM 1:13** “...in order that I **may reap some harvest [have some fruit]** ...”

To **“have fruit”** means **to obtain success in bringing men to the knowledge of Christ.**

Jesus said (**JOHN 15:16**), **“I have chosen you, and ordained you that you should bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain.”**

The **“potential” [should]** is in the control of both the **Disciple** and the **Hearer** -

## GOD’S POWER TO SAVE

**ROM 1:16-17** 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.<sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, **“The righteous shall live by faith.”**

- **FOR...** - This is the reality that stands behind Paul’s conviction to **“preach the Gospel to all people”**

**I am not ashamed** of the GOSPEL ... -

- **To “turn the face”** - to see nothing good / beautiful / useful –thus to **turn away / keep silent**

- MOFFATT turns it positive: **"I am PROUD of the Gospel"** – Not quite the same meaning but effective
- The JEWS regarded Paul as an apostate; and by the wise among the GENTILES, he had been persecuted, and despised; to some of the "self-centered" of the Church in Corinth, Paul was regarded as the filth of the world, and the offscouring of all things (1 COR. 4:13)  
... **but still he was not ashamed of the GOSPEL.**
- He could not / would not be intimidated by the cultural / intellectual / national / OR Religious shaming him into silence...

**for it is the power of God [unto] salvation... -**

- NOT **"has the power..."** – **it IS the power** – The GOSPEL itself contains the power to transform the spirit of a believer from "death to life" – to restore the "brokenness of the believer's relation to God – to remove the barriers of sin - and to make them **"whole – SAVED"**
- COL 1:5-6 [Phillips] *We know that you are showing these qualities because you have grasped the hope reserved for you in Heaven—that hope which first became yours when the truth was brought to you. It is, of course, part of the GOSPEL itself, which has reached you as it spreads all over the world. Wherever that GOSPEL goes, it produces Christian character, and develops it, as it had done in your own case from the time you first heard and realized the amazing fact of God's grace.*

1 THESS 1:5 "...because our GOSPEL came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake."

1 THESS 2:13 "And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers."

- Paul's statement leaves **NO room** for another "way to Salvation..." - **IT ALONE IS...**

ACTS 16:17 *She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you [ "A" ] way of salvation."*

**to everyone who believes... - the FAITH of the "hearer" is essential... Faith "activates" the Power in the GOSPEL, so that "Salvation" is realized...**

EPH 1:13 "...In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit..."

ROM 3:21-22 *But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.*

ROM 5:1-2 *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*