



LETTERS TO THE CHURCH [ROMANS 1]

In Romans 1, Paul opens his letter by grounding everything in the story of God and His promises fulfilled through Jesus. He introduces himself as a servant, called and set apart for the gospel, emphasizing that Jesus—not Caesar—is Lord and King. This gospel is not disconnected from Israel's story but is its fulfillment, and it forms the identity of those in Rome who are “called to be saints.” Paul’s deep longing to visit them reveals something important: even those who already believe need to continually hear the gospel.

What becomes clear is that the gospel is not merely a message to believe but a proclamation to live. Paul is eager to “preach the gospel” to Christians because the gospel is the announcement that Jesus is King and that God’s kingdom has come through His death and resurrection. This good news reshapes every part of life. It calls for allegiance, obedience, and trust—not just initial belief. The question for believers, then, is whether their confidence is rooted in a message they once accepted or a reality they are actively living under.

In verses 16–17, Paul declares that he is not ashamed of this gospel because it is the power of God for salvation—for all people. This salvation is not limited to a one-time event but includes rescue, healing, restoration, and future hope. It has always been grounded in faith from beginning to end. God’s righteousness, revealed in the gospel, points to His faithfulness to keep His promises and to set the world right through Jesus. This good news breaks down barriers, extending first historically to the Jew and then to the Gentile, showing that God shows no partiality.

Finally, Paul addresses the reality of God’s wrath, which must be understood through the lens of God’s character—merciful, gracious, and slow to anger (Exodus 34). Rather than portraying God as impulsively angry, Romans 1 shows that His wrath is often expressed by “giving people over” to the natural consequences of rejecting Him. Humanity exchanges truth for lies and, in doing so, experiences the breakdown of life as God intended it. This passage serves as both a warning and a reminder: turning away from God leads to disintegration, but the gospel remains the invitation to live under the good and restoring reign of King Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. **Gospel as Proclamation:** How does viewing the gospel as a *proclamation to live under* (not just a message to believe) challenge or change the way you think about your faith?
2. **Jesus as King:** In what areas of your life is it hardest to live as if “Jesus is King”? What might it look like to more fully submit those areas to His rule?
3. **Understanding Salvation:** The sermon described salvation as past, present, and future (rescue, healing, restoration). Which aspect of salvation do you most need to experience right now, and why?
4. **God’s Wrath and Character:** How does understanding God as “merciful, gracious, and slow to anger” shape the way you interpret passages about His wrath?
5. **Consequences and Surrender:** Romans 1 describes God “giving people over” to their choices. Where have you seen this pattern—either personally or in the world—and how does it motivate you to trust and follow God more fully?