

The Gospel According to Paul

We are all familiar with the first four books of the New Testament and the fact that they are called collectively "The Gospels." They tell the story of Jesus Christ and his birth, life, teachings, death and resurrection. But, as I told the folks in attendance last Sunday morning, they are not the only "gospels" included within the New Testament.

In the letter to the Romans, Paul outlines his gospel—the good news of Jesus Christ. He longed to see the Romans, he tells them in chapter 1, so that he might be able to "preach the gospel" to them. In Corinth, Paul had preached simply "**Jesus Christ and Him crucified**" and that simply "**Jesus Christ is Lord**"—the one they should give their lives to. In I Corinthians 15:1-11, Paul reminded the Corinthians of the gospel that had been preached to them and upon which they had taken their stand in this world. His gospel sermon outline? Verses 3-8:

"For what I received, I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas (Peter), and then to the Twelve."

He goes on to say that Jesus showed himself alive to many more people, before appearing to Paul himself. Paul was speaking the truth of the gospel, as an eyewitness of the risen Christ. "**This is what we preach, and this is what you believed**" he told the Corinthians. And Paul was anxious to preach this gospel to the Romans as well.

Concerning the gospel of Jesus Christ, Paul wanted the Romans to know:

- 1. That he was in no way ashamed to preach it, for it had the power to save everyone who believes. (1:16)**
- 2. That it reveals a righteousness of God that comes from faith, not works of the Law. (1:16, 3:21-22)**

- 3. We all need to hear it and accept it because we all are sinners. (3:23)**
- 4. Christ died for our sins because of His desire to have us forgiven of them. We are justified by God's grace through faith in the power of that death and the victory over sin in His resurrection (4:25-5:2)**
- 5. Jesus gave Himself at just the right time—while we were steeped in sin. (5:6-8)**
- 6. We bury one life to live another. (6:3-4)**
- 7. We are to become slaves of righteousness. (6:16-19)**
- 8. Christ is our advocate. (8:31-39)**
- 9. We become living sacrifices, overcoming evil with good. (Romans 12)**
- 10. We are to love our neighbors, bear with them in their weaknesses and continually encourage them to live for Christ. (Romans 13, 14, and 15)**

This is what Paul told the Romans about Christ—the gospel he wants all of us to know. What a blessing it is to be a child of God!