

## **LESSON 2: ROMANS 1:1-17**

### **Good News from God**

1. What can be learned about Paul in verses 1-7? What does he mean by writing that he is a “bondservant, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God” (v. 1)? Do these things refer only to him or to all believers – and if to all believers, then to they refer to all (i.e., Paul and us) in the same way?
2. What is said about Jesus Christ in these same verses?
3. What does Paul say about the gospel in these same verses? What does “gospel” mean? And what is the gospel? To whom does the gospel direct our gaze? In what capacity? And toward what end? In what way is the gospel new, and in what way old? Is the “good news” in some sense new even today?
4. What deeper understanding to we gain about the nature of the gospel when we consider Paul’s words in verse 5, that he had “received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations.” What does this mean? What does it indicate concerning the nature of the gospel and of Paul’s (and our) commission as witnesses of Jesus?
5. In verses 6-7, Paul writes to the Christians in Rome and says three things about them? What are these three things, and how does knowing these three things help provide insight for wiser, better Christian life? What does it mean that we “belong” to Jesus – theologically, but also practically-speaking, as a matter of everyday living? And what does it mean that we are “called to be saints”? What is a saint? (See also Eph. 1:4; 1 Pet. 1:2-10.) Are you a saint?
6. Why does Paul thank God for the saints in Rome (v. 8)? Why should he find this so encouraging? What can we learn from this as a guide for our own life?

7. In verses 9-15, Paul expresses how greatly he longs to visit them in Rome. Why does he want to come? What is this sense of obligation to which he refers in verse 14? And why is he so eager to preach (v. 15)? In these verses we are shown something of the servant nature of following God. What marks of true spiritual service can be identified in these verses?
  
8. In verse 16, Paul writes that he is not ashamed of the gospel. Why? How does the world want us to be ashamed of the gospel today? What is the antidote to this tendency? What is the value of boldness in the gospel? What is your immediate response to the good news? What ought our reaction and sharing of the gospel be like? (See Isaiah 52:7-9.)
  
9. Martin Luther wrote that verse 17 became to him “a gateway to heaven.” Why would he consider this verse so significant? What does Paul mean when he writes that “for in it [i.e., in the gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith”?
  
10. What does it mean to “live by faith?” How is it reflected in your personal life?