

Romans Introduction - God's Power to Save
9/20/09 - The Exchange

Background / Overview

- Scary books because it's such a favorite.
- Written by Paul while in Corinth, late 50s AD. Elaborate on Paul, Rome.
- We are reading someone else's mail. Imaginary letter between Fred and Ethel.
 - Paul knows people there, people there know people Paul knows.
 - Inside stuff going on, context we can pull out.
- So many verses and doctrines come from this letter, but they mean so much more when seen in context.
- How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time. Going to spend to-day surveying the elephant.
- Does a couple of interesting things.
 - Starts off by making a point, but then spends the rest of the letter giving you the background in order to get the main point.
 - Uses questions to communicate truth. Very Jewish. Jesus did it.

Survey

- **1:1-17** Introductory comments. Who I am, what's keeping me going, I'm praying for you, I want to come see you and preach the gospel to you.
 - Why does he want to preach the gospel to believers? **Because there is more to it than the facts of the gospel and believing those facts.**
 - Gospel is the power of God to salvation. Dunamis.
 - Power - energy at work. He-Man. Capt. Kirk. The Force. Flux Capacitor. Power outage. There is power, power, wonder working power, in the blood of the Lamb.
 - What kind of power?
 - Miracles? Yes. Translated as such.
 - Power to save. Just saved and going to heaven? Partly. Ongoing process for now. Light bulb light and heat. Transformation.
 - Power works within us. It keeps/guards us. Gives us all things that pertain to life and godliness.
 - Most significant expression is love. **1 Cor. 13.**
- **1:18-32** That from which we need to be saved. You either know you need to be saved or you don't. Some search all over. In danger.
- **2:1-16** Before you feel too self righteous, do you do those things?
- **2:17 - 3:31** Introduction of Jew vs. Gentile issue readers we dealing with. "I'm a Jew, I have the law." "I'm a Gentile, I don't need the law. Faith!"
- **4:1 - 5:11** Saved by faith in what Jesus has done, not what we do.
- **5:12-21** Through one man's life, sin and death. Through another man's death, justification and life.
- **6** Dead to the power of sin by the power of the death and resurrection

- 7-8 Relationship between that law, the power of sin, and the HS.
- 9-11 Paul's heart for his fellow Israelites.
- 12-13 Living the resurrected and transformed life. (Body, gifts)
- 14:1 - 15:6 Legalism, holiness, and submitting to one another.
- 15:7-33 Comes out of teaching mode, back to personal mode.
- 16 Closing comments and commendations.

Rhetorical questions used by Paul to make his points.

2:3-4	2:21-23	2:26-27	3:1	3:3	3:5-9
3:27 - 4:1	4:9-10	6:1-3	6:15-16	6:21	7:1
7:7	7:13	7:24	8:24	8:31-35	9:14
9:19-24	10:14	11:1	11:15	13:3	14:4
14:10	14:22				

- Have you ever asked any of these questions?
- These are questions our society is asking of itself and God.
- There are answers. Definitive, solid, right, joyful answers!

Closing - It's about the gospel, God's power to save, from now till death.

- Christian, ever asked yourself, "Why do I still deal with...?"
 - Common answer, "Because we are still in the flesh and are going to deal with this." Yes, but now. BS. Transforming power, no longer slaves of sin.
 - Position vs. practicality. In Christ, done. In the flesh, in process. That's the good news of the gospel!
- There is power, power, wonder working, life transforming, sin delivering, family healing, love restoring, heart returning, power, in the blood of the lamb. Do you need any of that?
- Transformation begins with the truth of the gospel. Romans Road. 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-10.