

Rom 1:7-17 (NIV) To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. {8} First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. {9} God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you {10} in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you. {11} I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong-- {12} that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. {13} I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles. {14} I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. {15} That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome. {16} I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. {17} For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

45-01-01-The Sharing of the Gospel

Gospel, witnessing, prayer, God's righteousness, faith
Rom 1:7-17

The Gospel turns believers into a Good News reporters.

INTRODUCTION:

–Previous sermon: “the heart of the Gospel.” Today's: **title.** *Gospel*= *good news*; it's only news when announced. The Gospel is by nature is a message. It's not really *news*, if it's not *shared*.

–Everyday we are bombarded with different kinds of *news*:

#1-impersonal news: interesting, but doesn't really affect our lives

[train accident in Iceland; new species of iguana discovered in the Pacific]

#2-important news: indirectly affects us, but nothing we can do about it

[Kennedy's assassination or 9-11 Attack: all America focused on these events]

#3-imperative news: affects us directly; we must act on it [“The IRS next year is changing the deadline for tax returns to April 1st” (“April fools!”)]

–The Gospel is imperative news that we must do something about *when we hear it* or *when we have it*. Ultimately **HOM.idea**.

–The Apostle Paul was one of those “*Good News reporters*” and our **text** today teaches from his life that **the sharing of the Gospel** is...

I. Part of Our Whole-Hearted Service to God– v.9a, *God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son...*

A. Mat 6:21, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (The Gospel is a heart-treasure that we must unselfishly share!)

B. When the Gospel captures our hearts, it affects our...*

1. *Interests – v.8b, *your faith is being reported all over the world*. (Paul's focus was once on destroying Gospel faith; now he focused on reports of its success. (*Where's our attention? We must look for news of missions & ministries that secular media doesn't report.*)

2. *Prayer life (how we pray and what we pray for):

a. First, we should thank God for *the progress*– v.8a, *First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you*

b. Then, we should ask for *more blessings*, v.9b-10a, *...constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times...* (Remember: we may be the answer to the prayer! We may be called to be the blessing!)

3. *Direction (going from our knees onto our feet)– v.10b, *and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.*

- a. Prayer can give us places to go, people to see.
- b. Prayer can give our day a people-centered itinerary.

TRANS: The Gospel turns believers into a Good News reporters.

[First 2 letters in the English word for *Gospel* (G - O) spell “GO!”] When the Gospel captures our hearts, we’ll want to “GO” report this Good News to others. Next, Paul shows that **Sharing of the Gospel is...**

II. Part of the Reason for the Church [why we’re “*the church militant*”]

- A. The *Church* means team effort (the you in Mat 5:14-16 is plural, You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let **your** light shine before men, that they may see **your** good deeds and praise **your** Father in heaven.)
- B. The *Church* means team work [**JFK’s phrase** revised: “Ask not what the Church can do for you, but what you can do for the Church.”]– v.11, *I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong...*
 1. The assembled church is a place to share our spiritual blessings with others (It ought to be part of why we come to church!)
 2. Spiritual gifts aren’t for show or status, but to bless us as a body by strengthening our grip on the Gospel and its grip on us!
- C. The *Church* means team support– v.12, *that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith. (Our sharing can encourage others to share.)* [One sister’s 5-min. story about sharing her faith was like a sermon.]

TRANS: Paul wanted “a harvest” of souls at Rome, but he knew that evangelistic success depends on the church’s spiritual health. When Christians fail to work together, they usually fail to share their faith. That’s one reason Jesus established *the Church*. He knew we needed each other. He gave His Great Commission in the plural, because He knew it was a job for team effort, for team work, and for team support. Everybody should participate. Finally, **the Sharing of the Gospel is...**

III. Part of the Responsibility of Gospel Faith

- A. Gospel faith makes us rich– v.17–*For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”* (The priceless gift of divine “righteousness” is a treasure that can’t be earned. But although it’s

freely given by God’s grace, it has spiritual strings attached...)

- B. Our responsibility in receiving God’s grace is to share it:
 1. *with all kinds of people– v.14, *I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. (The Gospel of God’s grace meets the needs of every individual in every culture.)*
 2. *with enthusiasm– v.15, *That is why I am so **eager** to preach the gospel also to you... [Gk. “eagerness” = prothumos] (Why should we be **eager Good News reporters**? We’ve heard the best news in the world: Jesus came to pardon sins, bestow His righteousness, and destroy death with resurrection. *Good News* doesn’t get better than that!)*
 3. *without shame– v.16a, *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes...*
 - a. We can be ashamed of our sins that Christ carried to Calvary, but not of the forgiveness that His Cross purchased.
 - b. We can be ashamed of a former unholy life, but not of the new life that Jesus creates in us through the Holy Spirit!
 - c. We can be ashamed of keeping this good news to ourselves. But never should we be ashamed of telling a world facing the grave, “*There’s divine hope!*” Why? Because “*HE IS RISEN!*”

CONCLUSION:

–The *Gospel* of Christ’s victorious Cross and His glorious Resurrection “is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.”
 –If you have not personally embraced this wonderful *Good News*, do so without delay! Open your heart to accept His gracious gift of salvation.
 –But if Gospel faith is already our heart-treasure, then we should let our gratitude and love for God **turn us into Good News reporters.**