

**Romans 1: 1-4; “The Gospel of God’s Son”, Sermon # 1 in a series entitled –  
“From Faith to Faith”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on  
February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in the Morning Worship Service.**

In beginning this series of sermons on the book of Romans, I hope that you will remember many of the things that we have studied together in going through the book of Acts. In our study of the that book we learned much about the life and ministry of the apostle Paul, and how he zealously spread the gospel to all the world around him in his day. In this book of Romans he will teach us many truths about the gospel, and he will show us the greatness of salvation in Christ. In this message I want to speak to you about the Gospel of God’s Son. The gospel is made up of truths that we can only learn from the Scriptures.

Here in these verses there are truths that we need to remember to store up in our mind, and pray that we might be able to relate them to people who have never heard or never understood what the Bible is saying. Let us remember that since Paul wrote this letter by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, if we will pay close attention to what is written here, we will be able defend and proclaim our faith. And we will be able to explain these truths to those who need to be saved. There are five truths concerning the gospel which are given to us in these verses.

**1<sup>st</sup> of all – Let us understand that gospel was something that the apostle Paul was separated unto.** (verse 1)

The apostle Paul calls himself a bondservant of Jesus Christ here at the beginning of this wonderful letter. He says that he was called to be an apostle. And he says that he was separated to the gospel of God. Paul, in saying that he was a bondservant, is expressing the fact that he personally belonged to Jesus Christ. From the moment that he was converted, he saw Christ spiritually as His Lord and Master. For Christ was the One who had laid hold of him, when he was a very sinful man, persecuting Christ’s Church.

He didn’t lay hold of him to kill him. He laid hold of him to save him and transform him by His precious and powerful grace into someone who would personally serve Him by preaching His gospel. Christ, from heaven, shone intense and blinding light upon Saul, and he heard His voice saying to him – Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? Paul was not speechless. Right away he said – Who are you, Lord? And the answer that came to him was – I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. It’s hard for you to kick against the goads.

Sometimes people who are coming to Christ, or even people who know Christ kick against the goad that Jesus is their Lord. They do not mind taking Christ for salvation. But they do not like the idea of Jesus being their Lord, and their being His servant; of His requiring them to do anything in obedience to Him. But Paul learned this truth right out of the gate of his conversion. In Acts chapter 9, verse 6, it says – So he, trembling and astonished, said, Lord what do You want me to do? And Jesus said to him – Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do. He was blind for 3 days following this encounter with Christ to show him how spiritually blind he had been.

This sinful man Saul needed to be saved, in just this way, so that he would see that Jesus was Lord. The reason that God saves any of us is so that we might understand this great truth of the gospel. God is the One who made you. He made you for Himself. You have lived your life thus far, to yourself. Many sins have been committed. Then Jesus says – Come unto Me. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me. In saving you, the Lord Jesus is saying: I am laying hold of you so that you will learn to serve Me and not sin. When you believe in the gospel you are being called to a life of holiness by Someone who is much greater than yourself. Yes, He was crucified in weakness, but He was raised in power. The Lord Jesus has all power in heaven and earth.

He expects you , now that He has saved you, to confess Him as Lord; to look to Him and let His Holy Spirit to teach you the right way to think and to live. It is in that way that you will learn to do all that He commands you. Ask yourself if you are Christ's servant. Are you willing to serve in whatever capacity God calls you to, as a Christian? In the case of Paul, he was called to be an apostle and separated to the gospel of God. He was separated to preach the gospel of Christ, for Christ. You should understand that the gospel is the good news of God's purpose in Christ, to save you and bring you into the kingdom of heaven. And once you are in His kingdom, He would have you to be His servant and to testify of His grace.

God's purpose was to have Paul become a preacher and teacher of Christ, to bear His name before Gentiles, kings and the children of Israel. It was God's purpose for Paul, according to the help of the Spirit given to him, to write 14 books of the Bible. These letters would become a great and essential part of the New Testament Scriptures. And so, Paul was separated to the gospel of God, the good news of Christ, and called to be an apostle, even though he was unworthy of so great a privilege.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Let's understand that this gospel was something that God promised before, through His prophets, in the Holy Scriptures.**

The gospel is not something new, in terms of when Christ was first promised. It is not a novel doctrine just lately shown up on the scene. Christ was first promised at the Beginning of the world, when Adam and Eve fell into sin. The Seed of the Woman, our Lord Jesus, would crush the head of the serpent, and he would bruise Christ's heel. But Christ was also promised all through Old Testament times by God's prophets. In Deuteronomy 18, Christ was prophesied of by Moses in terms of His being raised up to be a prophet like Moses. God said Israel should listen to Him; that He would require it of them.

He was prophesied of by Job as the One who he knew was his Redeemer. He was prophesied of, by David, in many of the Psalms. He was prophesied of, by Solomon, in pictorial and allegorical form in the book of Song of Solomon. He was prophesied of by Isaiah many times. In Isaiah 7: 14 it is said that the virgin would conceive and bear a Son, and that they would call His name Immanuel, God with us. And in Isaiah 9: 6 His name would be called Wonder Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

In Isaiah 53 the question is asked – Who has believed our report, and to whom is the Arm of the Lord revealed? He is revealed to Israel and to the whole world in New Testament times, in that passage, as a Man of sorrows and acquainted with the grief of bearing our sins. In that same chapter He is called God's righteous Servant who shall justify many and bear their iniquities. He is prophesied of by Jeremiah in chapter 31, verses 15 and 16 as “a Branch of Righteousness who shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth, and is called – The Lord our Righteousness who would bring in the New Covenant of Grace.

I could go on and on listing prophecies of Christ, but it will be good for you to understand that if you want to prove to people around you that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world and Lord of all, show them the prophecies of Christ which were made by the prophets of old. They are the greatest witnesses to the truth of the gospel when hundreds and thousands of years before Christ came, they prophesied of Him in very particular terms. As William Burkitt in his commentary says – “Behold then, a great correspondency, a sweet agreement and harmony, between the Old and New Testament, between the prophets and apostles; though great difference in the manner and measure of revelation.” “For, as one says, the Old Testament is the hiding of the New; the New Testament is the opening of the Old. The Old Testament is the New Testament veiled; the New Testament is the Old revealed.”

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Let us understand that the gospel concerns God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Verse 3 – “Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. It is a very precious and powerful truth of the gospel that Jesus Christ is God’s Son. He is the Father’s only-begotten Son. He is the One whom, from all eternity, was in the bosom of the Father. He is One with the Father in Substance and Essence as God. Even as it says in John chapter 1, verse 1 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. In Him was life, (the Essential life of Deity) and the life was the light of men. Christ’s life is the light of men, that is. Verse 9 says that He was “the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

So, what we are seeing here is that the apostle Paul knew that proclaiming Christ to be God, and God’s only begotten Son, is a part of the gospel. It ought to be preached and proclaimed that God the Father sent God the Son into the world through His Incarnation, out of love for and to fallen sinners. His sending Him was, and is, the essence of where the gospel began. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” It is essential in our preaching the gospel that we are able to tell people about the love of God in sending His Son.

Verse 17 – For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. It is God who planned, initiated, and took the actions necessary to save all the men and women and children who will ever be saved. And therefore, it is important that those who have the gospel preached to them understand the sovereignty of God in salvation. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5: 18-20 – “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.” “For He made Him (that is Christ) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” This is God the Father and God the Son who took these actions so that we as sinners might be saved. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul? What wondrous love is this O my soul? What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul? This wondrous love of the gospel began from all eternity.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> – Let us understand that the gospel concerns God the Son becoming a Man.**

Verse 3 again – Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh.” How essential was Christ’s becoming a Man to our salvation! And you see here that He had to be born of the seed of David. A most particular fulfillment concerning our Lord Jesus, of what lineage He would be from. In Psalm 89, verse 3, it is mentioned: “I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: Your seed I will establish forever, and build up Your throne to all generations.” You see this its fulfillment in both genealogies in Matthew 1 and Luke 3 to both Joseph and Mary!

In Luke 2: 4 it says – “Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.” And the angel when he spoke to the shepherds in Luke 2: 10 said to them: “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.” “For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord.”

Ah, how good a thing it is when we can see this as a part of the gospel, the good news. That Christ’s coming into the world was according to God’s great and specific plans as to His lineage. God

had plans for the exact time and place of Christ's birth, and the parents to whom He would be born! In your witness to people around you, do you think about speaking of these things of prophecy and fulfillment? For, once again, they show how great the evidence is of God being a God of great compassion, great purpose, and great grace, in that these things should come to pass in just the way that they did. Christ's coming into the world as a little babe is a real part of the gospel. Unto us a Child is born, and unto us a Son is given.

**5<sup>th</sup> – Let us understand that the gospel includes preaching that Christ is risen from the dead with power.**

Verse 4 – “And He was declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” These words show us that Jesus Christ is both God and Man in one blessed Person. When He died, and He rose again from the dead on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, He was declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of Holiness. What does this mean exactly? Well, we can begin by saying that He rose from the dead, just as He personally said that He would.

In John 2: 19, He said to those who were asking a sign from Him as to why He had driven the moneychangers out of the temple – Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. In this saying He was speaking of raising the temple of His own body from the dead. Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said. This raising Himself from the dead proves that Jesus Christ is God. And when I say this, I want to add further, that you should know that in His resurrection all of the 3 Persons of the Divine Trinity were active in the raising of His body from the dead.

According to the Spirit of Holiness could be understood as He Himself by His Spirit of holiness raised Himself from the dead. For there was in Jesus a perfect holiness of His spirit which characterized Him at every point in His earthly ministry. These words, according to the Spirit of Holiness can also, most certainly, refer to the Holy Spirit's having raised the Lord Jesus from the dead. For the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of holiness, and is called the Spirit of Jesus in Acts 16: 7. But we also read in Romans chapter 8, verse 11 – “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

And regarding the Father raising the Lord Jesus we find these words in Galatians 1: 1. Paul says – “Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead...)” So, you can see from these verses that all 3 Persons of the Divine Trinity were together involved in raising the body of Jesus from the dead. But in Jesus' resurrection, He was declared to be the Son of God with power. His was the power of an indestructible life, as is said in the book of Hebrews, chapter 7, verse 16. He was raised from the dead and declared to be the Son of God with power, in order to verify that in every way, that He had accomplished His mission of redemption.

The Father was pleased with His obedience and His sacrifice of Himself on our behalf. The Father and the Son could now send the Spirit, which they would on the Day of Pentecost. And in and with this great gift of the Spirit would come the power, not only for the apostles to preach the gospel and see real and tangible results of conversions come from their preaching. But we ourselves need to know and understand that the same power which raised Jesus from the dead, is the same power at work in the salvation of any person who believes in the gospel. Therefore, let us continually hope and pray that we might see Christ's great power demonstrated in the salvation of people who we preach His gospel to.

