



Sermon Title: Romans Series Part 1 – Conquerors

IN Opportunities to connect and pray as a group

1. What was a highlight from the past season?
2. What has been the impact of the book of Romans on your life? Significant? Confusing? Or are you mostly unfamiliar with it?

UP Time that is devoted to the Word of God

Read Romans 1:1-6.

1. In introducing himself to the Christians in Rome, how does Paul describe himself? What is the significance of these descriptors?
2. What truths about the gospel does Paul proclaim in these verses?

OUT Seek to be the Community of God's people in your community

Read Romans 1:14-17

1. Share a time when you were either bold or ashamed about the gospel. Why is there a temptation to be ashamed/shy about the gospel?
2. Pastor Henry gave an analogy that the gospel is like a hot pepper. Outwardly the pepper may seem ordinary, but the person who bites into it experiences its burning power. How would you describe the power of the gospel? How does this influence you to share the gospel with others?

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

*Where does my righteousness ultimately come from?
(Romans 1:17) What does it mean to you to be righteous?*

How do my attitudes, words and actions reveal the power of the gospel at work in me?

THE WORD (NIV)

Romans 1:1-6,14-17

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— ²the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, ⁴and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. ⁶And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

¹⁴I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. ¹⁵That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Acts 9:15

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.

2 Chronicles 16:9

For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. You have done a foolish thing, and from now on you will be at war."

Luke 6:13

When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles

2 Tim 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness

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Conquerors

Romans 1:1-17

Paul wrote the letter of Romans to the church in Rome, likely around AD 57. Paul was born a Hebrew (Jew) but raised in a Greek society. He was a Roman citizen, by trade a tentmaker, and by religious training a Pharisee (a strict Jewish sect). When he heard that people were saying Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah, he wanted to bring this upstart religion to an end. He brought severe persecution against Christians (Acts 7 & 8). But after meeting the resurrected Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9), his life was changed forever. Jesus said of Paul, “he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel” (Acts 9:15).

Romans was written to Christians living in Rome whom Paul had never met before. Paul begins the letter we call “Romans” with an extended introduction, likely because he was concerned that he may have a credibility problem. Given his past, would the Roman Christians take seriously what he had to say? He introduces himself as a slave of Jesus Christ, one who has been called by Jesus Christ to proclaim the gospel. He then introduces the gospel and says four things about it:

1. The gospel was proclaimed beforehand by the Old Testament prophets (v.2).
2. Jesus Christ is fully God, which was proven by his resurrection from the dead (v.3-4).
3. The gospel is the gospel of grace (v.5).
4. The gospel is for all the nations (v.5-6)

In verses 7-13 he greets the believers in Rome, and in verses 14-17 Paul reveals his motives and mission to preach the gospel. He says he is “obligated”. In the same way someone who holds the cure to an otherwise incurable disease would be obligated to share that cure, Paul is saying here that in light of the grace shown to him by Christ, he is indebted to Christ to fulfill his calling and preach the gospel. In verse 15 he shows he is not only obligated, but eager. He longs for everyone to experience the life-transforming power of God’s grace. Not only is he eager, he is not ashamed. Paul is not interested in “watering down” the gospel to make it more socially acceptable. He is not ashamed because the true gospel is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes. It has the power to save and to completely transform a person’s life. Verse 17 was transformational in the life of Martin Luther, perhaps the most important figure in the Reformation. This verse showed him that salvation, justification, and righteousness do not depend on our performance, but are given to us through faith in the gospel. Jesus Christ becomes our righteousness and that is the power of God through the gospel.