

# ROMANS

THE GRACE OF GOD: A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

## The Gospel - The Power of God

• Romans 1 : 8 - 17 •

Week 2

### DEVOTION

Whenever I read this section of the letter to the Romans, I am reminded of my own experience just before I got married. My wife and I had an arranged marriage, a common practice in Southeast Asian communities, particularly in India. At the time, I was in Canada, my soon-to-be wife, was in India. After exchanging pictures and details and following a few calls and face-to-face visits by our parents, we both said “yes.” The months that followed were interesting. We talked on the phone regularly, getting to know each other better and gradually falling in love. We shared our faith, prayed for each other, and prayed together. Despite the physical distance and having never met in person, we learned so much about one another and eagerly anticipated the day we could finally meet. Four months later, we did!

In this passage, Apostle Paul was in a similar situation, having never met the believers in Rome in person but hearing so much about them and their faith, and longed to see them soon face to face. In this text, Paul expresses his deep affection and heartfelt gratitude for the believers in Rome, commending them for their faith, which is well known throughout the world. Paul also expresses his longing to visit them in Rome to preach the gospel. Although his previous attempts to go to Rome had been unsuccessful, he hopes and prays that God will finally open a door for him to visit and minister to the church there. Paul’s desire to visit is not just to preach but to strengthen the believers and be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith. He feels obligated to share the gospel not only with the Jews but also with the Gentiles, including the Romans.

The final two verses, Romans 1:16-17, serve as a transition from greeting to main purpose of the letter and introduces the main theme of the letter: the power of the Gospel. Paul boldly declares that he is not ashamed of the Gospel, highlighting two key aspects of the gospel of Jesus Christ. First, the Gospel is the power of God that brings salvation to all who believe, both Jews and Gentiles. Second, the Gospel reveals the righteousness of God that comes by faith. This underscores the core message of the Gospel: righteousness, or being made right with God, is not achieved through human effort, strict obedience to the law, intellectual agreement to the facts of Jesus’ life, or even by trying to live according to Jesus’ teachings. Righteousness comes solely through faith in Jesus Christ. As you meditate on this passage, be reassured that you are made right with God through your faith in Jesus.

## Monday

**Read Romans 1: 8-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

1. Paul writes that he 'thanks' God for the believers in Rome. Write down five things you are thankful for in your life today.
2. Key words are those which, because of emphasis or repetition, stand out as being central to the message of the passage. Read the vv 8 - 17 a few times, and identify some key words or phrases that jump out at you!

## Tuesday

**Read Romans 1: 9-13; Hebrews 10:24-25**

1. What reasons does Paul give for wanting to go to Rome?
2. Do you have a longing (desire) for fellowship with other believers? If not, what barriers might be hindering that desire?
3. Write down three practical steps you can take to build a stronger fellowship with other Christians around you (at church)?

## Wednesday

**Read Romans 1:14-16; 1 Corinthians 9:16-17; Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 1:8**

1. Not only does Paul say he is not ashamed of the gospel, but he also asserts that he is obligated to preach the gospel. Do you feel the same sense of obligation that Paul felt? Why or why not?
2. What fears or challenges do you face when it comes to sharing the gospel with others?
3. As you pray today, who is one person in your life you feel God is reminding you to share the gospel with? What first steps can you take?

## Thursday

**Read Romans 1:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:18; John 14:6; Acts 4:12**

1. According to the scripture readings today, what is the content of the Gospel message?
2. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, how has the Gospel powerfully changed your life?
3. Have you experienced the power of the Gospel in your life? If not, will you allow the gospel to change your life today? Say the simple prayer "Jesus, I acknowledge that I need you in my life. I believe that you are the Son of God. Forgive me of my sins. And cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I surrender my life to you. In Jesus name."

## Friday

**Read Romans 1:16-17; Romans 3:20 - 21; Galatians 2:16**

1. What comes to your mind first when you read the word "Righteousness"?
2. What is the significance of the fact that the righteousness is revealed in the Gospel "From God" and is "by faith from first to last"?
3. What does living by faith mean to you personally? How can you live more fully in faith today?