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No Greater News !

ROMANS 1:1-6

Introduction

1. We all like to share good news.
 - a. A new job, a promotion at work, an award received
 - b. The birth of a child or grandchild, their successes and achievements, their marriage
 - c. Our victories in different competitions.
 - d. The list could go on and on.
2. For those of us who are Christians there is no greater news than that of God's Son, Jesus, coming into this world in order to bring about our salvation from sin and ultimate life with Him both now and forever.
3. Imagine for a moment what it must have been like for those shepherds keeping watch over their sheep in the fields one night, over 2,000 years ago, outside the city of Bethlehem.
4. Suddenly, "an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them" (Luke 2:9).
5. Luke tells us "they were terribly frightened" (Luke 2:9b). No doubt, we would have been just as afraid!
6. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).
7. It is this "good news of great joy" that I want us to focus upon in our lesson this morning.

8. It is this same good news that the apostle Paul directs our minds to in his letter to the saints in Rome — a people he had yet to meet in a city to which he had never been.

Slide 2**A. THE GOSPEL ORIGINATES FROM GOD**

“Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,” (Romans 1:1, NASB95)

1. We often hear this word, “gospel,” but what does it mean?
 - a. It is from a Greek word, “*euangelion*,” which means good news or good tidings.
 - b. In Latin it is pronounced “*evangelium*”
 - c. We are familiar with the word “evangelism” which means to spread good news — an “evangelist” is a spreader of this good news.
2. Paul called it “the gospel of God” because it originates from God and is about God.
3. Everything in this letter of Paul to the Romans relates to God.
5. The “good news” which we as Christians seek to share with others is “the gospel of God.”
6. It is not something which the apostles invented — it was revealed and entrusted to them by God.

Slide 3**B. SCRIPTURE IS THE CONFIRMATION OF THE GOSPEL**

“Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,” (Romans 1:1–2, NASB95)

1. Jesus kept telling both His detractors and His followers that the Scriptures bore witness to Him (Luke 24:27; John 5:39).
2. He is the “Son of Man” which Daniel saw in a vision (Daniel 7:13-14).

“I kept looking in the night visions,
And behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a Son of Man was coming,
And He came up to the Ancient of Days
And was presented before Him.
And to Him was given dominion,
Glory and a kingdom,
That all the peoples, nations and men of every language
Might serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
Which will not pass away;
And His kingdom is one
Which will not be destroyed.”

(Daniel 7:13–14, NASB95)

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3. He is the suffering servant of which the prophet Isaiah spoke (Isaiah 53).

“Surely our griefs He Himself bore,
And our sorrows He carried;
Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten of God, and afflicted.
But He was pierced through for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,
And by His scourging we are healed.”

(Isaiah 53:4–5, NASB95)

4. When Paul, Silas and Timothy went to the city of Thessalonica on his second missionary journey, he spent three Sabbaths reasoning with them from the Scriptures, “explaining and giving evidence that the Christ has to

suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ” (Acts 17:3).

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5. He did the same thing with those in the city of Corinth (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,” (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, NASB95)

Slide 6**C. THE FOCUS OF THE GOSPEL IS JESUS CHRIST**

“concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,” (Romans 1:3–4, NASB95)

1. God’s good news is about Jesus — His birth, death and resurrection.
 - a. Birth — “a descendant of David”
 - b. Death — presupposed by His resurrection
 - c. Resurrection — “declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead”
2. The resurrection is the turning point in the existence of the Son of God.
3. Prior to His resurrection, He had emptied Himself and taken on the form of a slave, by being made in our likeness.
4. He humbled Himself “by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:8).
5. With His resurrection from the dead, He was “declared the Son of God with

power.”

6. Now, as Paul will go on to point out in this letter . . .
 - a. Our redemption is found “in Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:24).
 - b. We die to sin, but are made alive to God “in Christ Jesus” (Romans 6:11).
 - c. God’s “free gift of eternal life is found in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).
 - d. “There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1).
 - e. Nothing “will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39).
 - f. “We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another” (Romans 12:5).

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D. THE RANGE OF THE GOSPEL IS ALL NATIONS

“through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles [nations, peoples] for His name’s sake,” (Romans 1:5, NASB95)

1. According to Matthew’s gospel, Jesus told the apostles, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20a).
2. Mark, in his gospel, records Jesus as having said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” (Mark 16:15).
3. Luke writes that Jesus told the eleven “that repentance for forgiveness of

sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning with Jerusalem” (Luke 24:47).

4. Shortly before His ascension, we find Jesus saying to them in Acts 1:8, “you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”
5. In Damascus, Jesus told a disciple named Ananias that Saul [Paul] “is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel” (Acts 9:15).

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E. THE PURPOSE OF THE GOSPEL IS THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH

“through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name’s sake,” (Romans 1:5, NASB95)

1. The response which the gospel of God demands is obedience which comes from the faith in Jesus Christ which we profess.
2. Abraham is an example of this kind of faith.
3. By faith . . . he obeyed, when he was called . . . “by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going” (Hebrews 11:8).
4. When you and I have a true and living faith in Jesus Christ . . .
 - a. We not only initially submit to Him as “our Lord” (v. 4).
 - b. We inevitably enter into a lifetime of obedience.
5. The good news in this for us is that with His death, burial and resurrection, Jesus became to all of us “who obey Him the source of eternal salvation” (Hebrews 5:9).

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F. THE GOAL OF THE GOSPEL IS THE GLORY OF JESUS’ NAME

“through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles [people, nations] for His name’s sake,”
(Romans 1:5, NASB95)

1. Why did Paul want to bring about “the obedience of faith among all the nations?”
2. It was for Jesus’ name sake.
3. When our glorified Lord sent Ananias to Saul who was blind in the city of Damascus, He told Ananias, “Go, for He is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and sons of Israel” (Acts 9:15).

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4. In Paul’s letter to the Christians in Philippi, after telling them how Jesus had “humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:8), he adds,

“For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9-11).

5. This is also why Paul told the saints in Ephesus that God brought about the “working of the strength of His might . . . in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come” (Ephesians 2:19b-21).

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6. It is why we sing these words:

**Jesus, name above all names
Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord
Emmanuel, God is with us**

Blessed Redeemer, Living Word

Conclusion

1. The good news for us this morning is that “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NASB95)
2. It is that “God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.” (John 3:17, NASB95)
3. It is the fact that God “wants everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4, HCSB).
4. Do you have this salvation?
5. Peter says you do if you have repented of your sins and have been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of those sins (Acts 2:38).
6. Wouldn't you like to share the good news with others this morning that you have put Christ on in baptism and washed away your sins?
7. If you need to respond to our Lord's invitation this morning we invite you to come.