

Salvation: Why? and How?

or, SALVATION: ITS NEED AND PROVISION

Romans Chapters One to Five

Calvary Baptist Church

Series Begins Sunday, September 30, 2012

Paul's Conversion: Around A.D. 36 or 37. Romans written late A.D. 56 or early 57.

OPEN: As he sat in a large and busy city, he thought about how different his life had become in these 20 years since he came to know Christ. He thought about it over and over. He wanted to visit another large city that was fairly close by. But other business would keep him from going there. He had friends in the other city that were expecting him. He didn't want them to think that they were not important to him. If only he could find someone to take a message to them. He found the person, a travelling business woman. He put into her hands a letter, and she carried it to the church in Rome. They would be glad to hear from Paul.

INTRODUCTION:

Unlike many of the first Gentile churches, the church at Rome had not been founded by the apostle Paul. It would seem that no other apostle had visited the city, for in 15:20 Paul indicates that he wants to go where he will not be building on another man's foundation. Rome was a congregation that contained both Jews and Gentiles, though the Gentiles were the majority by far. As Paul writes, he does so to the saints in Rome, not the church. Certainly there was a church in Rome, for 16:4,5 tells us of a church that met in the home of Priscilla and Aquila. (cf. Also, 1 Cor. 16:19) It is possible that there were many churches in Rome.

As Paul writes to Rome, he is on his third missionary journey. This has been his most expansive journey by far! On this journey he has spent three years in Ephesus, and recently three months in Corinth. (Acts 20:3) In Romans 15:9, Paul tells the Roman church that he has travelled from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum. This is the area also called Dalmatia. On modern maps, we would look for Croatia and Slovenia (formerly Yugoslavia). Many maps do not show this part of Paul's third journey because we do not know much about it. Many suggest that Paul went there while he had been in Macedonia waiting on news from his 2nd letter to the Corinthians. After this, he travelled to Corinth, and so Illyricum is fresh on his mind as he writes to Rome. *BKC* From the shore of Illyricum to the shore of Italy it was a journey of some 100 miles across the Adriatic Sea. So close! From there it would have been another 75 miles or so by land to the great city of Rome.

Wow, did Paul ever want to see Rome! But Paul, though geographically close, could not go on the Rome. How divided must have been his heart. But he had a job to do. He had to take the offerings for the saints in Jerusalem that had been given by the people of Macedonia and Achaia. (15:25,26) Paul tells the believers in Rome that, having delivered the relief money to Jerusalem, he will come to them and from their go on to Spain. (15:28) You can read some of the details that relate to this time in Paul's life in Acts 19 and 20.

Paul wanted to write for at least two reasons. (There are more of course.) First, he wanted to share with them his love and make sure that they understood that his delay in coming was providential. Secondly, he knew that a church that had been organized by laymen needed to be grounded in doctrine. The letter that he wrote to them has been called the charter of the Christian faith. Yes, Paul helped to ground the church at Rome in the faith, but in so doing he laid the foundation that would teach generations the greatest doctrine of all, justification by faith.

OUTLINE OF ROMANS

I do not know who first outlined Romans in this way, but it is the outline of the book that I have used for as long as I can remember.

- I. Salutation (1:1-17)
- II. Sin (1:18 - 3)
- III. Salvation (4-5)
- IV. Sanctification (6-8)
- V. Sovereignty (9-11)
- VI. Service (12-16)

In this first section, the Salutation, we will look at three division:

- I. Salutation (1:1-17)
 - A. Paul and His Calling (1:1-7)
 - B. Paul and the Church (1:8-15)
 - C. Paul and His Commission (1:16-17)

APPLICATION FOR INTRODUCTION

How could there be a church at Rome when no apostle had visited? Paul in his letter asked the question, "How can they hear without a preacher?" Yet, so far as we can tell, no vocational minister had arrived in Rome. So, how did the church come about? How did Paul manage to have the letter delivered to them? The answer to these questions is that God uses ordinary believers!

1. The visitors from Rome (Acts 2:10)

Acts 2:10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

- On the day of Pentecost, there were travelers from Rome in Jerusalem.
- The Bible does not say that the ones from Rome were converted.
- But there is at least a good chance that someone from Rome came to know the Lord.
- And when they travelled home, they shared Christ in Rome.

2. Paul's Relatives (Rom. 16:7,11)

Romans 16:7 Salute **Andronicus** and **Junia**, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles [**NOTE: Used in the broader sense like Barnabas and Silas**], who also were in Christ before me.

Romans 16:11 Salute **Herodion** my kinsman. Greet them that be of the *household* of Narcissus, which are in the Lord.

- It is likely that these kinsman are from Paul's tribal family (Benjamin).
- Perhaps they are closer relatives.
- But they have believed in Christ and they are active in the cause of Christ in Rome!
- APPLY!

3. Priscilla and Aquila

- Aquila and his wife Priscilla are always mentioned together.
- What a joy to see couples serving God.
- It was the providence of God that caused them to be forced from Italy.

Acts 18:1-3 After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; 2 And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. 3 And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.

- Having united with Paul in Corinth, they travelled with him to Syria and helped him.
- They were so grounded in the faith that they could take aside Apollos and instruct him. (Acts 18:26)
- In God's time, they return to Rome and evidently help in the founding of a church that met in their home. (Romans 16:4-5)

Romans 16:3-5a Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: 4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. 5 Likewise *greet* the church that is in their house.

- APPLY!

4. Phoebe

Romans 16:1-2 1 I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: 2 That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.

- Cenchrea was the nearby port city to Corinth that served as her eastern harbor.
- Phoebe was a servant of the church there.
- She already had plans to go to Rome on business.
- God leads Paul to her.
- He asked if she would be willing to take along a letter to believers in Rome.
- In typical fashion, this servant said yes.
- Her name means "radiant, shining, bright."
- She was a light for Christ, not a pastor but a preacher!
- APPLY!

We may not all be called to be pastors or evangelists, but we are all preachers! And we can all shepherd others. We can all evangelize others. God can use each of us!

BODY OF SERMON

In our analytical outline, we are in the section ...

- I. Salutation (Romans 1:1-17)
 - A. Paul and His Calling (1:1-7)

PREACHING OUTLINE

THEME: GOD WANTED YOU TO HEAR THE GOSPEL

OBJECTIVE: The listener will appreciate the great effort of God to bring the gospel to humanity.

STATEMENT: How God wanted you to hear the gospel!

TEXT: Romans 1:1 "the gospel of God"

I. The Gospel Was Planned in the Mind of God (2)

Romans 1:2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)

- Some get the idea that God tried to work with the Jews but that He failed.
- No, all of this was known of God from the beginning.
- The church was not an afterthought, but a forethought in the mind of God.
- Listen to the account of the disciples on the Emmaus Road.

Luke 24:44-47

44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

II. The Gospel Was Purchased by the Messiah of God (3-4)

a. His Descent (3)

Romans 1:3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

- The great genealogy of the King in Matthew's gospel declares this fact. (Mt. 1)
- List to Paul in Romans 9.

Romans 9:3-5 3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: 4 Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; 5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

b. His Declaration (4)

Romans 1:4 And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

- It is the Resurrection that proved Jesus' claims to be the Messiah.
- Scholars tell us that "spirit of holiness" is the Divine nature of Christ.
- "In power" (Dative of Realm/sphere) i.e., within the realm of His divine power He establishes the claim that He is indeed the Son of God.

Acts 4:10 [Peter preaches ...] Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

John 2:18-22 Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?

19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

21 But he spake of the temple of his body.

22 When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

III. The Gospel Was Placed in the Man of God (1, 5)

Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

Romans 1:5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

a. Saved to Serve

"Christ ... by whom we have received grace."

- Every Sunday School child knows of the day that God arrested the Apostle Paul.
- The Damascus Road experience is well known.
- And we must remember how great the love of God is for us.
- He went to extraordinary means to insure that there would be a messenger of the gospel for us!
- While the grace refers in part to his calling to the apostolic ministry, we cannot forget the call to salvation that we see in Romans 8:28, 30.
- Paul loved to tell the story, and he told it often!

b. Sent to Serve

"Called *to be* an apostle"

"Christ ... by whom ... we have received ... apostleship"

1) The Purpose

"for obedience to the faith"

2) The Place

"among all nations"

3) The Place

"for his name"

IV. The Gospel Was Proclaimed by the Messengers of God (5+ Romans Context)

Remember that no apostle founded the church at Rome. See the four influences above.

- Visitors from Rome at Pentecost
- Priscilla and Aquila
- Relatives of Paul
- Phoebe (Seems to have already had some contact with the believers there)

V. The Gospel Was Productive by the Miracle of God (6-7)

Romans 1:6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

Romans 1:7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

a. The Work of God in the Believer

1) They are Called of God (Rom. 8:28)

"called to be saints"

2) They are Loved of God (John 3:16)

"beloved of God"

b. The Wishes of Paul for the Believer

1) Grace

"grace to you"

2) Peace

"and peace"

QUOTE: The Hebrew concept of peace (Heb. *shalom*) did not just mean freedom from stress, anxiety, and irritation. It included the fullness of God's blessing. Paul desired a continually deeper and richer experience of spiritual blessing for his readers. The linking of "Jesus Christ" with the "Father" implies the deity of the Son. — Tom Constable's Notes on the Bible

"From God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ"

CONCLUSION

- When we remember the great love of God that planned the gospel, the sacrifice of God that purchased the gospel, the heart of God that sent messengers ... Oh, how God wanted you to hear the gospel.
- Then, when we remember the first witnesses that gave their lives for Christ and the blood of the martyrs that died at the hands of the Catholic church in their effort preserve the Scriptures ...
- The pastors, evangelists, and missionaries that have faithfully preached to us that Word ...
- How terribly tragic would it be if you and I do not respond to the call of the gospel.
- For, even after all that God has done, the final decision is yours.
- Grace, great grace is available.

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

ILLUS: Mel Trotter

Grace is always more abundant than sin. Spurgeon has a sermon on this text entitled, "Grace Abounding over Abounding Sin."

This was the experience of Mel Trotter, who was such a great influence for Christ in Chicago and in fact the entire nation during the first half of this century. As an alcoholic he had fallen so low that on the evening he finally stumbled into the Pacific Garden Mission and found Christ, he was under the influence of alcohol he had purchased with the shoes taken from his little girl's feet as she lay in her coffin. So wondrous was the effect of God's abounding grace in his life that eight years later he was ordained to the Presbyterian ministry, became an outstanding evangelist, and founded more than sixty-seven rescue missions from coast to coast. "But where sin increased, grace increased all the more." There is always more grace! *Preaching the Word - Preaching the Word – Romans: Righteousness from Heaven.*