

The Glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ

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The letter of Paul to the Romans is the most significant piece of literature in the New Testament. It is the apostle's magnum opus. The document is full of the Gospel. The book begins and ends in the Gospel. Chapter one is a majestic introduction to the Gospel. Paul wanted his readers to understand this great message both theologically and practically. I would like to draw your attention to five profound truths of the Gospel packed in the theme verses of the book, chapter one verses 16. "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. For it is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

The first truth about the Gospel is about its origin – **The origin of the Gospel**. It is the Gospel of God, or the *Gospel of Christ*. "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ." In verse one we read, Paul was set apart for the *Gospel of God*. The Gospel belongs to God. He is the origin, source of it. Gospel is not a man-made message. It is not rooted in man's religion or philosophy. It is not about man searching after God, but rather God searching after man. God preparing a way of salvation for man from his sin. To the Thessalonians Paul declared, we preached to you the Gospel of God. When you believe the Gospel, you believe God's plan of salvation in Christ. Religions have its origin in man. But Gospel originated with God. Gospel is a unique message. It is the message of God. That is why Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel.

The second truth about the Gospel is about its Nature or character – **The nature of the Gospel**. It is the power of God - *dunamis* from which we get the word "dynamite." Gospel has intrinsic and transforming power. It can change you from a sinner to a saint, from an unbeliever to a believer. Paul himself is the classic example of the power of the Gospel. It is infused with the power of God to break, to transform, to deliver, to set free from the influence, bondage, chain and addiction of sin. When you believe this good news, you will be able to enjoy the transforming and victorious power imbedded in it. It has power not only to save sinners, but also to give victory to saints. Gospel is the power of God.

Now the third truth of the Gospel speaks of its purpose – **the purpose of the Gospel**. The little preposition *eis* – "unto" (or for) salvation. "Salvation" is a very

significant and rich word. Paul uses this noun 19 times, 5 of them in Romans, and he uses the verbal form 29 times, 8 of them in this book. This word sums up the message of the Gospel, the good news. It is salvation, deliverance, rescue from the penalty and power of sin, and ultimately from the very presence of sin. The purpose of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not to reform, or just renew you morally and spiritually. It is not a message of social, political or economic salvation. It is not about health, wealth and prosperity. It is not simply a motivational message. Gospel is not about “your best life now.” The message of the Gospel is not about “finding your maximum potential” or to “discover the champion in you.” It is a message of spiritual liberation; it will save you from sin and make you free in Christ. Jesus means “Savior.” Jesus - He who will save His people from their sins. Salvation from sin is the purpose of the Gospel.

The fourth important truth about the Gospel in this theme verse is the **Scope of the Gospel**; its universal offer. “To everyone who believes.” Look at the universal offer of God’s gracious gift of salvation – to everyone irrespective of race, color, cast, creed, nationality or ethnicity. For God so loved the world of humanity that He sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world to save us. Though God ordained this salvation to come to the world through Jews, it is made available to all. “Anyone”, “everyone”, such usages abound in the Bible in relation to the Gospel. Anyone who is thirsty may come and drink of the water of life freely. God prepared a way of salvation for all. This is the way, the only way, and no other way, planned, prepared, and offered by God for anyone and everyone who believes.

The fifth truth about the Gospel is about its reception – the **reception of the Gospel**. It is for everyone who *believes*. Salvation is by faith alone and not by works. Believing in what God has accomplished, prepared and receiving it by faith. In repentance and faith when you turn to the Savior and stretch your arm of faith to receive His gift, He will give it to you. It is free, it is the gift of God. This is the simple and true Gospel of Jesus Christ. I hope you have believed this Gospel and sure of your eternal destiny.

So great a salvation, so great a Savior! The theme verse of Romans tells us all about the essentials of the Gospel – the origin of the Gospel, the nature of the Gospel, the purpose of the Gospel, the Scope of the Gospel and finally the

Reception of the Gospel. This is the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
Believe it, proclaim it, live by it. It is the Gospel of God.