

**“Glory In The Gospel!”**  
**Romans 1:13-17**

**Introduction:**

1. I'd Like To Begin Our Message Time:
  - This Morning:
    - With A Question:
      - “What Is Your Passion?”
    - What Is It:
      - That You Are Passionate About?
  - Some People:
    - Are Passionate:
      - About Their Jobs & Careers:
        - And Do Everything They Possibly Can To Be A Success!
  - Some People:
    - Are Passionate:
      - About Their Hobbies:
        - And Invest A Lot Of Time And Energy And Money In What They Enjoy!
  - Some People:
    - Are Passionate:
      - About Politics:
        - And Actively Try To Bring Other People To Their Points Of View!
  - What Would You Say:
    - You Are Passionate About?
      - Whatever It Is This Morning:
        - And Many “Passions” Are Not Wrong Passions, In & Of Themselves!
          - You Will Always Have A Plan For Your Passion!
    - To Put It Another Way:
      - You Will Always Find A Way:
        - To Do What You Want To Do!
2. Well - What We've Already Seen:
  - So Far - In The Beginning Of Our Study:
    - Through The Book Of Romans:
      - Is That - For Paul:
        - His Passion:
          - Was The Gospel!
  - And - Just Like The Rest Of Us:
    - He Too - Had A Plan:
      - For His Passion!
  - So - If You're Not There Already:
    - Please Open Your Bibles With Me To:
      - Romans 1 - Where Paul Has Been:
        - Introducing Himself To The Roman Church:
          - And Showing His Long-Standing Care & Concern For Them:
            - Even Though He Did Not Yet Have The Opportunity To Visit Them In Rome!
3. As We Saw Last Sunday - From 1:8-12:
  - Not Only Did Paul Pray To The Lord:
    - **For** The Romans - He Prayed:
      - That He Might Be Able To:
        - **See & Be With** The Romans - As Well:
          - According To The Will Of God!
  - Well - In The Verses We Come To This Morning:
    - He Explains That - Even Though:
      - In Answer To His Prayer:
        - He Was Prevented From Visiting Them:
          - He Was Still Purposing & Planning To Do So!
  - Why? So That:

- He Could “Preach The Gospel” Unto Them:
  - Just As He Had Done:
    - Everywhere Else He Had Been!
      - And We See This Plan For His Passion In:
- 1:13-17 - “Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles. / I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. / So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. / For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. / For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith!”
  - In 1:13-14 - We Can See That:

**1. *Paul Always Had A Plan For The Gospel!***

- After All - He Was The “Apostle Of The Gentiles!” (11:13)
  - And His Goal Was To Always:
    - Keep The Message Of The Gospel:
      - Moving Forward!
  - And So - Paul’s Plan For The Gospel:
    - Was Based On:
      - ***His Great Determination!***
        - Which We Read Back In 1:13a:
          - “Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you!”
            - Even As Paul Prayed - That He Might Visit Them:
              - He Also Made Plans!
        - The Word Translated “Purpose” Here:
          - Does Not Mean That:
            - He Just “Wished” He Could Visit Them:
              - But That He “Worked On” Visiting Them!
          - **IE:** Like The Planning You Might Make For A Vacation - Not Just Dreaming About It!
            - But - Even Though “Often-Times” He Tried To Implement His Plans:
              - He Was Hindered!
        - Which We See In The Next Part Of:
          - 1:13b - “But Was Let Hitherto!”
            - Paul Knew That:
              - All His Plans Remained:
                - In The Hands Of God!
          - And So - Like Other Times:
            - In His Ministry - God Did Not Permit Him To Fulfill His Plans - Yet!
              - And - The Way This Is Written - It Is Clear That Paul Accepted God’s Will!
        - And - We Need To As Well!
          - Remember - That All Your Plans - As A Christian:
            - Remain In The Hands Of God!
              - If There Is Some Hindrance To Your Plans - Remember That It Too Is Part Of God’s Providence:
                - And Plan - For You!
      - But - We Also See:
        - ***His Great Desire!***
          - In The Rest Of 1:13c - He Purposed & Planned To Visit:
            - So - “That I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles!”
              - Paul’s Great Desire:
                - Was To Serve Their Church & Their City - Even As He Served Others!
          - The “Fruit” He Was After:
            - Was Not Just Their Numerical Growth:
              - As He Would Continue To Evangelize:
                - There In Rome!
            - He Was Especially After:
              - Their Spiritual Growth:
                - As He Further Established & Edified Them In The Faith!

- Do You Have This Same Desire?
  - For “Fruit” - Not Just In Our Community:
    - But In Our Church?
      - What A Heart Paul Had For A Church He Had Never Met!
- But - This Heart Was All Based On:
  - ***His Great Duty!***
    - Which We Find In 1:14 - “I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise!”
      - Paul’s Plans - To Keep The Gospel Spreading:
        - Further & Further:
          - Into The Gentile World:
            - Was Because Of An Obligation He Felt Deeply In His Heart!
      - When Jesus Met Paul - On The Road To Damascus:
        - Not Only Did He ***Save*** Paul:
          - By His Grace - He Then ***Sent*** Paul:
            - To Be - “A minister and a witness” For Him! (Acts 26:17)
        - And The Special Field:
          - Of Paul’s Ministry Was To Be:
            - The Gentile – Not Primarily The Jewish – World!
        - But - Paul Was So Overwhelmed:
          - By God’s Grace To Him:
            - To Save Him & To Send Him:
              - He Was Indebted Both:
                - To The Lord - And:
                  - To The Lost!
          - And So - He Went To The Gentile Nations:
            - No Matter What Language They Spoke:
              - “Greeks / Barbarians”
            - No Matter How Cultured They Were:
              - “Wise / Unwise”
            - Because The Gospel Was:
              - The Common Solution:
                - To Their Common Problem:
                  - Of Sin!
    - Paul Always Had A Plan For The Gospel!
      - And - If You Are Saved Today:
        - So Should You! So Should We As A Church!
          - Because - It All Flowed From This Truth - That:

## 2. ***Paul Always Had A Passion For The Gospel!***

- You See - Since Paul’s Duty ***Included:***
  - ***All*** The Gentiles:
    - In 1:15 - He Adds - That His Duty:
      - Did Not ***Exclude*** Them!
  - “So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also!”
    - Because Of His Great:
      - Determination & Desire & Duty:
        - Paul Was “Ready” - To “Preach The Gospel” To ***Everyone*** In Rome!
    - ***IE:*** Paul Was Like A Horse At The Gate - Ready For The Bell Of God’s Will To Go Off - So That He Could Take Off & Fulfill His Plans To Get To Rome!
      - He Was Ready! He Was Willing! He Was Able!
        - He Was Just Waiting:
          - For God’s Timing To Open The Gate!
    - But - What Made Paul:
      - So Ready & Eager?
        - Because - All Of Paul’s Plans:
          - Were Based On His Passion!
  - And - His Passion For The Gospel:

- Is Recorded For Us In What Are Considered:
  - The Most Important / Key Verses In All Of The Book Of Romans - 1:16-17!
    - These Verses Are Worth:
      - Your Memorization!
    - These Verses Are Worth:
      - Your Meditation!
- Paul Was Ready To Preach The Gospel:
  - Because - He Writes - "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. / For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith!"
- The Profound & Glorious Truths Of The Gospel:
  - Found In These Two Verses:
    - Are What Motivated Paul:
      - To Hazard His Life:
        - For Jesus Christ!
- The Gospel Was Paul's Passion!
  - And - May The Gospel Be Our Passion:
    - As We Glory In The Special Nature:
      - Of Its Truth! Because:
- ***There Is A Special Pride In The Gospel!***
  - As Paul Said In 1:16a - "For I Am Not Ashamed Of The Gospel Of Christ!"
    - Paul Was "Not Ashamed!"
      - Even Though - He Knew That "The preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness!" (1 Corinthians 1:18)
  - Even Though There May Be Times In Your Life:
    - When You Are Ashamed:
      - Or - You Are Afraid:
        - To Tell Someone About The Gospel!
        - You Don't Need To Be!
  - Because Of The Very Nature:
    - Of The Gospel! It Is - "Good News For Sinners!"
      - **IE:** If You Discovered The Cure For Cancer, Would You Be Ashamed Of It? Would You Be Afraid To Share It? Would You Be Abashed Because Of It? No!
  - There Still Can Be & Ought To Be:
    - A Special Pride & Glory In The Gospel:
      - If You Are A Christian Today!
        - Because Of What Jesus Christ Did For You!
    - You Don't Need To Be Ashamed:
      - To Believe In The Gospel!
      - To Share The Gospel!
      - And - To Live Out The Gospel!
        - Because - Further:
- ***There Is A Special Power In The Gospel!***
  - Paul Was Not Ashamed Of The Gospel - Because:
    - 1:16b - "It Is The Power Of God Unto Salvation!"
      - It Is Through The Gospel:
        - That God Is ***Able*** To Save You:
          - From Your Sin!
      - As Hebrews 7:25 Puts It - "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him!"
    - What Is This Salvation That God Offers?
      - It Is A ***Rescue Mission:***
        - From All That Keeps You:
          - From Knowing & Enjoying God Forever!
      - It Is A Salvation:
        - ***From*** Some Things!
          - From Your Sin! From The Power Of Satan! From Death! From The Punishment & Wrath Of God!



- There Is Still:
  - This Special Potential In The Gospel:
    - Because - Also:
- **There Is A Special Provision In The Gospel!**
  - As Paul Explains In 1:17a - “For Therein Is The Righteousness Of God Revealed From Faith To Faith!”
    - The Reason Why The Gospel Is So Powerful & So Potent - Is Because Of What:
      - God Reveals To You & Provides For You:
        - When You Believe In Jesus Christ!
        - The “Righteousness Of God” Himself!
  - The “Righteousness Of God” Is:
    - The Conduct Of God:
      - That Always Conforms To:
        - His Character - Of Holiness!
    - And - Without **This** Kind Of Character:
      - **His** Kind Of Character:
        - You Can **Never**:
          - Enter Into The Presence:
            - Of God!
    - And - The Bible Is Crystal Clear:
      - About This - **You Do Not Have**:
        - This Kind Of Character!
          - Romans 3:10 - “There Is None Righteous, No, Not One!”
    - Now, That’s A Big Problem!
      - But The Gospel Is God’s Solution:
        - To Your Problem!
          - In The Gospel:
  - The Righteousness Of God – Is **Shown** To You!
    - This Phrase Can Also Be Translated - “**A** Righteousness **From** God!”
      - Can’t This Describe Jesus Christ Himself?
        - Not Only Did Jesus Always **Do** What Was Right! He **Was** Righteousness Himself!
      - Charles Hodge - “The Righteousness Of God . . . Which The Gospel Reveals . . . Is The Righteousness Of Christ Which Completely Meets And Answers All The Demands Of That Law To Which All Men Are Subject, And Which All Have Broken!”
        - When Jesus Came - He Revealed:
          - God’s Own Righteousness:
            - To This Unrighteous World! So That:
  - The Righteousness Of God – Can Be **Seen** By You!
    - 1:17 - “The Righteousness Of God [Is Being] Revealed From Faith!”
      - The Only Way For You To See:
        - What God Offers To You In Jesus:
          - Is Out Of Faith!
    - This Faith Is The Belief:
      - That Something **Apart** From You:
        - And - **Alone** From You:
          - Can Help You With What You Need!
    - **IE:** There’s Not A Whole Lot Of Theological Content In Movies Produced By Disney - But I Was Surprised Once, When I Watched A Christmas Movie - And Heard These Profound Words - “Seeing Isn’t Believing – Believing Is Seeing!” When It Comes To The Revelation Of God’s Righteousness In The Gospel, This Is The Truth!
      - For You To **Receive** It:
        - You Must **See** It Through The Eyes Of Faith! And Faith Alone!
          - And When You Do:
  - The Righteousness Of God – Becomes A **Seed** In You!
    - A Seed - “Unto Faith!”
      - A Faith - That Will Grow In Confidence In The “Judge Of All The Earth” Who Always Does That Which Is “Right!”
    - So - From Start To Finish:

- Faith Is How You Personally Receive:
  - The Revelation:
    - Of God's Righteousness:
      - In Christ!
  - And That Leads To:
    - The Righteousness Of God – That Is **Shared** With You!
      - **Shared** - Even With Sinners Like Us!
      - This Is All Made Possible Because:
- **There Is A Special Promise In The Gospel!**
  - A Promise Made All The Way Back:
    - In The Old Testament Prophecy Of Habbakuk:
      - Habakkuk 2:4 - Which Paul Refers To Here In 1:17 - "As It Is Written, The Just Shall Live By Faith!"
  - The Subject In This Promise:
    - Is Called - "The Just" - Which Can Also Be Translated:
      - "The Righteous One!"
        - **This** How God **Sees** You & **Describes** You When You Trust In Christ To Be Your Savior!
    - So - You Are **Declared** By God **To Be Righteous:**
      - Not By Anything Done **By** You:
      - Not By Anything Done **In** You:
      - But By What Has Been Done **For** You:
        - And Has Been Imputed / Applied **To** You!
    - **IE:** Joint Accounts Still With Our Children, So If They Need Some Money - Just Transfer It - All Done Online - Applied To Their Account! This Is What God Does With His Own Righteousness - Revealed In The Gospel & Received By Faith! Once & For All! Because His Righteousness Is Of Infinite Value! It Can Never Be Spent Out!
  - And Then - God Continues To Reveal His Righteousness:
    - By Keeping His Promise To You!
      - **You "Shall Live!" - He Says!**
        - This Is Part Of Your Salvation!
      - Not - Just What You Are Saved **From!**
        - But - What You Are Saved **To!**
          - Life!
      - He's Talking About:
        - A Future Life!
        - A Blessed Life!
        - An Eternal Life!
  - And How Do You Receive This Life?
    - Once Again - It Is:
      - "By Faith!"
    - "The Just Shall Live By Faith!"
    - "The Just Shall Live By Faith!"
      - This Is The Promise That Has Changed The Lives Of Countless People:
        - Who Simply Took God At His Word!
  - It Was The Key To The Heart:
    - Of That Old German Reformer - Martin Luther - Who Said This About The Verses We **Just** Looked At Together!
      - "I Anxiously And Busily Worked To Understand The Word Of Paul In Romans 1:17 - 'The Righteousness Of God Is Revealed In The Gospel!' I Questioned This Passage For A Long Time And Labored Over It, For The Expression 'Righteousness Of God' Barred My Way! [My] Misunderstanding Continued, Until, Enlightened By The Holy Spirit, I Finally Examined More Carefully The Word Of Habakkuk 2:4 - 'The Just Shall Live By Faith!' From This Passage I Concluded That Life Must Be Derived From Faith! Then The Entire Holy Scripture Became Clear To Me, And Heaven Itself Was Opened To Me! Now We See This Brilliant Light Very Clearly, And We Are Privileged To Enjoy It Abundantly!"
- With All Of These Special Truths:
  - About The Gospel:
    - Is It Any Wonder:

- Why Paul & Luther & Countless Others Have Had Such A Passion For It?
- And Kept Making Plans For It?

**Conclusion:**

1. In Fact - It Was Because Paul *Gloried* In Such A Gospel:
  - He Would Later Tell The Romans:
    - That - 15:24 - “Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you!”
    - Paul Kept Making Plans:
      - For His Passion - To Keep The Message Of The Gospel:
        - Moving!
2. Has The Message Of This Gospel:
  - Moved *You* This Morning?
    - The Special Message Of:
      - Its Power!      - Its Potential!
      - Its Provision!   - Its Promise!
    - If So - Believe It!
      - And Glory In It!
      - And Enjoy All The Blessings Of It!
3. And Now:
  - Have A Renewed Passion:
    - For The Gospel As Well!
    - To Keep Its Message:
      - Moving!
  - And Remember:
    - You Will Always Have A Plan:
      - For Your True Passion!
      - Will The Gospel Be Your’s?

- \* What Is Your Passion Today?
- \* Will You Glory In The Gospel?
- \* What Are Your Plans For The Gospel?

***Grace Baptist Church***  
***Stephen Elmer, Pastor***  
***4245 North 200 West***  
***Greenfield, Indiana 46140***  
***317-326-2362***  
***www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace***  
***www.growatgrace.org***  
***pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***