

Sermon Series: Romans

Sermon Text: Romans 1:2 Why Should I Listen to You? Prophetic Promise

We are blessed to listen carefully to Paul's letter to the Romans because in it Christ unpacks Good News for us from Prophetic Promise.

1) The Gospel is preserved in God's Holy Scriptures.

- a) "Holy Scriptures"—sacrosanct; Divine Authority
- b) Holy Spirit's Inspiration of Scripture
 - i) 1 Peter 1:10-11—"the Spirit of Christ in them . . . predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories"
 - ii) 2 Peter 1:20-21—"men spoke from God . . . carried along by the Holy Spirit"
 - iii) 2 Timothy 3:15-16—"sacred writings . . . breathed out by God"
 - iv) Romans 3:2—"the oracles of God"
- c) Paul's use of the OT in Romans: Genesis, Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Habakkuk; over half of Paul's OT quotations are found in Romans
- d) **Application:** Authority, Preservation and Necessity of Scripture
 - i) The message of Romans is grounded in the "Old Testament." WCF 1.4 "The authority of Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed and obeyed, depends not upon the testimony of any man or church; but wholly upon God (who is truth itself) the author thereof: and therefore it is to be received because it is the Word of God."
 - ii) Praise God for preserving the Scriptures/Gospel.
 - iii) Cherish the OT as the Word of God.

2) The Gospel was spoken through God's prophets.

- a) "through His prophets"—foretelling and forth-telling
- b) Human Agency—God's Spokesmen (Abraham, Moses); God's Prosecutors (Elijah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Habakkuk)
- c) Ancient Writings for Your Instruction:
 - i) 2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is profitable . . ."
 - ii) 1 Peter 1:10, 12 "Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully . . . It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preach the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look."
 - iii) 1 Corinthians 10:11 "Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come."
- d) **Application:** Clarity of Scripture
 - i) God speaks in human language.
 - ii) The Scriptures can be translated as the Word of God (WCF 1.8).
 - iii) WCF 1.7 "All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all; yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation are so clearly propounded and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the

learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them.”

3) The Gospel is God’s ancient promise.

- a) “promised beforehand”—Eternal Purpose/Ancient Promise
- b) Old Testament Gospel
 - i) Prophecy—God’s prediction of the Person and Work of Christ and His International Church; His Work of New Creation
 - ii) Promise—God’s stated commitment to bless His people
 - iii) Redemptive History—God’s unfolding drama of salvation that is not climaxed or concluded in the OT
 - iv) Typology—Individuals, Institutions, and Events that foreshadow Christ and His International Church
- c) **Application:** Unity and Interpretation of Scripture.
 - i) WCF 1.9 “The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself: and therefore, when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture (which is not manifold, but one), it must be searched and known by other places that speak more clearly.”
 - ii) Organic Unity of the Bible
 - (1) “The New is in the Old concealed. The Old is in the New revealed.”
 - (2) “The New is in the Old contained. The Old is in the New explained.”
 - (3) The Old Testament is a completely furnished room with dim lighting. Christ is the Light that illuminates it comforts and treasures.
 - iii) Progressive Revelation—Acorn to Oak Tree
 - iv) Promise and Fulfillment
 - v) Promise, Gospel, Christ is the golden thread that weaves together the tapestry of the Trinitarian story. Law is a correlative sub-thread that beautifully accents the main theme of Christ. The design is ruined when Law is traced through the tapestry in a way that undermines Promise (Legalism), or where Law is left out altogether (Antinomianism).
 - vi) Heidelberg Catechism Q. 19 “From where do you know this (truth about the Redeemer)?” A. “From the holy gospel: which God Himself first revealed in Paradise; afterwards proclaimed by the holy patriarchs and prophets, and foreshadowed by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law; and finally fulfilled by His well-beloved Son.”

Doxology: Forever, O LORD, Your Word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You have established the earth, and it stands fast. By Your appointment they stand this day, for all things are Your servants. (Psalm 119:89-91)