

ROMANS: “Transformed by Grace” (Rom. 1:8-15)

READ Romans 1:8-15:

“7 to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as^lsaints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ ^gfor you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the world. 9 For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the *preaching of the gospel* of His Son, is my witness *as to* how unceasingly I make mention of you,¹⁰ always in my prayers requesting if perhaps now, at last by the will of God, I will succeed in coming to you.¹¹ For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be ^hestablished;¹² that is, that I may be encouraged together with you *while* among you, each of us by the other’s faith, both yours and mine. ¹³ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers *and sisters*, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also just as among the rest of the Gentiles. ¹⁴ I am ⁱunder obligation both to Greeks and to the ^juncultured, both to the wise and to the foolish. ¹⁵ So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.”

Notice how Paul begins this letter **V.1**: He starts with who he is:-**Slave**/bond-servant of Christ; -**Apostle** = Spiritual **Authority** as one who had been with Jesus Christ (**Rd to Dam. & heaven**) -Set-apart/**Consecrated** by God for Gospel work to the Gentiles ...including those in ROME.

Vs. 8: First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the world. Even in persecution, hardship, trial, struggles, the church in Rome was faithful: they led well, **struggled** well, **died** well for the gospel & led people 2 faith

Vs. 9-10: For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the *preaching of the gospel of His Son*, is my witness *as to how unceasingly I make mention of you*,¹⁰ always in my prayers requesting if perhaps now, at last by the will of God, I will succeed in coming to you. Paul faithfully and daily prayed for the church in Rome that it would continue to be established, and fruitful in gospel work; and from the church to send out to other regions –church planters/missionaries

Vs. 11: For I long to see you so that I may impart some **spiritual gift** to you, -The gospel reminder of Christian **UNITY** for both Jew and Greek *In Union w/Christ*. = **RIGHTEOUSNESS/ right-standing**= **Since they have all been justified by faith In Christ...EVERYTHING is different!!**

A. In Christ, we are now NEW Creations (old life, old sins, old worldview are all buried)

B. In Christ, we are now unified with Jesus in ALL things (old prejudices are buried)

=His perspective, His passion, His commission, His calling, His purposes become **OURS**

C. In Christ, we are now interdependent with our NEW family: spiritual dependance on Him **AND** the Body for spiritual growth =being spiritually diverse/racially/socio-economic ...impart some **spiritual gift** to you that you may be **established** (strengthened); difficult/new truth for your good.

Vs. 12: that is, that I may be encouraged together with you *while* among you, each of us by the other’s faith, both yours and mine. =Mutual encouragement by seeing your FAITH

-Faith= encouragement =strengthens our own faith & heart. **Your sp. growth spurs mine!**

Who are you encouraged by b/c of another’s faithfulness/..endurance in tough times?

-Who is watching your life? Your decisions, actions, responses, in good/bad times?

Vs. 13: I do not want you to be unaware, brothers *and sisters*, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also just as among the rest of the Gentiles. =Souls & Missionary help Rom. 15:23-28: "For this reason I have often been prevented from coming to you; ²³ but now, with no further place for me in these regions, and since I have had for many years a longing to come to you ²⁴ whenever I go to Spain—for I hope to see you **in passing**, and **to be helped on my way there by you**, when I have first enjoyed your company for a while." The church is God's arm to fund ministry to the world. (Local, Regional, State, Nat'l, & Int'l), Paul depended on God's people giving generously, faithfully, and consistently to plant new churches/ministry -BTW:SO DO WE!!! We need God's people, led by the Holy Spirit, to give gen, consistent, faith -Send out Wally & Kelly w/ Grace Bible Church w/a meaningful gift/trailers/equip/people

Vs. 14: I am under obligation [indebted to minister/preach/serve] both to Greeks and to the uncultured [non-Greeks], both to the wise and to the foolish. 1 Cor. 9:16 "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast *about*, for I am under compulsion; for woe to me if I do not preach the gospel." Paul's calling/ministry/purpose is to give gospel away to Gentiles/Jews ***Vs. 15:** So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel **to you** also who are in Rome."

If Paul is addressing the Church (Vs. 6-7: "Called, Beloved, Saints")

= **Why preach the gospel to the Church?** To strengthen, establish, edify & help ch. persevere

A.-There are those who are still very lost in the church who think they are saved/born-again

B. -There are those who need to hear and learn the gospel to be able to share with others

C. -There are those who need to be reminded that the gospel is NOT just about lost sinners being saved; the gospel is for everyday in our life. **What is the good news of God's gospel for our daily life? We are Reminded . . .**

1. of our true **Identity** IN Christ (Gal. 2:20) -'IN Christ' 160X in NT (**Not job, worth, as parents**)
2. of our daily **Access** to God through Christ (Heb. 4:16)
3. that Christ intervenes when we are **Tempted**, trials, & struggle w/sin (1Cor. 10:13; Heb 4:15)
4. that Christ is ever-present to pick us up when we **FAIL** in our daily walk (Ps. 37:24; 145:14)
5. of our daily **Forgiveness** because of Christ's mercy (1 John 1:9) = confess often/specific
6. that Christ alone is our **Power** within us to endure *all* & help us please the Father (Ph. 4:13)
7. that Christ alone is the **Prize** of our hearts; of our entire life (Ph. 3:7-8)

= **Why preach the gospel to the Church?** To strengthen, establish, edify & help ch. persevere

-1 Cor. 15:1-2 "Now I make known to you, brothers *and sisters*, the **gospel** which I preached to you, which you also **received**, in which you also **stand**, ² by which you also are **saved**, if you hold firmly to ^{la}the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain."

-Col 1:21-23 "And although you were previously alienated and hostile in attitude, *engaged* in evil deeds, ²² yet **He has now reconciled** you in His body of flesh through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach ²³ if indeed you continue in ^{la}the faith **firmly established and steadfast**, and not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you have heard..."=**the gospel is not only start, but end goal of our faith =sp. growth**

-Phil. 1:27 "Only conduct yourselves in a **manner worthy** of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with **one mind** striving together for the faith of the gospel"= Unity

APPLICATION: - Have you been changed by the gospel? Does your life reflect it??

-What portion of your life do you need to preach the gospel to yourself again & again?

-What part of your Identity in Christ do you need help reminding yourself of the truth?

My IDENTITY IN Christ

We are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)

We become God's children (Galatians 3:26)

There is no condemnation for us (Romans 8:1)

We can never be separated from God's love (Romans 8:39)

We who are many form one body (Romans 12:5)

We have wisdom from God (1 Corinthians 1:30)

Our labor is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58)

We have every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3)

We have the forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7)

We were also chosen (Ephesians 1:11)

We are for the praise of his glory (Ephesians 1:12)

We have been seated in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 2:6)

We've been given the incomparable riches of God's grace (Ephesians 2:7)

We who were once far away have been brought near (Ephesians 2:13)

We are built together as a holy building (Ephesians 2:22)

We may approach God with freedom and confidence (Ephesians 3:12)

We are light (Ephesians 5:8)

Our joy overflows (Philippians 1:26)

All our needs are met according to his glorious riches (Philippians 4:19)

We are holy and faithful (Colossians 1:2)

All things hold together (Colossians 1:17)

We have our hope of glory (Colossians 1:27)

We become fully mature (Colossians 1:28)

Are hidden all treasures of wisdom and knowledge for us (Colossians 2:3)

We are rooted and built up (Colossians 2:7)

We have been given the fullness of the deity (Colossians 2:9-10)

We come into reality (Colossians 2:17)

Our life is now hidden (Colossians 3:3)

We will rise from the dead (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

We can give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

We have faith, hope, and love (1 Timothy 1:1, 14)

We can gain an excellent standing; & assurance of eternal life (1 Timothy 3:13; 2 Tim. 1:1)