

***“Romans, Dispensationally Considered — Its Themes Revealed”  
Part 3***

***Soaring with Paul — Ten Miles High and No End in Sight!!***

***Our Text: Romans 1:1 / 16:27***

***"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ,  
called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (Which he had  
promised afore by his prophets in the Holy Scriptures,)  
Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;  
And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness,  
by the resurrection from the dead..."***

***...***

***Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the  
preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was  
kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest, and by the  
scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting  
God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:  
To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever.  
Amen."***

***Review from Last Time:***

***Faith (59):***

- ***The Word:***
  - ***Rom. 1:16-18 [The verses that captured Luther's heart & Mind]  
16 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.  
17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to  
faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.  
18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all  
ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in  
unrighteousness;***
  - ***Rom. 3:26 To declare, [I say], at this time his righteousness: that he  
might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.***
  - ***Rom. 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith  
without the deeds of the law.***

- **The Content:**

- ***SIN -> WRATH -> FAITH. This is the natural progression of thought in Paul's letter to the Romans. True faith has no place apart from this background and context. To speak of FAITH apart from God's sin and wrath is to take it entirely out of the Biblical, Scriptural context. Faith is presented as the REQUIREMENT in the gospel; Believe & Live!***
- ***As we have seen, this "divine logic" was well known to Luther. "The rest of the story" had not been, namely, the Righteousness of God and its imputation to sinners on the basis of their saving faith alone.***

**Sin and Sins (48):**

- **The Word:**

- ***Rom. 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law [is] the knowledge of sin.***
- ***Rom. 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;***
- ***Rom. 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:***

- **The Content:** *Paul draws a critical distinction here between "sins" and "sin".*

- ***One is an act of rebellion against God; the other is a condition, a state, a nature, or a position - but NOT an act.***
- ***One is visible; the other is invisible.***
- ***One is the common subject of man's philosophy and religion; the other is never discussed (and not known) there--- but is the revelation of God alone to the human heart by faith.***
- ***Both separate man from God and the heart of the gospel must deal with both; failure to know this distinction results in a works-based "salvation" (mere religion) and perverts the gospel of God's grace.***

**Righteousness (39):** *This was the key word for Luther and should be a key for us as well, who seek to understand even better the riches of God's grace through our Lord Jesus.*

- **The Word:**

**Rom. 1:16-17**

**16 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.**

**17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.**

**21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;**

**22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:**

**Rom. 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;**

**Rom. 3:26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of of him which believeth in Jesus.**

**22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.**

**23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;**

**24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;**

**25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification [*or, righteousness imputation*].**

**Rom. 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**

- **The Content:**

- ***What did Luther learn through all of his struggles? What were his words written later describing his spiritual struggle in those days.***

***His struggles were real. They were extended in both time and depth. We do not know either but I suspect there were many days involved. What Luther learned as the Holy Spirit taught him was that this “righteousness of God” that Paul reveals here in his sacred writing is Christ’s own righteousness in paying fully for our sins. It is that righteousness that was imputed to our accounts. And it is by faith that that imputation of righteousness is given to us and received. That is saving faith. Amen.***

- ***One final comment on Luther’s salvation is this: He refers to Rom. 1:17 as the verse that made the difference for him: “...For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is***

written, *The just shall live by faith.*” **But why was this verse so important to Luther?**

*Well, perhaps because he had been taught that it was through works that one must become just in order to have satisfied the Holy God’s requirement and therefore to be granted his grace. But if so it was by works and not by faith that one is “justified”. But here Paul writes that the living of those who were already righteous or just should also be by faith. So it is not a life of works that may earn that “just” reward by a Holy and Righteous God, once his high and holy standards had been met, but it is by faith apart from works all along, from salvation to sanctification. The just shall also live by faith, in other words. So verse 17 and 16 go together perfectly. Salvation is by grace through faith alone apart from all works, and then those saved, those who were “just” by the imputation of Christ’s righteousness, should also live by faith. Amen.*

- *Praise God for Paul and this letter! Luther’s words say so much, don’t they? May we also take the spirit of those words to heart with the same response:*

**Today’s Outline: “Romans, Dispensationally Considered --Its Themes Revealed”**  
**Part 3**

- Spirit (34)
- Flesh (25)
- **Grace (24)**
- Reckon (20)
- **Gospel (14)**
- **Wrath (12)**

**Grace (24):**

- **The Word:**
  - Rom. 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.
  - **[READ ] Rom. 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:**
  - Rom. 4:4-5  
**4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.**

**5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.**

- Rom. 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:
- Rom. 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.
- **[READ ] Rom. 11:6 And if by grace, then [is it] no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if [it be] of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.**
- **Rom. 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)**
- Rom. 15:15 Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God,
- Rom. 16:20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.
- **Rom. 16:24 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you all. Amen.**

- **The Content:**

- ***God's grace is at the heart of our salvation AND our sanctification. Praise his name. We would comment much on this subject and perhaps take the whole time on it dedication another week's message to it even — if our goal was not to finish our Thematic Overview of this letter today. So I will limit my comment to this today: Just as Paul here in this verse we have just read that grace is at the heart of our salvation and our sanctification, faith is also since grace and faith [alone] stand or fall together as verse 17 says so well:***

***Rom. 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ...***

***This is actually a promise we should note. It is not an exhortation to holy living. The apostle is writing here that we who have received the abundance of grace shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. And what a wonderful promise indeed that is.***

- ***So let us thank and praise Almighty God, the God of all grace, for the blessings of salvation. Well, we have only touched the surface***

*of the teaching but this is meant to be only an overview of the times of Romans, so we have so much to be looking forward to, don't we?*

**Gospel (14):**

- **The Word: "The Gospel of Christ" or "The Gospel of God"**

**[READ ] Rom. 1:1-7**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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.**

- **[READ ] Rom. 1:16 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.**
- **Rom. 15:16 That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.**

- **The Content:**

- ***The gospel is the message of God's redeeming grace.***
- ***The Gospel is the good news concerning the coming according to prophecy of the savior, Israel's Messiah, and proven to be the son of***

***God by his resurrection from the dead. That is most precious indeed and wonderful, but it is not the end of the story either as Saul was told from the beginning by the risen and ascended Christ Jesus. For there would be more revealed by the Lord in future encounters. But that was reserved for his years in the wilderness. See Gal. 1:***

***Gal. 1:15-17***

**15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called *me* by his grace,**

**16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:**

**17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.**

- ***So Saul (Paul) was taught by Christ himself in Arabia (just as Moses had been by angels). Did he go to Sinai, we might wonder? And this was before he began his first missionary journey in Acts. 13.***

***Acts 26:12-19***

**12 Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,**

**13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.**

**14 And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? *it is* hard for thee to kick against the pricks.**

**15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.**

**16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;**

**17 Delivering thee from the people, and *from* the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,**

**18 To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.**

**19 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:**

***Acts 13:36-43 [We see here the progression in the preaching to the synagogue to the separated brethren under grace apart from the law]***

**36 For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:**

**37 But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.**

**38 Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:**

**39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.**

**40 Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets;**

**41 Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.**

**42 And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath.**

**43 Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.**

- ***And so Paul's education was promised to be continued after the Damascus road so that the riches of his grace might be known by many. And that is primarily what we find revealed in his letters including the Romans.***

- **The Word: "My Gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began..."**
  - **[READ ] Rom. 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began...**
  - **Rom. 2:16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.**
  - **1 Thess. 1:5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.**
  - **1 Thess. 2:8 So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.**



- **[READ ] 2 Tim. 2:8 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:**
- **The Content:**
  - ***So as has been made clear in the verses we have considered this morning, there is a wealth of truth revealed here regarding our Lord that goes far beyond our Lord “according to the flesh”. This is about our Lord “according to the spirit” and as the apostle wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:16: “Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.”***

***This letter and all his others present this truth as was hinted so strongly in 1:4: “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” Or, as he ends the fourth chapter:***

***Rom. 4:22-25***

***22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.***

***23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;***

***24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;***

***25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.***

- ***The Gospel is the MESSAGE declaring the TRUTH summarized in the verses we read this morning. It is to be believed, lived, and proclaimed faithfully! AMEN.***
- - ***Paul and then Martin Luther and then John Wesley had been transformed by this gospel themselves and then had dedicated their lives to the preaching of God’s word. We should see them as our mentors. Will we dwell on their shoulders as it were and walk in their footsteps? Paul, our apostle, says in multiple places that we should “follow” or “imitate” him.***

***WILL WE?***

***Rom. 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ,***

*according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began ...*

- *It is that preaching and teachings which the apostle of the Gentiles reveals here in this letter. But the revelation could not be given without this remaining word with its meaning and content in the very center:*

### **Wrath(12):**

- **The Word:**

- **[READ ] Rom. 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;**
- **Rom. 4:15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, [there is] no transgression.**
- **[READ ] Rom. 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.**

- **The Content:**

- **Wrath is God's response to sin and sins.**
- **Wrath against sin must be eventually be fulfilled**
- **God's wrath against a world of sin and sins was poured out on Christ on Calvary's cross.**
- **God's wrath is at the heart of the gospel as well, its true witness MUST include the preaching of His WRATH against sin and sins!**

**Rom. 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.**

### **An Exhortation to Faithfulness to the Message of the Romans Letter:**

***Will we be faithful to the word of this message of Paul in the Romans? Will we?***