

## Epistle to the Romans, 1:8-17

### A Short Course for Men

Read Romans 1:8-17 in different translations or languages.

#### Modes of evangelism

- Apologetic: present evidence (J McDowell)
- Charity: do good in Jesus' name (Catholics)
- Literature: novels or explanations (CS Lewis)
- Personal: share with others (Navigators)
- Power: Healing and deliverance (Pentecostals)
- Prayer: beg God to save folk (Hyde)
- Proclamation: preach in public (C Kirk)
- Pulpit: speak in churches (Clergy)
- Scripture: distribute Gospels (Gideons)

#### Habakuk 2.4 (Romans 1:17)

- Hebrew: וְצַדִּיק בְּאַמּוּנָתוֹ יְחִיָּהּ = 'but (who is) righteous by my faithfulness lives'.
- Greek LXX: ὁ δὲ δίκαιος ἐκ πίστεώς μου ζήσεται. = 'and the (one) righteous by my faith will live'.
- Romans: ὁ δὲ δίκαιος [μου] ἐκ πίστεώς ζήσεται. = 'and the [my] righteous (one) by faith will live'.

#### Romans 1:8-15 (CEV)

<sup>8</sup> First, I thank God in the name of Jesus Christ for all of you. I do this because people everywhere in the world are talking about your faith.

- Thank: Kind words for kind deeds.
- God—Jesus Christ: How do they relate?
- World: Cities within the Roman empire.
- Faith: The fact that OR what you profess.

<sup>9</sup> God has seen how I never stop praying for you, while I serve him with all my heart and tell the good news about his Son.

- Seen: How to enjoy intimacy with God.
- Serve: Greek: liturgy in action.
- Heart: Greek: 'spirit', inner-outer life.
- Good news: See in the Book of Acts.
- Son: Jewish title for the Messiah.

<sup>10</sup> In all my prayers, I ask God to make it possible for me to visit you.

- Prayers: Fixed prayer times.
- Ask: Request outcomes.
- God: Not some spirit or dead saint.
- Possible: God knows how.
- Visit: How did this eventually happen?
- You: Whom? Why?

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<sup>11</sup> I want to see you and share with you the same blessings that God's Spirit has given me.

Then you will grow stronger in your faith.

- Want: Our legitimate desires.
- Share: Gifts are for sharing, not only for fun.
- Blessing: Unearned, undeserved 'gift'.
- Spirit: Energized by God's Holy Spirit.
- Me: How to know your spiritual gifts?

### Know your spiritual gifts

- Serve others in different ways.
- Using your gifts will give you joy.
- Using your gifts will bless others.
- You have a growing desire to serve.
- Church leaders will affirm your gifts.
- Others will invite you to minister.
- And others will follow your example.

<sup>12</sup> What I am saying is that we can encourage each other by the faith that is ours.

- Encourage: Speak words which build confidence in the Lord.
- Each other: Listen carefully.
- Faith: Tell what you believe to be true.
- Ours: Experienced ministers and neophytes believe in the same Lord.

<sup>13</sup> My friends, I want you to know that I have often planned to come for a visit. But something has always kept me from doing it. I want to win followers to Christ in Rome, as I have done in many other places.

- Why: Dispel mistaken notions.
- Planned: Thought out and saved up.
- Kept from: What kinds of things?
- Visit: What would he have done whilst amongst the Romans?
- Want: An evidence of spiritual gifting.
- Win: Never use incentives.
- Places: Where, for example?
- Many: A winning 'track record'.
- So: What would be a good pre-test of a missionary candidate's success?

<sup>14-15</sup> It doesn't matter if people are civilized and educated, or if they are uncivilized and uneducated. I must tell the good news to everyone.

- Civilized: Cultural distinctives.
- Educated: Literacy and worldview.
- Good news: What same message?
- Everyone: Personally and through others whom you train and coach.

<sup>16</sup> I am proud of the good news! It is God's powerful way of saving all people who have faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles.

- Proud: Greek, 'never disappointed'.
- Power: He, not we, makes it happen.
- Save: What does God do in believers?
- Faith: Believe, obey, remain loyal.
- Are: Every ethnicity and background.

<sup>17</sup> The good news tells how God accepts everyone who has faith, but only those who have faith.

- Good: Brings benefits.
- Accepts: Declares to be innocent.
- Faith: Greek: 'from faith unto faith'
- From: Paul's way to say, 'by faith'.
- Unto: Only here in the NT. In the Greek OT it means, 'reliable' or 'faithful'.

### Paul's good news message

- Israel's promised Messiah has come.
- Jesus taught to be faithful to him.
- Jesus died as a sacrifice to God.
- Jesus rose victorious over death.
- God declares believers to be innocent.
- God gives to us his Holy Spirit.
- Jesus will raise us to life at his return.
- We will reign over the world with him.

### How to be saved forever

- Learn about Jesus' life, death and resurrection, warnings and promises.
- Pray to Jesus to forgive you all your sins, and to give you everlasting life.
- Ask Christians to baptize you in water.
- Learn Jesus' teachings about how to live now and forever.
- Remain faithful to him till you die.

### How not to be saved

- Wear special undergarments.
- Pray at fixed times every day.
- Go on a long, expensive pilgrimage.
- Practice spiritual rituals or magic.