



KNOW GOD. MAKE HIM KNOWN.

Romans 1:1-17

February 14, 2021
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Good morning church! Let us be grateful for God's faithfulness, mercy, and grace toward each of us. This past Wednesday, I was privileged to share a devotion during a Prayer Meeting with our Orange County Southern Baptist Association stating "Mercy for others will reveal your ongoing need for mercy, driving you to the end of yourself and into the arms of your merciful Savior". It's natural to want mercy for yourself but justice for others. It's natural to be very aware of the sin of others, yet blind to your own. If we are ever going to be people of mercy, we need bountiful mercy ourselves, because what stands in the way of our being a community of mercy is us. Let us rejoice that God forgives us through mercy so that we can forgive and show mercy to others. My prayer for you and myself is to know God by spending time in His Word; to know Him and His will. If we truly know our God, who is our creator, then I think we will truly know ourselves and our purpose, which is why I have entitled this series as we go through the book/letter of Romans called "Know God. Make Him Known".

READ, Romans 1:1-15

*"Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, **2** which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, **3** concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh **4** and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, **5** through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, **6** including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, **7** To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **8** First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. **9** For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you **10** always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. **11** For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— **12** that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. **13** I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. **14** I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. **15** So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome."*

Introduction to the Letter

Paul spends much of his time introducing himself and his apostolic credentials to a group of people he longed to share Christ's teachings with but had never met (v 13). Paul wanted them to recognize the authenticity of his ministry and perhaps defend his ministry from the false insinuations of rumors. Nonetheless, Paul wrote this letter shortly before his visit to Jerusalem with the gift from the Gentile congregations. He lived in Corinth and most likely wrote Romans there and had it delivered to this church by the hands of Phoebe, a member of the church at Cenchreae, the port of Corinth. The time of writing was probably during his three months in Greece, described in Acts 20:2-3 between A.D. 55-57. Paul didn't need Rome as some would say to complete His ministry, but Rome needed Paul.

- Paul's calling and purpose assured, that by Christ's grace, he is called to *“bring about the OBEDIENCE of faith for the sake of his NAME among all the nations.”* (v 5)

Summary of the Letter

- **Chapter 1** we see the wrath of God,
- **Chapter 2-3** tells us everyone is sinful,
- **Chapter 3:21** this wrath is poured out on Jesus for us,
- **Chapter 4-5** shares we are justified and now have peace with God,
- **Chapter 6** explains we are dead to sin and alive to Christ,
- **Chapter 7** Paul acknowledges the struggle of sin and having victory in Jesus,
- **Chapter 8** proclaims we are no longer condemned,
- **Chapter 9-10** talks about God's love in midst of predestination,
- **Chapter 11** shares that part of Israel is part of the Church and isn't separated,
- **Chapter 12-15** is the climax of this letter to give standards of how to live as Christians,
- **Chapter 16** is Paul's vision and plan for the Church of Rome.

In verse 1, Paul introduces himself as the author of this ancient letter, which was common to start with a greeting such as this. Notice his humility and great maturity calling himself a servant of God and an apostle of the Gospel of God, which is both the source and the theme of the message; it is the message “of” God. This message wasn't new, but it was announced in the preaching of the prophets that a Savior would descend from the line of David sharing in human weakness while being the Son of God who was resurrected from the dead.

How did this Church come about? Visitors from Rome were present on the day of Pentecost (mentioned in Acts 2) and may have been the first to bring the good news to the city. I love how Paul gives thanks and gratitude for God's work of grace in others was a constant feature of Paul's life.

- Paul's constant PRAYERFULNESS is an expression of his wholehearted service and desire for spiritual USEFULNESS.

Converted Jews who lived in Rome started the church, then became a blend of converted Jews and Gentiles. In verse 13, it indicates a predominance of Gentiles and the faith of these Roman Christians was well known. Just as "all roads lead to Rome, so all roads lead from Rome so that the Church may spread the gospel throughout the empire.

- Let us encourage others to continue living out the faith making it WELL-KNOWN and UNASHAMED.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Romans 1:16-17