

Crossroads Baptist Church  
February 19, 2006 2:00  
Romans 1: 13-17  
Romans #6

## “Paul’s Mission” Part II

There are some subjects that it don’t really matter what you think about or know about for its not a life and death issue. But when you come to think about what it takes to get to Heaven, we had better be very clear of what the Bible says about what the gospel is.

Last Sunday, we looked at the first part of this message in regard to what Paul’s mission in life was. We discovered that his life mission came from God and that it was characterized by others first. But we also discovered that his life mission was characterized by something bigger than himself, namely the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are giving five statements about the gospel as found here in Romans 1: 15-17 and last Sunday saw:

1. The gospel is not something of which to be ashamed.
2. The gospel is the power of God.
3. The gospel is continuing leading us to salvation.

Today, we continue by looking at two others aspects of the gospel:

4. The gospel is for whoever who believes.

This phrase “whoever believes” is used four other times in Romans.

In this phrase, we ask the question, for whom is this gospel or power? Two answers:

- a. For whoever

Acts 2:21 “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Acts 10:43 “All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Romans 10:31 “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Revelation 22:17 “The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.”

As the old hymn says, “Whosoever surely meaneth me, surely meaneth me.” This is the good news of the gospel that “Whosoever will may come.”

Verse 16 further says, “for the Jew first, but also for the Greek.” John 1:11-12 “He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God”

The gospel is not limited to any natural or man made boundaries. It is for every race and people – whether they live across the tracks, across the river or across the world. What wonderful news for those who think they have the wrong family, wrong background, wrong education, wrong language, wrong race, wrong culture, wrong sexual preference, wrong moral track record. The gospel is for EVERYONE!

But while this gospel is for everyone, it does not mean that everyone will be saved. Those who believe such are called universalistic. You ask me why I do not believe that everyone will be saved. Because the Bible does not stop when it says, “For whoever...” but it adds “believes.”

- b. For those who are believing.

The gospel will only come to those who believe. Salvation only comes through faith. Faith is trust.

I get on a plane and most of the time, especially in this environment, you don’t even see the pilot little alone know him by name and reputation. But you get on that plane, take a seat and trust the airline that they have done their homework and the pilot is repairable and knowledgeable about flying that plane.

What kind of faith is required?

Dr. D. James Kennedy says is this way....

Saving faith is not mere Intellectual Assent. It is not the same thing as just believing certain historical facts. The Bible says that the devil believes there is one God, so believing that there is one God is not saving faith.

Saving faith is not mere Temporal Faith, that is, trusting God for temporary crises such as financial, family or physical needs. Now these are good and you should trust Christ for these, but they are not saving faith.

Saving faith is trusting in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life. It means resting upon Christ alone and what He has done rather than in what you or I have done to get us to Heaven.

Acts 16: 31 “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shall be saved.”

John 6:47 “He that believeth on me has everlasting life.”

Warren Wiersbe says, “God does not ask men to behave, He asks them to believe.” The behavior comes later.

Illustration: chair. You transfer your weight of getting to heaven from yourself to God. All your weight.

But this is not a one-time, passed, never to be repeated faith. The tense of the verb “believe” here is crucial. It signifies ongoing action, not just the act of faith when we were converted. It is only sensible then that since salvation comes by faith and we are continually being saved that it will take continual faith, as well.

Thus, in verse 17 records the Habakkuk 2:4 verse that is also quoted here and in Galatians 3:11 and Hebrews 10:38. “The just shall live by faith.” The one who is righteousness before God will be going from faith to faith to faith to faith to faith. In fact, so much, that the one thing that will characterize his life is faith.

I am no more relying on my good works to get me saved today than when I was first born again. It is all of faith.

We know that Martin Luther was changed by this book. Someone has said that has Luther was crawling up the hard steps of St. Peter’s in Rome in vain trying to win righteousness of penance that God opened his eyes to the truth of the gospel that it was by faith, that Luther stood and danced down the steps saying, “The just shall live by faith.”

### 5. The gospel reveals to us the righteousness of God.

The righteousness of God is used 8 times in Romans. The word “righteousness” is used 60 plus times in Romans. Key word indeed.

John MacArthur puts it this way: “Faith activates the revelation of the righteousness of God. If I am to be righteous I have none of my own, God must give me His righteousness. And He does. You see, Jesus took our sin and changed... in exchange God gave us His righteousness. That's why it says that Christ became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. When Paul says the righteousness of God is revealed, he doesn't mean it's just disclosed to human minds. He doesn't mean it's just spoken in human history. He means that it is specifically revealed in the action and the operation of regeneration. That is why the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one who believes. Because that belief activates the righteousness of God.”

It means that God will show us His righteousness, share His righteousness, and make us as righteous as He.

#### a. He Shows us His righteousness

He is perfectly holy. And because He is holy and sinless, He cannot allow sin and sinful man in His presence. If you are in a sterile environment, then that environment like an operating room, would be contaminated if something unclean came in.

God is holy and can not have fellowship with unholy and sinful man.

“I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene, and wonder how he could love me, a sinner, condemned, unclean.”

#### b. He Shares His righteousness with us

Romans 3: 21-22”But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, ...even the righteousness of God which is through faith in Jesus to all and on all who believe.”

He shares this by:

1. Making us right before Him;
2. Making us morally right.

John Piper says, “God gives to us what He demands from us.” God demands righteousness and we don’t have it, so the only hope for us is that God himself would give the righteousness that he demands.

### Conclusion:

Let me tell you about a missionary named John G. Payton. He went to the New Hebrides filled with cannibals. And when he arrived in the New Hebrides he came to an island at the moment when there was a terrible epidemic. People were dying of disease. It had utterly decimated the population. He went into the huts of the sick people and tried to care for them. He buried the dead. He tended to the dying. And when the epidemic had passed, he was received by all and they loved him. And he stayed with them.

He first thought to learn their language. And he began to listen to their speech, write down in a notebook all the words and phrases he learned. The natives got accustomed to him always having a notebook and stopping in the middle of the conversation to write some things down. There came a time then when he decided that he ought to translate some of the gospel into their language. But they had no word in their vocabulary for faith or trust or believe. They just didn't trust anybody. But you can't do much translating in the Bible without a word for that. And so he began to think.

At a time of frustration he decided to go deer hunting. And they shot a deer-like animal and several smaller game and started to carry the kill back to the house of the missionary. The weather was at the equatorial point in the globe, oppressive. The

hill in which they hunted was trackless and they finally arrived back absolutely exhausted. They dropped their heavy burden and all of them just flopped on the grass. One native said - Oh, it's good to stretch yourself out here in the shade. John Payton shot off that grass, excitedly he had that companion recite that sentence again and again. And he wrote it all down in his notebook. And then he translated John 3:16 this way: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever stretcheth himself out on Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."