

Bible Study Romans 1:1-15

1. Jesus Christ is *Fully God, *Fully human and *Lord over all. What would happen if we were to downplay or forget one of those three truths?

2. **Read Rom 1:1-6.** There are those who disregard anything Paul says (while accepting whatever Jesus says!). What do these opening verses have to say about such an opinion.

Paul was not one who 'big-noted' himself – calls himself a “servant” (lit. “slave”) of Christ. And though he says God “set him apart” it was for God’s gospel – the message Paul was commissioned to proclaim (and did so at great personal expense). Whatever Paul said, as apostle, was what the Lord said!

3. “Gospel” means, literally “good herald” or “good announcement”. What are the elements of this gospel that you can discern from this passage? Why is it a “good” announcement?

It is God’s gospel, it was a promise given and recorded in the Old Testament and now fulfilled, it is regarding the Son of God – a descendant of David (implying kingship) and now, God’s Son in power because he was raised from the dead. This gospel is for all people to bring about faith (that will produce obedience) – this can be summed up as belonging to Jesus. The gospel is “Jesus Christ is Lord”. It’s “good” because God’s king has come – he now rules over all, and because he has died and been raised to life, he is a merciful Lord who can forgive our guilt.

4. What is “the obedience that comes from faith”? Why does Paul call people to this and not just to “faith”? Aren’t we saved by “faith alone”?

As Luther wrote – ‘we are saved by faith alone, but faith that saves is never alone’. If Jesus Christ is Lord, true faith (trust) in him will have the shape of obedience to him.

5. **Read Rom 1:7-15.** Why is Paul so thankful for this group he’d never even met? Is there an example here for us?

Though so far he’d been unable to visit Rome, the gospel had not been hindered. Even in the capital of the empire, God was at work as Christians spread his gospel and a church was formed. Whenever we are giving thanks to God, it is right that we thank him for the faith of others, especially in places you would least expect to find Christians. NB It’s good to hear accounts of Christians from other places – so keep informed! Read mission magazines, blogs, emails etc.

6. Why do you think Paul writes v.13?

Perhaps since he was the Apostle to the Gentiles, they might have felt neglected by him for never having been to Rome. But clearly they have been on his mind and heart and in his prayers.

7. Paul wants to be **mutually** encouraged by other Christians. What is the significance of this for us?

Not even Paul saw his relationship with other believers as just one way – he gave as well as expected to receive encouragement in the gospel from other Christians.

8. What difference would it make if we went to church, or Bible study, or any other gathering of Christians with the aim of encouraging others *as well as* being encouraged by them? What is the result of we **don’t** have that intention?

9. Pray that you will have opportunities this week to both encourage others in the gospel and be encouraged by them. Thank God for someone who has encouraged you in the gospel (either recently or at important times in your life).