

ROMANS

Session 1: The Purpose of the Letter

Small Group Discussion

What are some synonyms for the word power or powerful? What are some things you consider powerful? Who are some people that you consider powerful? What makes them that way?

Now think about God... How is God powerful? If God were to work his power right now, what might you expect to see? If God were to work his power in your life, what do you think would happen?

Large Group Discussion

Our reading from Romans one today will contain a _____ of sorts. In fact, it could be said that the rest of the letter is simply an unpacking of what is contained in these words.

What's more, in this thesis statement we learn a peculiar thing about God and how he shows his power in the world and our lives

But first, we need to look at the purpose of Paul's letter. (Watch Clip)

According to this clip, Paul wrote his letter to the Romans so that they may become

_____.

What was the practical reason behind this purpose?

"These circumstances are what motivated Paul to write out his fullest explanation of the gospel, the good news about Jesus' life, death, & resurrection."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ej_6dVdJSIU

So, without further ado, let's dive in. Read **Romans 1:1-17**.

Is there anything that sticks out to you about these verses?

Which verses do you think function as the "thesis statement" for the rest of the book?

If you're thinking verses _____ you are spot on. Let's break them apart!

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“¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel...”

“The Gospel” (εὐαγγέλιον) = _____ about Jesus’ _____,
_____, & _____.

What is this “good news?”

Why might someone be “ashamed” of the gospel?

¹⁶ ...for it is the **POWER** of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

According to this part of the passage, why is the gospel the very POWER of God?

The reason the gospel is the power of God is simply because it’s the _____ God has
chosen to bring _____ to the world.

How does this verse say we receive this power?

“¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

How does this verse fill in some blanks as to why the gospel is the “power of God?”

What do you think Paul means when he says that in the gospel, “the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith”?

In the simplest sense, the gospel both _____ & _____ us the
righteousness of God.

You could almost paraphrase this verse, *“In the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed for faith and is received by faith.”*

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Application

If your salvation/God's righteousness is revealed to and received by faith from start to finish, what are some things that might get in the way of that?



This week, I just want you to do two things.

One, try to remember throughout the week that your relationship with God is based on his righteousness/salvation given to you in the gospel.

Two, ask God what things in your life are getting in the way of that belief.

One final thing: Luther's Story

"All at once I felt that I had been born again and entered into paradise itself through open gates. Immediately I saw the whole of Scripture in a different light."

-Martin Luther 1545