

The Book Of Romans
The Gospel Of Christ 2
Session 11

Romans 1:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ *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.*

¹⁷ *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."*

Paul writing to the Roman Church about what the Gospel of Jesus Christ is all about and how to understand it gave us some powerful words to consider.

Power,

Salvation,

Faith,

Righteousness.

We have already talked about the power of the gospel and its implications.

We want to now talk about the Salvation.

It is the power of God unto Salvation

SALVATION

Romans 1:16b (NASB)

¹⁶ *"for it is the power of God for salvation"*

The greatest manifestation of God's power is that of bringing men to **salvation**, of transforming their nature and giving them eternal life through His Son.

We learn from the Psalmist,

Psalm 106:8 (NASB)

⁸ *Nevertheless He saved them for the sake of His name, That He might make His power known.*

Now this was in spite of their rebelliousness that He saved them.

As God incarnate, Jesus Christ manifested His divine power in healing diseases, restoring crippled limbs, stilling the storm, and even raising those who were dead.

Paul uses the noun, *soteria* (**Salvation**) some nineteen times, five of them in Romans, and he uses the corresponding verb twenty nine times, eight of them in Romans.

The basic idea behind the term is that of deliverance, or rescue, and the point here is that the power of God in **salvation** rescues people from the ultimate penalty of sin, which is spiritual death extended in to tormented eternal separation from Him.

Some people object to terms such as salvation and being saved, claiming that the ideas they convey are out of date and meaningless to contemporary men.

But **salvation** is God's term, and there is no better one to describe what He offers fallen mankind through the sacrifice of His Son.

Through Christ and Christ alone men can be saved from sin, from Satan, from judgment, from wrath and from spiritual death.

Regardless of the words they may use to describe their quest, men are continually looking for salvation of one kind or another.

Some look for economic salvation, others for political or social salvation.

As already noted many people look for inner salvation from the guilt, frustrations, and unhappiness that make their lives miserable.

Even before Paul's day, Greek philosophy had turned inward and begun to focus on changing man's inner life through moral reform and self-discipline.

William Barclay tells us that the Greek Stoic philosopher Epictetus called his lecture room "the hospital for sick souls"

Another famous Greek philosopher named Epicurus called his teaching "the medicine of salvation.

Seneca, a Roman statesman and philosopher and contemporary of Paul, taught that all men were looking ad salute (*toward salvation*).

He taught that men are overwhelmingly conscious of their weakness and insufficiency in necessary things and that we therefor need "a hand let down to lift us up"

Salvation through Christ is God's powerful hand, as it were, that He has let down to lift men up.

His **salvation** brings deliverance from the spiritual infection of "*this perverse generation*"

Acts 2:40 (NASB)

⁴⁰ *And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"*

From lostness,

Matthew 18:11 (NASB)

¹¹ *["For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.]*

From sin,

Matthew 1:21 (NASB)

²¹ *"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."*

And from the wrath of God,

Romans 5:9 (NASB)

⁹ *Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.*

It brings deliverance to men from their gross and willful spiritual ignorance,

Hosea 4:6 (NASB)

⁶ *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge,*

2 Thessalonians 1:8 (NASB)

⁸ *dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*

And from their evil self-indulgence;

Luke 14:26 (NASB)

²⁶ *"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.*

And from the darkness of their false religion;

Colossians 1:13 (NASB)

¹³ *For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,*

1 Peter 2:9 (NASB)

⁹ *But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

But only for those who believe.

Power for Salvation

Now power for faith;

FAITH

Romans 1:16d (NASB)

¹⁶ *to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

The next key word here is faith.

The sovereign power of God working through the gospel brings salvation to **everyone who believes**.

Pisteuo (believes) carries the basic idea of trusting in, relying on, having faith in.

When used in the New Testament of salvation, it is usually in the present, continuous form, which could be translated "is believing"

Daily living is filled with acts of faith.

Such as turning on the faucet to get a drink of water,

Trusting it is safe to drink.

We drive across a bridge, trusting it will not collapse under us.

Despite occasional disasters, we trust airplanes to fly us safely to our destination.

People could not survive without having implicit trust in a great many things.

Virtually all of life requires a natural faith.

But Paul has in mind here a supernatural faith, produced by God,

Ephesians 2:8 (NASB)

⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;*

Eternal life is both gained and lived by faith from God in Jesus Christ.

God does not ask men to behave, but rather to believe.

Man's efforts at right behavior always fall short of God's perfect standard, and therefore no man can save himself by his own good works.

Good works are the product of salvation, but they are not the means of it.

Salvation is not merely professing to be a Christian, nor is it baptism, moral reform, going to church, receiving sacraments, or living a life of self-discipline and sacrifice.

Salvation is believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Salvation comes through giving up on one's own goodness, works, knowledge, and wisdom, and trusting in the finished, perfect work of Christ.

Salvation has no national, racial, or ethnic barrier but is given to every person who believes, **to the Jew first and also to the Greek.**

It was to **the Jew first** chronologically because Jews are God's specially chosen people, through whom He ordained salvation to come.

John 4:22 (NASB)

²² *"You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.*

The Messiah came first to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Matthew 15:21-24 (NASB)

²¹ *Jesus went away from there, and withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon.*

²² *And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out, saying, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed."*

²³ *But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, "Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us."*

²⁴ *But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."*

They first, then the whole world. All who believe may be saved. Only those who truly believe will be.

The next key word is Righteousness.

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 1:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."*

Paul uses this term, righteousness over thirty five times in the book of Romans alone.

Faith activates the divine power that brings salvation, and in that sovereign act, **the righteousness of God is revealed.**

A better rendering is *from God*, indicating that He imparts His own righteousness to those who believe.

It is not only **revealed** but *reckoned to those who believe in Christ.*

Romans 4:5 (NASB)

⁵ *But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,*

Listen to these words;

Philippians 3:8-9 (NASB)

⁸ *More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for*

*whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,
9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through
faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,*

Romans 3:21-24 (NASB)

*21 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the
Prophets,*

22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

The German pietist Count Zinzendorf wrote, in a profound hymn.

*Jesus, thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed
With joy shall I lift up my head.*

*Bold shall I stand in Thy great day,
For who aught to my charge shall lay?
Fully absolved through these I am,
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.*

From faith to faith seems to parallel "everyone who believes" in the previous verse.

Is so, the idea is "from faith to faith to faith to faith," as if Paul was singing out the faith of each individual believer. Salvation by His grace working through man's faith was always God's plan, as Paul here implies in quoting from Habakkuk;

Habakkuk 2:4 (NASB)

4 " But the righteous will live by his faith.

Abraham, the father of the faithful, believed, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness;

There is emphasis here on the continuity of faith.

It is not a one-time act, but a way of life.

The true believer made righteous will live in faith all of his life.

In the Church this is called "*the perseverance of the saints*:"

Colossians 1:22-23 (NASB)

*22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and
blameless and beyond reproach—*

*23 if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the
gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a
minister.*

Hebrews 3:12-14 (NASB)

*12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living
God.*

*13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened
by the deceitfulness of sin.*

14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,