

3 Things the Gospel Teaches Us About God, Rom. 1:16-18 Pleasant Plains 11-30-2014AM NICK ANGEL

Romans 1:1-15 Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, had a great desire to be with the brethren of Rome and preach the Gospel to them in person. That much is abundantly clear. However, what is not so clear is why Christians, today, don't seem to be as eager to share the Gospel. Do you have a great desire to share the Gospel with others? It seems to be age old question: Why don't Christians share their faith at every opportunity they have? What is stopping us from constantly sharing our faith with those who are around us on a daily basis? Maybe it would be better to approach this by asking why should we share the Gospel with others? What value is to be gained from the sharing of the Gospel? I think we can answer this question by seeing why Paul felt it was so important to share the Gospel.

I believe Paul was so eager to share the Gospel because he recognized that there is much value to be gained by the knowledge of the Gospel. In fact, I believe that Paul recognizes that the sharing of the Gospel shows the listener 3 very important things about the Creator of all that is, the Almighty God. Paul shares those 3 aspects of God in the next 3 verses after verse 15. Let's study through the text of **Romans 1:16-18** and see why Paul was so eager to share the Gospel not just with the Christians in Rome, but also with anyone who was willing to listen. Hopefully this will help us all to recognize the importance of the Gospel and encourage us to be more dedicated to the sharing of it. Let's consider these 3 things that the Gospel teaches us about God.

I. The Wrath of God (v.18)

- A. God hates sin and cannot be in fellowship with unrighteousness.
 - 1. The righteousness of God is in direct opposition to sin and wickedness.
 - 2. God is too pure to approve of evil and look upon wickedness with favor. (**Hab. 1:13**)
 - 3. Our sins separate us from God because He is righteous. (**Isa. 59:2**)
 - 4. God's wrath is upon all those who are ungodly and unrighteous. (**Rom. 1:18ff**)
- B. Those who die in their sins will be eternally separated from God because of their disobedience to the Gospel.
 - 1. God recognized the eternal destiny of those who died in their sins, and that is why He sent His Son. (**John 3:16**)
 - 2. Those who would not believe would be condemned for all eternity. (**Mark 16:15,16**)
 - 3. Those who do not repent and obey will perish. (**II Pet. 3:9**)
 - 4. Those who fail to obey the Gospel will receive death as their payment. (**Rom. 6:23**)
 - 5. We need to be sharing the Gospel because God's wrath will come upon those who do not obey.

II. The Power of God (v.16)

- A. God has the power to save the sinner through His grace.
 - 1. Mankind has fallen prey to the deadly sickness of sin. (**Rom. 3:23**)
 - 2. God offered His grace to those who were so undeserving. (**Rom. 3:24**)
 - 3. God then showed His love for mankind by sending His only Son to die for the sinner. (**John 3:16**)
 - 4. Through His mercy the sinner, a slave to satan, can be freed and made a slave of righteousness. (**Rom. 6:17ff**)
- B. God has the power to unite all peoples through the Gospel and the forgiveness of sins.
 - 1. Paul recognizes the Gospel's/God's power to bring separated people together into one body. (v.16)
 - 2. Paul, on multiple occasions, stresses God's power to bring down the walls that divide people. (**Eph. 2:11ff**)
 - 3. All people are baptized into one body. (**I Cor. 12:13**)
 - 4. All people are one in Christ Jesus. (**Gal. 3:27ff**)
 - 5. People keep asking what is needed to end this mess in Ferguson, Missouri and what is needed to end any type of racism. I'll tell you exactly what is needed, and that which is needed is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - 6. We need to be telling people about God's power to united all people through the forgiveness of their sins.

III. The Righteousness of God (v.17)

- A. God is righteous and holy.
 - 1. The Psalmist writes, “*The Lord is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His deeds.*” (**Psalm 145:17**)
 - 2. The Lord indeed is righteous (morally right and justifiable) and He has shown His righteousness through the giving of His Son. (**Rom. 3:21**)
 - 3. Through His perfect righteousness, His perfect love, and His perfect patience God has given us the opportunity to allow His grace to make us whole again.
- B. God desires for His people to be righteous just as He is righteous.
 - 1. Paul uses Abraham as an example of someone who was righteous through obedient faith. (**Rom. 4:1-3**)
 - 2. Through our faith and God’s grace we can be justified before God and therefore righteous. (**Rom. 5:1,2**)
 - 3. Righteousness can only be found through faithful obedience. (**Rom. 6:17,18**)
 - 4. The grace of God transforms us so that our lives are no more about self and sin, but all about glorifying God in all that we do. (**Rom. 12**)
 - 5. We need to be telling others about the Gospel because it teaches us about the righteousness of God and His desire for us to be righteous, just as He is righteous.

Paul realized that only through the Gospel could a person truly learn of the wrath, power, and righteousness of God. He greatly desired to share that Gospel with others as often as he had opportunity, and he lived for those opportunities. What about us? What about you? Do you desire to tell others of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? People must know of the Gospel so they can be saved. May God help us to see the importance of the Gospel and help to point others too God through it. And may God help us to be obedient to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.