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The Uniqueness of the Gospel

ROMANS 1:1–7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,⁷ To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

READ | ROMANS 1:1–7

THINK ABOUT

The primary message of Romans is the Gospel. In these opening verses, Paul connects the Old Testament to the New Testament. God spoke through the prophets, and all the Old Testament writers, to foretell the coming of Jesus to earth. The New Testament then records His rescue mission. He came to earth, lived a sinless life, died for our sins, and rose from the dead. That's the Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1–8). Jesus made it possible for men, women, boys, and girls to be made right with God. No other message brings salvation; the Gospel of Jesus Christ is unique.

At the same time, the Gospel is for all people. Paul traveled all over to make sure as many as possible heard the good news about Jesus. Even though he had not yet traveled to Rome, he wrote to explain God's love (the cross) and God's power (the resurrection). The believers in Rome benefited from studying the Gospel. They were able to understand it better, share it, live it, and grow deeper in it.

APPLY

Take a few minutes and write out what you believe the word Gospel means. Read back over Romans 1:1–7 and 1 Corinthians 15:1–8. Meditate on the Gospel. Now write your statement like you would explain it to someone who hasn't heard about it before.

ASK

What did each person write down?

Was it easy to put into words? Why or why not?

Is there someone you could send a copy of what you've written and ask them to tell you what they think?

THE BIG IDEA

The Gospel is unique because it originated with God and provides the news of the completed redemptive work through Christ.

KEY POINTS

Paul was called to proclaim the Gospel of God to all (v. 1).

The Gospel came in fulfillment of God's promise to redeem the world (v. 2).

This Gospel is unique because of its association with the only Son of God (vv. 3–5).

The Gospel brings man into relationship and fellowship with Christ (vv. 6–7).

DOCTRINE

The Foreknowledge of God (vv. 1, 7)

The Trinity (vv. 1–4)

Salvation (vv. 5–6)

LIFE APPLICATION

The Gospel is potent enough to penetrate the hearts of all mankind.

One reason we believe the Gospel is because of the prophecies before Christ's coming.

Those who follow Christ obey Him and live for His name and glory.

DISCUSSION

What did God promise about His Son before He came to earth?

How important is the resurrection to the Gospel?

Distinguish between the local church and the universal church.

Why was Paul concerned about the Roman believers (hint: v. 7)?

“THE UNIQUENESS OF THE GOSPEL”

Romans 1:1-7

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

A low-angle photograph of a building with a red facade and green shutters. A street lamp is visible on the left, and a tree branch is in the upper left corner. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

*If anyone is
in Christ, he is
a new creation.*

*The old has
passed away;
behold, the
new has come.*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17