

ROMANS

PART 2: THE CURE FOR A TERMINAL DISEASE

Romans 1:1-17

Mike Taylor www.TaylorNotes.Info



Paul had a specific goal in mind when writing to these Christians in Rome—to present the gospel which is a cure for the terminal disease of sin. This good news became the driving force of his life. Paul writes to the Christians in Rome whom he has never met. He introduces himself and describes how he longs to meet them in person, and to present the gospel to them so that they have a clear understanding of salvation.

A. KEY WORDS

- **Apostle** (G. *apostolos*): “sent one,” “official envoy.” Paul refers to himself as an “apostle” pointing out his Christ-ordained role as an official envoy for the gospel. To be called an “apostle” in this technical sense, one must have personally encountered Jesus Christ after his resurrection and received Jesus’ express commission to bear the good news to others.
- **Righteousness** (G. *dikaiosynē*): Morally right and justifiable. The doctrine that God always acts in accordance with what is right and that he is himself the final standard of what is right.
- **Faith** (G. *pistis*): “Confidence,” “reliance,” “trust.” Trusting God in belief and action. Trust or dependence on God based on the fact that we take him at his word and believe what he has said. Paul uses the word “faith” in relation to salvation--it is a gift from God--not something we must do to earn salvation (Eph. 2:8).
- **Salvation** (G. *sōtēria*): “Deliverance,” “protection,” “preservation.” Salvation means going to heaven when we die, but it also means looking forward to Christ’s second coming, including resurrection and glorification.”
- **Gospel** (G. *euangelion*): “good news,” “good report.” This Greek term describes the favorable report of a messenger from the battlefield or the official proclamation that an heir to the king had been born. In the NT this word refers to proclaiming that Jesus’ death and resurrection forgives sins and gives eternal life.

B. HERE’S THE CURE (1:1-6)

Paul was called and set apart (1:1). “Set apart” meaning separated from something or reserved for a specific purpose (*aphorizo*). This is a different word than “holy” (*àgios*)

which can also be translated as “set apart so Paul was probably making reference to his profound encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus.

The gospel was promised long ago and is centered on Jesus Christ (1:3-4). The resurrection of Jesus is proof that he is the Son of God. The phrase “Spirit of holiness” refers to his divine nature, for just as God is Spirit, so is Jesus. Being a descendant of David means he has a human nature, just like us.

The purpose of the gospel is to produce obedient faith (1:5-6). It has been said that one does not truly learn something until that person’s behavior has changed. Paul points out to these Roman Christians that they too were called of Jesus Christ to live a new life of faith and obedience.

C. YOU ARE ALREADY CURED (1:7-15)

Paul affirmed them (1:7-8). Their faith is being reported all over the world. Nevertheless, these struggling Christians in Rome needed to hear someone say, “Well done, keep on doing what you are doing.”

Paul prays for an open door (1:9-10). Even though Paul didn’t know most of them, and had not yet visited them, he prayed fervently for them. This also must have encouraged these Roman Christians knowing that someone was praying for them.

Paul promised to assist them (1:11-15). Charles Swindoll writes to “impart some spiritual gift does not mean Paul was planning to give them a spiritual gift they lacked; instead, he was planning to share with them his spiritual gifts, the gift of knowledge, wisdom, and apostleship.”

D. THIS CURE IS AVAILABLE TO EVERYBODY (1:16-17)

Notice the four important characteristics of the gospel. First, the gospel is a powerful message. Paul was not ashamed of proclaiming it. Second, it brings salvation to everyone who believes. it's the only thing that can truly reform the human heart. Third, the gospel is a universal message...it is for Jews and Gentiles and is to be received by faith in Jesus Christ. Fourth, it reveals God's righteousness.

E. APPLICATION

How might this passage in Romans relate to Christians today?

Sources used in this study

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