

KEY SCRIPTURE

Romans 1:1-6

1 This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News.

2 God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures.

3 The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line,

4 and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. 5 Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name. 6 And you are included among

6 And you are included among those Gentiles who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ.

Acts 26:9-11

9 "I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

10 And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them.

11 And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

START TALKING

This week we looked at the introduction to Romans.

When you read a book, do you read the forward and introduction? Or do you jump straight to the first chapter. Why?

START DISCUSSING

FULFILLED PROPHECY

Read Romans 1:2

Talk through various O.T. prophecies and allusions. Can you name a few? Which are undeniable and which are more obscure? Need some Help? Lamb, Passover, Redeemer, Bethlehem, Wounded for Us, Rescued from Slavery, Manna, Water from Rock, David, Jonah, Ark

THE GOD/MAN

Read 1:3-4

Discuss how verse 3 speaks to the humanity of Jesus Discuss how verse 4 speaks the deity of Jesus

God in Flesh is hard to understand or even imagineThe week before Pastor Lyle talked about Jesus in his hometown.

Matthew 13:54–56 He returned to Nazareth, his hometown. When he taught there in the synagogue, everyone was amazed and said, Where does he get this wisdom and the power to do miracles?"

55 Then they scoffed, He s just the carpenter s son, and we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers—James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. 56 All his sisters live right here among us. Where did he learn all these things?"

The description of Jesus' family would point to the normalcy of Jesus early life. Throughout his ministry, some people saw a man. Others recognized that he was God.

Discuss the tensions that the idea of God in Flesh creates in our minds. What would it actually be like to watch a man cure disease by his touch?

THE UNLIKELY BELIEVER, SERVANT AND APOSTLE

Read 1:1 and then Acts 26:9-11

Discuss Saul of Tarsus before salvation. What would it be like to live under the threat of his persecution? Talk about how there are many believers right now living that kind of threat.

Pastor Dave ended the message by asking us to consider the person that is in our opinion the least likely person to receive the gospel. **Take some time to share your response to the challenge to recognize that if God could reach Saul, he can reach the people on your list.**