

Romans 1:8-17**“The Power of God for Salvation**

January 11, 2026

Neal McKinney

Thanksgiving (verse 8)

- Paul is grateful for the Roman Christians’ faith, which he says is known throughout the world (the Roman Empire)!

Encouragement (verses 9-15)

- Paul keeps them in his prayers and hopes to see them in person soon.
- He hopes to encourage them... and to feel their encouragement of him.
- Paul has a great desire to see people come to believe in Jesus Christ... both Jew and Gentile.
- He doesn’t just want this. He is “under obligation” to the mission God has given him!

The Gospel (verses 16-17)

- Paul is not ashamed to tell others about Jesus because the gospel is “the power of God for salvation.”
- This gospel is for everyone who believes, regardless of their background.
- These are great verses to memorize and recite to yourself often.

Kingdom-minded servants of Jesus should encourage one another and actively seek to advance the kingdom of God.

Notes on Today’s Message

Questions for Personal Study or Group Discussion**Open**

- Describe a favorite gift you received on Christmas or your birthday. Were you grateful to the giver? How did you show it?
- Read verse 8 aloud, substituting the name of someone for whom you are thankful to God, and stating why you are grateful for them.

Read

- Romans 1:8-17

Observe

- Notice all of the “I” statements in these verses. What do these tell us about Paul?
- What is Paul saying in verse 14?
- What do we learn about the gospel from verses 16 & 17?

Apply

- How would you explain verse 17 to someone who is “turned off” to religious words?
- To what mission or task do you sense God “nudging” you? How is that reflected in your prayers? Your actions?

Prayer

- *Thank* God for those who’ve spoken or lived out the gospel in your life.
- *Ask* God to open up opportunities in your life to speak the gospel into the lives of others.

Recommended Commentaries on Romans

- Romans for You, Tim Keller (The Good Book Company)
- Romans: An Introduction and Commentary, F. F. Bruce (IVP Academic)
- The Letter to the Romans (New International Commentary on the New Testament), Douglas Moo (Eerdmans)