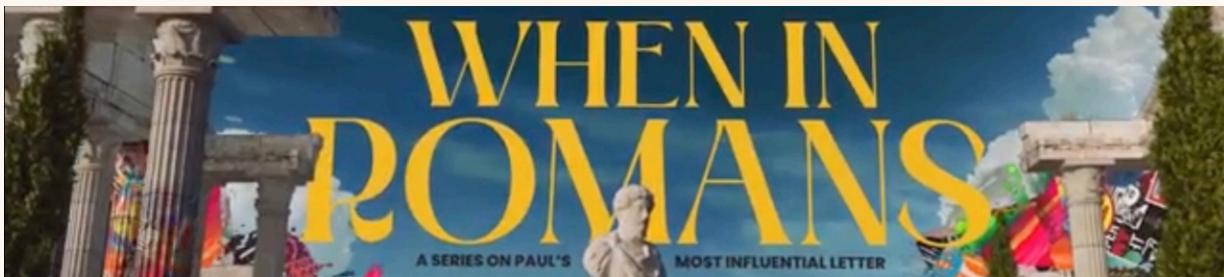


Romans 1:1-7

SERMON RECAP

What's in our spiritual go-bag when life falls apart? This powerful exploration of Romans chapter one challenges us to examine whether we're truly prepared for the storms of life—not with physical supplies, but with deep-rooted theological convictions. Just as we might pack emergency supplies for unexpected disasters, we need a foundation of belief that can sustain us when relationships crumble, finances fail, or the world seems to be unraveling. The opening verses of Romans present us with the most systematic statement of Christian theology in Scripture, a constitution for our faith that answers life's biggest questions: What is the gospel? What's wrong with the world and with me? Has God failed His promises? How should we live? This isn't just intellectual exercise—it's the fuel that drives our behavior in crisis moments. Paul introduces himself as a servant of Christ Jesus, modeling radical submission to a Master worth following. He immediately establishes that the gospel isn't advice or instruction, but announcement—good news about God's Son who entered human history, descended from David, died, and rose again by the Spirit's power. This resurrection proves Jesus is both fully man and fully God, making Christianity the most inclusive yet exclusive message ever proclaimed: available to all nations, but only through one doorway. We're reminded that we belong before we behave, that we're loved before we're corrected, and that grace precedes our obedience. The journey through Romans will pack our spiritual bags with exactly what we need to not just survive, but to minister to others when everything goes wrong.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Belief Drives Behavior**
 - Our theological foundation determines how we respond when life falls apart.
- **Romans is Essential**
 - This letter unlocks the entire Scripture and provides the framework for understanding the gospel.
- **The Gospel is About Jesus**
 - Christianity isn't fundamentally about us, Israel, or moral improvement—it's about God's Son.
- **Guard Your Doctrine**
 - 1 Timothy 4:16 calls us to "keep a close watch on yourself and the teaching."
- **Grace Produces Obedience**
 - True faith in the gospel leads to transformed lives that glorify God among all nations.

• DISCUSSION Q'S

Into the Sermon

1. ***The Spiritual Go Bag***: What beliefs or truths about God have sustained you during your hardest seasons? What was missing that you wish you had known?
2. Pastor Sam said, "Don't be lazy and slothful in conversations about God, the Bible, and Jesus." How would you honestly assess your own spiritual preparation? Are you depending on others to feed you, or are you learning to "hunt" for yourself?
3. Paul received "grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith" (v. 5). How does understanding God's grace motivate obedience in your life? Where do you struggle with this?
4. Doctrine matters. Have you ever encountered false teaching or been confused by something you heard about Christianity? How did you navigate that?

DISCUSSION Q'S

Understanding the Text

1. Read Romans 1:1-7 together. What stands out to you most in Paul's introduction?
2. Paul describes himself as "a servant of Christ Jesus." What does it mean to be enslaved to Christ? Is this appealing or challenging to you? Why?
3. Paul says the gospel was "promised beforehand through the prophets in the holy scriptures" (v. 2). Why is it important that the gospel isn't a new idea but connected to the Old Testament?
4. How does verse 4 prove that Jesus is "the Son of God in power"? Why is the resurrection so central to our faith?