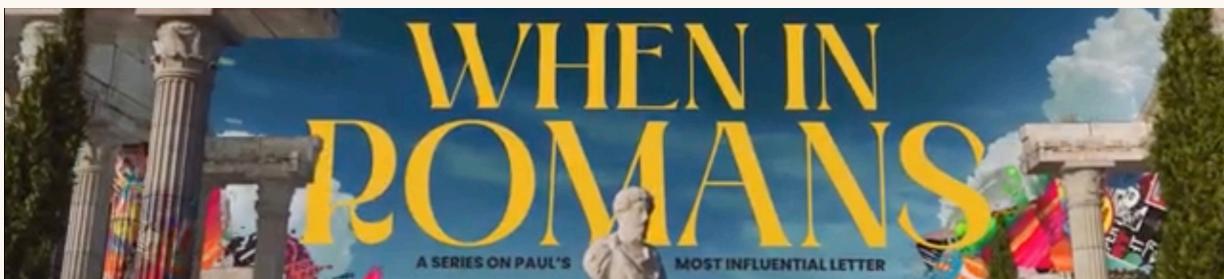


## *Romans 1:7-17 Part One*

### **SERMON RECAP**

We find ourselves immersed in one of the most powerful and influential letters ever written—the book of Romans. This isn't just ancient correspondence gathering dust; it's a living message that has been 'going viral' for thousands of years, shaping cultures, converting hearts, and challenging assumptions across every generation. What makes Romans so compelling is that it addresses the very questions we still wrestle with today: Who are God's people? What does it mean to be righteous? Can grace really be that scandalous? The Apostle Paul writes to a divided church in Rome—Jews and Gentiles struggling over traditions, authority, and identity—and his answer transcends their cultural moment to speak directly into ours. He begins with a stunning declaration: we are loved by God, called by God, and set apart by God as saints. Not spiritual superstars or elite Christians, but ordinary believers transformed by extraordinary grace. This should humble us, not puff us up. The wrestling match in our hearts—'Could it be so? Am I really called a saint?'—is precisely the response the gospel should produce. Paul's thesis is clear: he is not ashamed of the gospel because it is the dunamis, the dynamic power of God for salvation. This isn't mere information or moral instruction; it's the same power that raised Jesus from the dead, capable of making dead people alive. As we journey through Romans together, we're invited to see that this complicated, systematic, airtight argument isn't about tips for better living—it's about meeting Jesus, the one in whom all Scripture finds its yes and amen.



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **The gospel is for EVERYONE** - not just the "down and out" but also the "up and in." Both the moral and immoral, the successful and struggling, all need the saving power of Jesus
- **Saints are made, not born** - We are called saints not because of our goodness but because we are "loved by God, called by God, and set apart by God.".
- **The gospel is POWER, not just information** - The Greek word "dunamis" means the gospel has the power to make dead people alive, not just bad people good.
- **Mutual encouragement is essential** - Even the Apostle Paul recognized the need to be encouraged by other believers. No one is above needing the body of Christ.
- **The gospel creates obligation** - When we truly understand grace, we become compelled (not guilt-driven) to share it with others.

# • DISCUSSION Q'S

## Into the Sermon

1. The sermon stated: "*When the gospel truly grips your heart, you don't merely want to be a recipient of grace, you ache to become a channel of it.*" What evidence is there in your life that you've moved from recipient to channel?
2. Pastor Sam pointed out that we're often eager to share the gospel with people who are "down and out" but hesitant with people who seem to "have it together."
  - a. Why do you think this is true?
  - b. Who in your life fits the "successful, good person" category who also needs the gospel?
3. Paul begins his prayer with thanksgiving (v. 8). How does your prayer life compare? Do you start with thanksgiving or jump straight to requests and complaints?
4. The sermon states that 'good guys go to heaven' is a cultural heresy. How would you explain to a morally upright but non-believing friend why they still need the gospel of Jesus Christ?

# DISCUSSION Q'S

## Understanding the Text

1. Read Romans 1:7-17 together. What stands out to you most in Paul's introduction?
2. Paul calls the Roman believers "loved by God and called to be saints" (v. 7). What does it mean to be called a saint? How does this challenge or encourage you?
3. Paul says he is "not ashamed of the gospel" and calls it "the power of God for salvation." Why do you think Paul felt the need to say he wasn't ashamed? What pressures might have tempted him to be ashamed?
4. Paul says he is "under obligation" or "indebted" to share the gospel with everyone—Greeks, barbarians, wise, and foolish. What does this tell us about the nature of grace and how it should affect our lives?