

Only the Gospel
Romans 1:13-17

Getting Started

- ❖ As we will see in Romans 1:16, Paul was confident and unashamed of the gospel.
 - How would you describe your relationship to the gospel and to the Lord? Happy? Strained? Marked by assurance? Filled with doubt? Other?
 - Take some time this week to have at least 2 of your group members share their testimony of salvation, coming to know Christ in the gospel.

Digging Deeper

- ❖ **Read Romans 1:8-15.**
 - Brainstorm together and list what these verses say about Paul's prayer life, his motivations, and his commitment to a body of believers he had never even met.
 - What stands out the most to you?
 - Do these things point toward any changes you would like to make in these areas of your life?
- ❖ **Reread the Sermon Text and discuss the following:**
 - Since the gospel is for everyone, why do you think Paul says that it is "for the Jew first"? Observe Paul's evangelistic practice and comments in **Acts 13:5, 14, 42-52** before you answer this question.
 - Why does Paul let his readers know that he's not ashamed of the gospel? Was he saying it to allay any thoughts they had about him, or was he seeking to stimulate boldness in their presentation of and commitment to the gospel? Support your answer from the review of Romans you've already done.
 - Why would Paul say he is "obligated" in verse 14? **Read 1 Cor. 9:16-23** before answering.
 - In what way(s) is the gospel the "power of God"?
 - Jerry explained that the "righteousness of God" in verse 17 has been a much-debated phrase. How are we to understand it in verse 17 and why is this important?

Think About It!

Today, when most Christians talk about salvation and the gospel, they mean the *initial* act of placing trust in Jesus as their Savior from sin and as Lord of their life. Is this all Paul had in mind? Why or why not?

Only the Gospel
Romans 1:13-17

Praying Together

This week we had the pleasure of commissioning the Launch Team of New City Church which is being planted as a daughter-church of Covenant and led by Ben Harris. In tonight's prayer time, please take most of your prayer time interceding on behalf of this new church plant. Specifically, assign at least one group member to pray for each of the following:

- The Harris family—God's protection, guidance and provision for them.
- New Believers--- We are planting this church in order to see people come to know Christ in SE Palm Bay who currently are lost.
- A Missional Spirit--- That God would move within the Launch Team to be energetic and effective Ambassadors of Jesus Christ, inviting the lost and unchurched to connect with New City.
- Ministry Startup Needs--- As a new church, ask God to bring to New City key workers for their worship, children and youth ministries and discipleship efforts. Pray that God will provide the perfect mid-week ministry space.
- Bayside Relationship--- New City will be worshipping at Bayside High School on Sunday mornings. Pray that New City will find creative and effective ways to be a true blessing to staff and students of this important High School in our city.

(Note: In this year's study of Romans, our study questions are being inspired by or derived from books, commentaries and bible studies authored by: Max Lucado, John MacArthur, R.C. Sproul, Jack Hayford and Tim Keller.)