

Pastor Dave – Sunday Sun 1st Sept

The Great Good News

Romans 1:1-7 Christian Standard Bible

The Gospel of God for Rome

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle^[a] and set apart for the gospel of God— **2** which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures— **3** concerning his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was a descendant of David^[b] according to the flesh **4** and was appointed to be the powerful Son of God according to the Spirit of holiness^[c] by the resurrection of the dead. **5** Through him we have received grace and apostleship to bring about^[d] the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the Gentiles,^[e] **6** including you who are also called by Jesus Christ.

7 To all who are in Rome, loved by God, called as saints.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jim Boyce on his commentary shares this.

Two Classic Works Published by Gilbert West

Gilbert West (1703-1756) was an English theologian and poet, a contemporary of Samuel Johnson's. He had a keen interest in biblical and theological matters, and he published these two works on biblical apologetics, *George West* both in collaboration his cousin, The Right Honourable Lord George Lyttelton. One (*History and Evidence*) is the fruit of an extended dialogue between the two men that began with a motive to disprove the New Testament record. The other (*Conversion and Apostleship of Paul*) is a largely drawn from a letter written to Mr. West by Lord Lyttelton. Oxford University awarded Mr. West a Legum Doctor degree for his book in defense of the resurrection.

These .pdf editions have been reset and reformatted in modern typeface. They were supplied to this website by Andrew Burkholder.

Here is the overview of Gilbert West's work from the Logos.com website:
In the 1740s, while studying at Oxford, English poet Gilbert West and the Baron George Lyttelton set out together to disprove two major events in Christian history: Saul's conversion and the Resurrection. After a year of painstaking research, each eventually concluded that Saul was genuinely converted and Jesus genuinely rose from the dead, and they became Christians. This work is Gilbert West's letter reporting his findings to Lyttelton. West examines the prophecies of the Old Testament and the credibility of the New Testament, concluding ultimately the Christianity was indeed divine revelation.

Observations on the Conversion and Apostleship of St. Paul: being an argumentative and rational defence of the Christian revelation; deduced from the peculiar circumstances of St. Paul before his conversion, and the effects which followed it; as exemplified in his life, and in the doctrine; which he preached. In a letter to Gilbert West, Esq. by Lord George Lyttelton.

Observations on the History and Evidence of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ by Gilbert West, Esq.

- Account

Romans 1:1-7 a letter written by Paul to the church in Rome.

- Not founded by him.
- Already had been planted.
- He is writing to them.

The Great Good News

For us as we celebrate communion.

Two Questions

1. Whose gospel, is it?
2. Who is the gospel about?

It is essential that we never forget.

Romans talks a lot about the gospel and also doctrinal things.
These two letters talk about how essential the gospel is.

Verses 1-7 are an intro to this letter.

The Apostle Paul is the author and describes himself as a servant of Jesus Christ.

- Jesus is his master, his savior and his lord.

Paul – “What Jesus says I do”! – “Where Jesus says I go, I go”!

Romans is one of the gospels that God called for the proclamation of the gospel and for the formation of the church.

Question One – Who's gospel, is it?

Answer – Gods.

Angels declare in Luke – they bring good news.

Question - Why is it such good news?

Because they are talking about the Messiah has come – the savior has come.

If it wasn't for Jesus coming and what He did on the cross of calvary, His death, burial and resurrection, we would be dead in our trespasses and sins.

- Enemies of God.
- In open hostility.
- Us not winning ever!
- Lost in darkness.

Judges God word – It's an Old Testament book – Gods inspired word - but it is awful.

- The sinfulness of the people.
- The writer lets us know that it is going to get worse.
- They go sinning all the more.

This is where would find ourselves.

The gospel is wonderful, good news.

- That Jesus came, to rescue us from our sins.

It is God's good news – it's not our good news.

God has laid it out very clearly in scripture what the good news is – what the gospel is.

We have no right or authority to mess with it.

- We will get to see this when we study Galatians.

Mentioning Jesus – Plus!

- No – It is not Jesus Plus anything!

It is just Jesus for salvation.

We may even know people that say – “I believe in Jesus, but I really need to go to church.”

- Not Jesus plus communion for salvation.

It is Jesus that is the heart of the good news.

- That which we are to proclaim – the gospel.

A gospel that was proclaimed beforehand by His prophets – in the Holy Scriptures.

Old Testament prophets told of the Messiah coming – the plan of salvation that God has and that he laid out - telling us of the gospel.

- God’s plan of redemption through the Old Testament.

Romans could look at the Old Testament scriptures and say – “This is God’s Word”.

Quote – William Hendrickson – Appreciate what he says...

Speaking by and large we can say that the Old Testament contains the promises – The New Testament shows how these promises have been, were being and were going to be fulfilled.

When Paul says his prophets, he has reference of course not only to such holy men of God like Isaiah and Jeremiah, but also to Moses, Samuel, David etc.

To speak in language which even children can understand the old is by the new explained, the new is in old contained.

When Jesus walks into the scene as John the Baptist is baptising people and he looks at Jesus and he says – “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.”

John The Baptist declaring for everybody to hear – there is the Messiah – the anointed one – there is the one that we have been expecting.

The message that Paul proclaims isn't his or ours it's God's.

Question – How often do we dumb it down?

It is not good news until we hear the bad news first.

[Romans 3:23 Christian Standard Bible](#)

[²³ For all have sinned and fall short of the^{\[a\]} glory of God;](#)

We are to proclaim the gospel – we don't change it or dumb it down.

Paul says...

[Romans 1:16 Christian Standard Bible](#)

The Righteous Will Live by Faith

[¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel,^{\[a\]} because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.](#)

Paul understands how powerful it is.

Question Two – Who is the gospel about?

It is about Jesus Christ.

He says this...

[Romans 1:2-4](#)

[² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures— ³ concerning his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was a descendant of David^{\[b\]} according to the flesh ⁴ and was appointed to be the powerful Son of God according to the Spirit of holiness^{\[c\]} by the resurrection of the dead. ⁵](#)

What is Paul saying here?

Jesus is fully God and fully man.

- It is important that we have this solidly in our minds.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 Christian Standard Bible

⁵For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, a testimony at the proper time

- We cannot have a mediator who is only fully human.
- We cannot have a mediator who is only fully God.
- We need a mediator who is fully man and who is fully God.

Paul is saying – Jesus is our mediator.

He is the one who gave himself as a ransom for all.

Paul reminds the Romans that Jesus in his humanity is a descendant of David –

We learn from both Matthews genealogy and Lukes's genealogy that on both sides.

Through Jesus adoptive father Joseph – he was in the lineage of David.

And through Mary's family line he was from the lineage of David.

The beautiful thing about it is this...

From a human perspective his mother traces her roots back to David through his son Nathan.

And Jesus through His adoptive father traces His lineage through Solomon.

Reading the scriptures we discover that Jeremiah that the King Jeconiah was first by God and that none of his descendent would ever sit on throne of David ever again because of his sinfulness.

Which would make that Jesus could never sit on the throne of David if he were in fact a biological descendent of Davids line through Solomon. But he wasn't a biological descendent through David on that side – but through Nathan's side.

Where the curse doesn't even exist.

Jesus being a descendent of David has full rights to the throne – as King.

King of Kings – Lord of Lords – A descendent of David in the flesh according to flesh – born as human being.

He is eternal God – the son of God.

[Romans 1:3 Christian Standard Bible](#)

The Gospel of God for Rome

³ concerning his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was a descendant of David^[b] according to the flesh

Beauty of how God records in the Old Testament scriptures.

Through David having full rights to the throne.

Quote – description from Liam Morris

Son of God –

Both -

Appointed – legitimate translation.

Declared - legitimate translation.

He was appointed to be the powerful son of God.

If this is to be expected, it will be in the sense that He who was the son of God in weakness and lowliness.

The bible describes that Jesus was – meek and lowly frail as a human being was.

Declared – Moore says this... If we accept this...

It declares that He is the powerful son of God.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 Christian Standard Bible

³For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Jesus is fully man and fully God – Jesus is the powerful son of God.

- Demonstrated in the resurrection.

Question – Why was one of the attacks on Christianity the resurrection of Jesus?

If they were successful in proving that Jesus never rose from the dead, then Jesus was just another Jewish martyr.

The resurrection of Jesus is central to the gospel message.

- Tearing down the temple.
- 3 days later we will resurrect it.

What is he talking about?

C.S. Lewis – talking about who Jesus is...

A man who is merely a man and said the sort of things that Jesus said, would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic on the level of a man who says that he is a poached egg, or else he would be the devil of hell.

C.S. Lewis – Challenge.

You must make your choice. Either this man was and is the son of God or else a mad man or something worse.

Paul declaring that Jesus is the son of God

- He is the gospel.

Think about Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail.

The jailer asking – “What must I do to be saved”?

One of the most beautiful things in scripture.

Acts 16:25-34 Christian Standard Bible

A Midnight Deliverance

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the jail were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains came loose. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the doors of the prison standing open, he drew his sword and was going to kill himself, since he thought the prisoners had escaped.

²⁸ But Paul called out in a loud voice, "Don't harm yourself, because we're all here!"

²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He escorted them out and said, "**Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**"

³¹ They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him along with everyone in his house.

Romans 1:5-6 Christian Standard Bible

The Gospel of God for Rome

⁵ Through him we have received grace and apostleship to bring about^[d] the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the Gentiles,^[e] ⁶ including you who are also called by Jesus Christ.

Phrase – obedient of the faith.

Important for us to understand this. That through this passage we are told this is the gospel of God and that Jesus is the content of the gospel.

He is the savior.

He is the redeemer.

He is the Savior.

He is also the Lord.

- Finishes with this.

Romans 1: 7 Christian Standard Bible

⁷ To all who are in Rome, loved by God, called as saints.
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We cannot have a relationship with Jesus Christ, without Jesus Christ.
Quote – Morris.

1 John 2:3-6 Christian Standard Bible

God's Commands

³ This is how we know that we know him: if we keep his commands. ⁴ The one who says, "I have come to know him," and yet doesn't keep his commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps his word, truly in him the love of God is made complete. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ The one who says he remains in him should walk just as he walked.

John – Do you want to know how you know him?

- If we keep His commands.

Faith responds in obedience.

Hebrews 11:6 Christian Standard Bible

⁶ Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Genuine faith in the Lord Jesus Christ demonstrates itself out as he walked.

- A commitment.

Saving Faith – 3 C's

Content	–	Confession	–	Commitment
Jesus Christ	-	Confess with my mouth	-	

We commit our life to Christ our master, our Lord, just as Paul, Jude and James did.

"I am a slave to Jesus – I am a servant of Christ – I am obedient to him".

If we have put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we should be demonstrating out in our obedience to Christ.

Question – What is the way?

Paul – Love what he says.

Romans 1:16 Christian Standard Bible

The Righteous Will Live by Faith

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel,^[a] because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.

Christian – Question – Are you walking in obedience?

Remember when Jesus meets two disciples on the road to Emmaus – walks with them and teaches them from the Prophets - Old Testament scriptures everything that pertained to him.

Finally realising they were walking with Jesus. And they went back and proclaimed that they saw the resurrected Jesus.

- The cool thing was that they realised who they were with when they were sitting at a meal and Jesus broke bread giving it to them and giving thanks – then their eyes open up – “wow this is Jesus – we have been with Jesus the whole time”!

Enjoying communion and fellowship with the Lord Jesus as he was expounding for the Old Testament scriptures about himself.