

September 15/16, 2012

The Gospel Story

A Study of Romans

Romans 1:1-17

Opening Discussion

1. Do you think the pressures of contemporary culture today cause some Christians to be “ashamed” of the Gospel? What are some ways Christians might alter the message to accommodate the culture?
2. How would you define “The Gospel Story”?
3. Do you draw a distinction between the plan of salvation and the Gospel Story?

Bible Study

1. Read Romans 1:1-7. See if you can summarize what Paul is trying to say in his opening paragraph. Use the following to help you with this summary.

The Gospel story is about who, according to what, for whom, in order to bring about what, for what purpose?

2. Read Romans 1:8-15. In this paragraph you get a sense of Paul’s heart for the people he is writing to. Describe the tone of this paragraph. Why is it important to set the right tone before studying the most theologically complex book in the NT? How does this affect our interpretations?
3. In Romans 1:14, 15 Paul says he is obligated to preach to Greeks and Barbarians, both to wise and foolish; in other words, to every person. What does that mean to you? Who are the people that would be the most difficult for you to reach in a loving way? Is there anything you might be doing that might be creating barriers between you and those God has called you to reach?

4. Read Romans 1:16, 17. Why is Paul not ashamed of the Gospel according to these verses?
5. Who is the Gospel powerful for according to Paul? What does this mean?
6. What are the two sides to the same coin regarding the “righteousness of God?” What are both sides necessary for the message to be “good news”?
7. What is Paul saying when he quotes the OT verse, “But the righteous man shall live by faith.” Why was this so life changing to Martin Luther in the 1500’s? How does this relate to Paul’s statement that he’s not ashamed of the Gospel?

Application

1. Why should we not be ashamed of the Gospel? List several reasons from the text.
2. What can you do (or stop doing) to be more effective in sharing the Gospel story with others?
3. What is at stake if we get this message wrong? What are some things you and your group can do to help each other as you work through the long involved process of unpacking the Gospel story in Romans?