**Romans Series January 15, 2023**

**The Power of the Gospel to Save – Romans 1:8-17**

Paul’s Purposes of the Letter to the Romans

1. To commend the saints because of their world-renowned faith

* + Faith is a full and complete commitment to Jesus Christ
  + Hebrews 11:1   
    Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2. To express his prayers for the saints in Rome

* + His prayers were “unceasing”
    - Not literally 24 x 7
    - Were persistent over time
  + His prayer life is one of the great hallmarks of the apostle
  + His desire was to travel to them
  + His desire was to “follow the will of God”
    - It is a theme peppered across much of Paul’s life and writing
    - He only wanted to go to Rome if the Lord cleared the way and made it possible

3. To impart a spiritual gift to the saints in Rome to encourage their   
mutual faith

* + Spiritual gift – Paul could not mean that he could bestow a gift such as teaching, intercession, leadership, administration, tongues or any other “spiritual gift” because these gifts come solely through the Holy Spirit (see Rom. 12:3-8, 1 Cor 12).
  + What Paul intended here was that through his teaching, preaching, and service in Rome, that the breadth and depth of the faith of the believers there would grow

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3. To impart a spiritual gift to the saints in Rome to encourage their   
mutual faith (continued)

* + His plan to “impart” blessing to the Roman Christians was through his discipleship efforts
  + His goal was to “establish” or strengthen the faith of the Christians
  + His faith would be encouraged simply by being with them

1 Thessalonians 5:11   
Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

4. To prepare the way for an eventual trip to Rome to preach the Gospel there

* + “obtain some spiritual fruit” means to see new believers come to Christ as well as to disciple Christians in their walk with the Lord Jesus
  + To proclaim the Gospel to anyone and everyone (Gentiles, Greeks, barbarians, wise, foolish)

5. To declare that he was unashamed of the Gospel as the power of God to save those who turn to Jesus in sincere belief

* + Paul had no power to save anyone
    - Only God the Father can draw someone to Jesus Christ and only the Holy Spirit can cause a person to be born again
    - Yet, “Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17)

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