

Romans Study - Lesson 1

Text: Romans 1:1-17

Key Verses: (16-17) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith. NKJV

Verses 16-17, a capsule summary of Paul's message to the Romans, changed Martin Luther forever. After he finally understood the phrase "righteousness from God," Luther said, "I felt myself to be re-born and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning . . . This passage of Paul became to me a gateway to heaven." Excerpted from *Compton's Interactive Bible NIV*. Copyright (c) 1994, 1995, 1996 SoftKey Multimedia Inc.

Exposition: Imagine you're writing a letter to someone you haven't met, but have heard about. How would you address that person and how will you identify yourself?

Who do you know that you can describe as "not ashamed of the gospel." What makes you describe this person in this way?

Development: How does Paul identify himself to the Roman people? (vrs.1-6)

How does Paul address the Romans, and to what purpose is he writing to them? (vrs. 8-15)

List and discuss things that strike you about the manner in which Paul wrote? How does it compare to your answer of the exposition question?

What attributes of God are found in these verses? What is said about who God is / what God does?

Why is Paul *not* ashamed of the gospel? (vrs.16-17)

Recapitulation: What can we learn from the way Paul related with fellow believers?

Let's pray for one-another that we will have confidence in the Gospel, which is the power of God to salvation. May we not be ashamed, but have faith in God.