

## Committed to the Gospel – Romans 1:1-17, 10:5-13

I promised you last week that I only had one more message concerning our commitment to Jesus. I'm going to stick with my word and close out this series of messages by encouraging you to remain Committed to the Gospel. Consider these things as we spend our time together this morning. What is the Gospel? And why is it important for us to remain committed to it?

If I were to walk up to you on the street, as a stranger, and ask you what is the Gospel? Most of you would simply reply with: "It's the good news." While it certainly is good news, I want you to view the Gospel as much more than this. The gospel is the best and most important news ever given to the world. It's good news because it comes directly from the Creator. It's good news because it tells us what Jesus Christ has done for us. It's good news because it transforms those who put their trust in it. The gospel is the central message of the Bible. The gospel is the good news of what God did to save His people. The gospel is the message of Jesus the Christ, sent, without man's request, (we didn't ask for Him, but because of God's love, He sent Him) to rescue us from sin and eternal separation.

The gospel is only found in the sound doctrine of God's Word, but doctrine doesn't save. Only Jesus saves! The Bible in its entirety teaches us about Jesus, about who we are without Him, who we are with Him, and guides those who believe through the daily progression of sanctification and eventual glorification. It's not enough, however, to know the truth, you must also fully believe the truth. Paul in his second letter to Timothy called it "my gospel." He considered the gospel as a prized possession. If you genuinely believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, then you too should consider it 'your gospel.' It was part of God's plan from the very beginning. Redemption through Jesus. Forgiveness through Jesus. Acceptance through Jesus. The Good News of Jesus Christ transforms wrecked lives, brings hope where there is despair, introduces light where there is darkness, and it divinely saves all who put their faith in Jesus. This is the gospel to which we must commit.

When we commit to the Gospel of the Good News of Jesus Christ, we are also committing to the Word and to the sharing of that Word. We are putting our faith in Jesus to save, but also our faith in His Word, along with the divine power of the Holy Spirit to teach us and guide us. This is why I love the message of salvation to all people found in Paul's letter to the Romans. **Read Romans 10:5-13.** After reading that, indulge me by looking at verse one. **Read Romans 10:1.** Paul's zeal for the lost, Jew and Gentile, is what led him to offer this prayer. Can I say this to you this morning? If you are here and

you want to change. You want to be different. You want to experience true forgiveness, true transformation, true redemption, then may I offer the same prayer for you. *It is my hearts desire and prayer to God that you may be saved.* Jesus says, as recorded for us in **John 14:16** says, “*I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*” Peter in **Acts 4:10-12** says, “*let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*”

Now, because Paul considered the gospel a prized possession, he took his role in sharing it with others very seriously. You know, for those who believe, the Good News is not something to be selfish about. God wants us to share it with others. In fact, he commands this of us. After all, the gospel is “for us”, but not about us. Look with me at another word from Paul. I love how he boldly approaches the Roman church, whom he had never met, as he begins to minister to them. Let’s look at **Romans 1:1-17**. Paul longed to travel to Rome and share the gospel with people who had never received true apostolic teaching. He was committed to sharing Jesus with all who would listen. I’m concerned we have lost our desire to share. I’m concerned we have forgotten one of our most important doctrinal purposes. I’m concerned that we see the Good News as nothing more than our ticket to heaven. The gospel is so much more, and it is intended, as Paul teaches us, for all people. It’s not something to be tucked away in the closet of a selfish heart. Instead, it’s God’s plan of salvation. We must choose it and then believe in it. When we trust it and begin to live it out every day, that’s when it begins to shape our actions, our attitudes, our way of life. We experience grace to the fullest, mercy at its highest, and love in its completeness.

The gospel is everything. It is our only message. The gospel teaches us that in Christ our sins can be forgiven, and that the righteousness of Christ is credited to us the moment we trust in him. We lose our sin, and we gain his righteousness. And it happens by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. What a glorious gospel this is. Will you leave today committed to it? Will you leave today committed to follow Jesus, committed to serve others, committed to your community, and committed to share the Good News of Jesus Christ?