

Romans – Justified through faith

Week 3 – Good news is for sharing

V14

Paul feels obligated or another translation would be he owes them a debt to preach the gospel. He's not doing God a favour in preaching the gospel. The gospel has been given to him *for them* therefore he's indebted to them. Paul has been given the gospel by Jesus for the Romans – he's not at liberty to keep it to himself.

V15

Paul's evangelistic enthusiasm comes from two sources, indebtedness and conviction. He's been entrusted with the good news by God, and it saved him so it can save others.

It's considered universally dishonourable to leave a debt unpaid, in the same way Paul was eager to discharge his debt. We have the same obligation.

V16

Paul says he's not ashamed of the gospel, but why say that if he's not been tempted to feel ashamed of it? Preaching the gospel arouses opposition, contempt and sometimes ridicule. (1 Cor 2:3 & 1 Cor 1:18 + 23). This temptation is overcome by remembering the gospel's power, by knowing what the gospel has done for us. Everyone who is saved is saved exactly the same way – by faith, the great leveller. The Jews come first theologically (God's chosen people) and therefore historically (Acts 13:46).

V17

The righteousness of/from God has three meanings...

1. *Divine attribute* – the faithfulness of God to his own righteous nature, his integrity, self consistency. He's the judge of all the earth and will always do right.
2. *Divine activity* – the saving intervention on behalf of his people. Salvation and righteousness are often coupled in the Old Testament, especially in the Psalms, Isaiah 40-66 (see Is 46:13)
3. *Divine achievement* – righteousness is a gift he bestows on us, by faith, when we accept the gospel.

"...by faith from first to last" (NIV) also translated as "...from faith to faith" (KJV). Four meanings...

1. *Faith's origin*: From God to us
2. *Faith's spread*: By evangelism from one believer to a new believer
3. *Faith's growth*: From one degree of faith to another
4. *Faith's primacy*: Righteousness begins and ends with faith.

Q1. What is the difference between the gospel and your testimony?

Q2. Is it a sin not to preach the gospel?

"Salvation is the form God's righteousness takes"

- John Ziesler

"The righteousness of God is essentially the covenant faithfulness, the covenant justice, of the God who made promises to Abraham, promises of a worldwide family characterized by faith, in and through whom the evil of the world would be undone."

- N. T. Wright

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." - Romans 1:16