

Sermon Title: Good News for Everyone

Sermon Text: Romans 1:8-15

Date: September 17, 2023

1. Can you think of a time when you received such good news that it not only made your day but changed your life? Tell us about that.
2. The apostle Paul tells the believers in Rome, “I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times” (vv. 8-10a). What would need to happen in your heart and mind for you to pray this fervently for fellow believers in a city you’ve never even visited?
3. Paul continues, “I pray that now at last by God’s will the way may be opened for me to come to you ... I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you” (v. 10b, 13). Have you ever had your well-intentioned plans repeatedly thwarted? What, if anything, about Paul’s approach here might help you navigate your own frustrated plans?
4. Paul offers this reason for wanting to visit the Christians in Rome: “I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith” (vv. 11-12). What do you make of Paul’s desire to travel to a faraway place like Rome for the purpose of mutual encouragement with other believers? What does this say about the value of using our spiritual gifts and encouraging one another?
5. Paul then declares, “I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome” (vv. 14-15). Here Paul models the Biblical conviction that the gospel is for everyone. This raises the question, Are there people with whom I am unwilling to share the gospel—perhaps people who confuse, frustrate, or anger me? How can we combat this ungodly attitude in our own hearts?
6. Which of the Biblical insights we’ve discussed in this session do you find most challenging for you personally? What step of obedience is God asking you to take in this regard?

*Let's pray that God would unleash the transforming power of his gospel in us and through us!*