

Lesson 1
Romans 1:1-17

In this lesson, the student will:

1. List some of the reason(s) for Paul's letter to the Romans.
2. Create a logical division of the text
3. Identify and list the central issue(s) Paul raises
4. Write a letter to the church of Waltham which resembles this section of Paul's letter.

Exploring the Word

1. Read the passage below. After you read it through the first time, go back and add punctuation marks wherever you think they are needed. Next, go back and create paragraphs where you think there might be a logical place to do so.

Paul a servant of Christ Jesus called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures regarding his son who as to his human nature was a descendant of David and who through the spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the son of God by his resurrection from the dead Jesus Christ our Lord through him and for his name's sake we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith and you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ to all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ first 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 with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his son is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you 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 I do not want you to be unaware brothers 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 just as I have had among the other gentiles 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 at Rome 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

for in the gospel a righteousness from god is revealed a righteousness that is by faith from first to last just as it is written the righteous will live by faith

2. Why did you make the divisions where you did? _____

3. What words/terms does Paul use to describe himself to the church in Rome?

4. Why does Paul say he wants to see the people in Rome? _____

5. Why is Paul not ashamed of the Gospel? _____

Sowing the Seeds

1. How do you define the word "faith". _____

2. If you were to describe your faith, what words would you use? _____

3. Do you think of faith as a "dangerous" thing? Are there certain things your faith calls you to do that you shy away from? What are they? _____

4. Paul's fullness of faith is overwhelming. Would you rate your faith as ...

- a. Paulicious
- b. Strong when it has to be or needs to be
- c. Mediocre
- d. In need of some penicillin
- e. In need of a funeral
- f. In need of resurrection

5. In Acts, Paul's conversion is described as this vibrant interaction involving a great light and then blindness. How would you describe your coming to faith? _____

6. If you could ask Paul one thing about a life of faith, what would you ask him? _____

7. You are Paul and are going to make a trip to Waltham. You have never been to Waltham and need to use this letter to introduce yourself and to tell about your faith. On a separate sheet of paper, write a letter to the Church in Waltham that resembles the letter to Rome.

8. Each of us has someone, or many someones, who have made a great impact on our faith lives. I want you to name that person here and then write them a thank you note which clearly defines why they were so meaningful to your faith.

9. In the opening verse of Romans, Paul uses the Greek word euangelion (eu meaning good, and angelion meaning news/tidings). What is the Good News to which Paul refers?

Memory Verse for the Week

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith'" (Romans 1:16-17).