

Vintage

Week 1: Gospel

We are all desperate for good news, for something more than the temporary high of another text, another like, or last-second victory. We want what people used to call “gospel,” the kind of good news that goes on and on. That is exactly what Paul is offering to the Romans and to us in the introduction to his famous letter.

***Romans 1:1-7** Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name’s sake. ⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. ⁷ To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.*

- The gospel is
 - ...**Good News**
 - ...the **heart** of Christianity.
 - ...**vintage**.
 - ...about Jesus Christ – true **man** and true **God** – who died and rose to save us.
- Christ gives each of us grace and a **commission** to share this gospel.
- We call all into
 - ...obedience of **faith**
 - ...belonging to **Christ**
 - ...being **loved** by God
 - ...being God’s **holy** people
 - ... **grace** and **peace** – both given by God
- The gospel of Jesus Christ is the **best** news
Believe it! Share it!

Points to Ponder:

1. The rest of Romans is an expansion on what we heard today. How did today's Good News encourage you?

Write down the names of three people that need this same encouragement but who weren't here today. Pray for those three people every day this week. Before the end of the week, Invite them to church and encourage them to come to every service in this series.

2. God has called you into his *family*. Explain how work in and for your family looks and feels different from work at your place of employment. Now draw parallels to your service to God.
3. Paul called the believers in Rome "saints." Write your first name in the blank below:

Saint _____

Does that title sound awkward? Yet that is what God declares you to be in Christ Jesus!
Write your new title on a Post-It note and put it somewhere where you'll see it frequently.
How do you expect this reminder will influence your words and actions?

Homework: Read Romans 1:18-3:20