

Romans – Chapter 1:16-17

GCF Hardcore Bible Study

September 24, 2003

1 Theme

Four distinct ideas in these two verses:

- v16a: Paul's pride in the gospel
- v16b: Gospel contains God's saving power
- v17a: Gospel manifests God's righteousness
- v17b: Righteousness from faith

2 Paul's purpose for writing

Before these verses, Paul emphasized: his own call to ministry and how it relates to the Romans

Now, Paul emphasizes: the gospel

This is a real turning point (in terms of God's covenant) from: Mosaic law

to: the fulfillment of the Abrahamic promise and the future of Israel

3 Salvation

What is salvation?

- spiritual deliverance from eschatological judgement
- God's provision for a person's spiritual need
- restoration of the sinner to a share of the glory of God

When does it happen: on the last (judgement) day

Who is it for?

- universalism: everyone
- particularism: Jew first (chosen people), then Greek

4 Theological Terms

What does it mean to believe?

Put full trust in God, who justifies the ungodly by means of the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

What do we have to do?

If you're a Calvinist, you'll say "nothing". We respond to God's gift.

5 Faith

What does it mean to have faith?

It means to trust in a person, namely God. It is the beginning of one's Christian life, and is needed at every step of justification.

Faith is revealed (Greek word: *apokalypso* has theological significance). What does that mean?

- cognitive view: how the gospel is made known to us
- historical view: how the gospel comes into effect

6 Righteousness

Also see Romans 3:5, 21, 22, 26, 10:3

Definition: The act by which God brings people into right relationship with Himself.

What does that mean?

- attribute of God (Augustine's view) - faithfulness in covenant with Israel
- status given by God (Luther's view) - judicial standing, not an internal moral transformation
- activity of God - saving action

Some translations have v17 as "... the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith" (KJV)

- first faith: God's faithfulness
- second faith: individual person

The quote from Habakkuk 2:4 says that "The righteous will live by faith." (NIV) What is the difference between the OT and NT interpretations?

- OT (what Habakkuk meant): Faith is the key to one's relationship with God
- NT (how we can apply it today): Our relationship with Jesus Christ is the object of this faith

What is the most important thing you learned today about faith and righteousness?

Faith, and nothing but faith, can put us in the right relationship with God. It is a true gift from Him.