

ROMANS – FROM GUILT TO GLORY!

Week #4

Sometimes You Just Need To Be Encouraged!

In **Romans 1:1** Paul, right out of the gate, introduces himself:

- A bondservant.
- An apostle.
- Set apart for the gospel.

The “toe dipper” and the “full body plunger” at the beach.

In **Romans 1:2-6** Paul jumps into the deep end of gospel pool by letting his readers know of 3 things about the gospel.

- It is not a new message, instead it has been promised by God by His prophets in the Old Testament.
- The cornerstone of the gospel is none other than Jesus who is the content of the gospel.
- Grace – apostle – bring about the obedience to the faith (**among all the Gentiles**).

In Romans 1:8-13 we find the Apostle Paul giving the believers in that city a little encouragement.

How is the Apostle Paul going to encourage the believers in Rome?

- **Paul affirms them (verse #8)**
 - What does Paul affirm them for – their faith.
 - “***Your faith is being proclaimed throughout the “whole” world***”
 - A.D. 49 Emperor Claudius expelled all the Christians from Rome because of their influence for Christ on the citizens of Rome.
 - **Galatians** (expressed his gratitude for those receiving the letter) – **Galatians 1:6-9**
 - One of the homework assignments that we have couples complete in Pre – Marital Counseling is from Gary Chapman’s – The 5 Love Languages:
 - Words of affirmation.
 - **I Samuel 23:16-18.** (**encouraged – strengthened his hand**)
- **Paul prayed for them (verse #9)**

- This week we sent out our April Intercessory Prayer Letter to 30 folks that will consistently intercede for us in the coming month.
- Paul calls God to be his witness of his prayers for the believers in Rome.
 - Unceasingly
- **Luke 22:28-31.**
 - *“Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat.”*
 - The word “you” in this verse is plural, so that means that satan has all the disciples in his crosshairs.
 - Notice the words of Jesus, *“but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail.”*
 - Peter’s courage failed by not his faith.
 - *“Once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”*
- **Paul expressed a desire to be with them (verse #10)**
 - You can hear the longing in Paul’s voice for his desire to be there with the believers in Rome.
 - What is Paul’s prayer request, that he might get to come to visit with the Roman believers.
 - **I Thessalonians 2:18**
- **Paul promised to assist them (verses 11-13)**
 - The faith of the Roman believers was famous but not established, Paul’s desire was to come and preach and share with them the fundamentals of the faith.
 - Listen to the humility of the great Apostle, *“that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you each of us by the other’s faith both yours and mine.”*

Today what is defining you, your limitations or your potential in Christ.

- **Philippians 4:13.**