

THE VERDICT IS IN!

Week #7

Romans – From Guilt To Glory

Romans 1:26-32

Today let me take you on a little journey as we review our first 6 weeks in our current Sermon Series, *Romans: From Guilt To Glory*.

- The year is A.D. 57.
- We are in the home of a believer in Jesus Christ by the name of Gaius.
- The Apostle Paul paces the floor and his scribe by the name of Tertius has his pen at the ready to write down what the Holy Spirit inspires Paul to say.

The Holy Spirit says, “*Paul, you have never met these folks face to face, so I want you to first introduce yourself to them.*”

- **Romans 1:1.**
 - Bond servant of Jesus Christ.
 - Apostle.
 - Set apart for the Gospel.

The Holy Spirit says, “*Paul you might want to let them know what the Gospel is next.*”

- **Romans 1:2-6.**
 - Not something new, it was actually promised by the Old Testament Prophets.
 - The content of the Gospel is Jesus Christ.
 - The purpose of the Gospel.

Next the Holy Spirit says, “*Paul I think what needs to be done next is for you to encourage these brothers and sisters of yours living in Rome.*”

- **Romans 1:7-12.**
 - Paul you need to affirm (praise them) them (your faith is proclaimed throughout the whole world).
 - Let them know that, even though you are not there yet, you are praying for them.
 - Let them know that your desire is to be with you.
 - Let them know that you are coming to assist them, and that you hope to be able to encourage each other by your faith.”

As Paul paces the floor, he feels led by the Holy Spirit to answer this question for the Roman faithful, “Who Am I?”

- **Romans 1:14-17.**
 - I am under obligation (to take the Gospel to everyone / barbarian).
 - I am eager to preach the Gospel.
 - I am not ashamed of the Gospel (it is the power of God unto salvation).

Beginning in verse #17 the Holy Spirit requires Paul to beckon his readers into the Courtroom of God.

- The theme that runs through the Book of Romans is “God’s righteousness”.
- This is not where the Holy Spirit has Paul begin, but rather Paul is led to begin with the “sinfulness of man”.
 - A person will never accept Christ to be their Savior without a knowledge first of their own sinfulness.
- **Romans 1:18-23.**
 - What is the condition of man’s heart here (darkened)?
 - Here is the issue, God has created in us a heart to worship, if we do not choose to worship Him then we will find something to fill that void.
 - Birds.
 - 4 footed animals.
 - Crawling creatures.

When this happens, we come to the first word in verse #24 and is “therefore”.

- God gave them over to the desires of their darkened heart (exchanged).

What does a culture like this look like?

Read **Romans 1:26-32.**

- Paul list 24 specific sins here, and they are still rampant with us today.
- If this was not enough Paul says that:
 - Those who were committing these sins were encouraging others to join them and then applauding when they did.

As always in a Courtroom the thing that everyone is waiting for is the verdict.

- That is found in **Romans 1:20** – “*They are without excuse.*”

So, what are we to do?

- Make a stand for Christ.
 - Bless Every Home.
 - Keep a good testimony before our neighbors.
 - "*I have placed you as a Light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.*" - Acts 13:47
 - Marriage.
 - Children.
 - Home.
 - Every Sunday.