

## Romans 1:1-17, Daily Devotions

### ☐ Monday - The Gospel is Good News.

Romans 1:1

The book of Romans is the apostle Paul's *magnum opus* of the Gospel. The word "gospel" (10x in Romans) is the English translation of the Greek word *evangelium*, which means "good news." For we were like those on death row awaiting execution, justly convicted of sedition and the murder of the king's own son. But in an undeserved turn of events the king himself has not only signed our reprieve, but adopted us into his own family, and made us heirs of his kingdom. So then, the question is not whether the Gospel is good news, but rather is "good" a lofty enough superlative to describe this news!

Read Luke 2:10-11

### ☐ Tuesday - Your Calling into Full-Time Ministry.

Romans 1:1, 6

Paul was "called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God" (Rom. 1:1). But when did God set him apart? Before birth, the Bible declares! (Gal. 1:15). Likewise, the Lord said to the prophet Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations" (Jer. 1:5). But surely such divine appointments are only for the Lord's choicest servants, such as prophets and apostles, right? No! Paul, writes to the Christians in Rome, "You also are the called of Jesus Christ" (Rom. 1:6). Christian, God has set you apart for full-time ministry, not as a prophet or apostle, but in your current occupation to proclaim His excellencies (1 Pet. 2:9).

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

### ☐ Wednesday - When the Saints Go Marching In.

Romans 1:7

In the book of Romans, Paul writes "to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints" (Rom. 1:7). The word "saints" is the Greek word *hagiois*, which means holy ones. The Bible ascribes this title to *all* true Christians. So, according to the Bible, the New Orleans' Saints are all of the Christians in New Orleans. Christian, you are declared righteous and called a saint, not on the basis of works, but by the righteousness of Christ which God imputed to your account, by grace through faith in His Son's substitutionary atonement on the cross (Rom. 3:21-22, 4:5; Phil. 3:9). Now, walk in a manner worthy of your calling as saints; that is, make your practice match your position. "Like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior" (1 Pet. 1:15).

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

### ☐ Thursday - Famous for their Faith.

Romans 1:8

Paul begins His letter to the Christians in Rome with this commendation: "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world" (Rom. 1:8). These first century Christians' faith in Jesus Christ was visible. Can your faith in Christ be seen? "Let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth."

Read James 2 :14-26

### ☐ Friday - Mutual Encouragement.

Romans 1:11-12

In his letter to the Christians in Rome, the apostle Paul poured out his heart, exclaiming, "I long to see you ... that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith" (Rom. 1:11-12). The Christian does not do nearly as well in isolation as he does in fellowship with other Christians. For within a healthy fellowship of believers there is mutual encouragement, where the Christian's faith is stimulated by the faith of others.

Read Hebrews 10:23-25

### ☐ Saturday - The Just Shall Live by Faith.

Romans 1:17

Four times in Scripture we read this statement: "The righteous man shall live by faith (Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38). This is perhaps the most basic litmus test to determine if we are saved or not. Do we live by faith in God; that is, do our daily activities revolve around faith in Him?

Read 2 Corinthians 13:5