

050524

"The Gospel and the Gospelized"

Romans 1:1-6

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Background

These initial verses of Romans tend to get overlooked because people want to get to the good stuff, the meat of the book. However, in our text this week, Paul won't get very far before he is overcome with Jesus and the Gospel. That seems to be the "good stuff" to me! So, what is the Gospel, and what does it mean to be Gospelized? Join us this Sunday as we explore these two questions.

Sermon Text: *Romans 1:1-6 (NIV)*

1 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 Scriptures³ 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^[c] faith for his name's sake.⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?

- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

2. Sunday Questions:

1. What is the gospel? Could you discuss on these two important aspects of the gospel from Shawn's sermon?

- The Gospel is from God (v 1)
- The Gospel is centered in and on a person, "Jesus Christ our Lord" (v 3-4)

2. Shawn says, "The Gospel comes alive in people as they are transformed by the 'Spirit of Holiness,' the Holy Spirit, and "the Gospel includes its embodiment in a new humanity, a gospelized humanity." Elaborate on how "those who belong to Jesus Christ are the 'Gospelized'" in light of each of the following key elements of The Gospelized?

- Grace
- The gentiles or nations
- The faith
- The obedience that comes from faith

3. Last Tuesday's Prison ministry baptism is a good example of God's powerful gospel. Could you share your experience of how the gospel has changed your own life, or in the lives of those around you?

4. How does Paul's ultimate goal for the nations "to call all the Nations to the obedience that comes from faith" (Rom 1:5) coincide with Jesus' Great Commission, "teaching obedience to everything He has commanded"? How can we participate in God's great commission in this new perspective?

5. How should the Gospelized live the "obedience that comes from faith in Jesus Christ our Lord"? Share your thoughts based on the following five key points to obedience.

- Know the Gospel of God
- Abide in Jesus
- Stay aware of the Holy Spirit
- Stay engaged with other "Gospelizeds"
- Recognize the call