

**Romans 1:16**  
by LaRosa Johnson

**I. Brief background on Paul**

1. Paul's journey up to the point of writing this letter
2. Paul's sufferings for the gospel
3. Ready to go to Rome & preach the gospel

**II. Reason for the letter**

1. To teach a group of believers who had never received apostolic instruction
2. Introduce himself to believers who knew nothing of him and had hoped to visit soon
3. Theme of the letter
  1. The righteousness of God
  2. Chapters 1-11 outline the doctrinal teaching
  3. Chapters 12-16 outline the practical application of the doctrinal teaching
4. Romans 1:16-17 is the thesis

**III. The Gospel**

1. **εὐαγγέλιον**—Strong's #G2098. a *good message*, i.e. the *gospel* :- gospel.
  1. Used 77x in the New Testament
  2. Outside of Acts (15:7; 20:24), 1 Peter (4:17), and Revelation (14:6), use of this word in its noun form is confined to Matthew, Mark, and Paul's epistles.
  3. Several distinctions for the gospel
    1. Gospel of God/the Kingdom – omnipotent rule of God over His people (Matt. 4:23; 24:14; Mark 1:14)
    2. Gospel of Christ – the grace of God (Mark 1:1; Gal. 1:7; Acts 20:24)
    3. General (Rom. 15:16; 2 Cor. 11:7)
    4. Negative use -- “false gospel” (Gal. 1:6)
    5. “Mystery of the gospel” -- the hidden nature of salvation before Christ (Eph. 6:19)

**IV. Not Ashamed**

1. Paul states to Timothy that he is not ashamed of the gospel (2 Tim. 1:12)
2. Others were not ashamed to share the gospel (Ps. 40:9, 10; Acts [Peter, Stephen, all apostles])
3. Christ is ashamed of those who are ashamed of Him [and the gospel] (Mk. 8:38; Lk. 9:26)
4. Paul tells Timothy and others to not be ashamed of the gospel message (2 Tim. 1:8)

**V. Power of God**

1. **δύναμις**—Strong's #G1411. *force* (literal or figurative); specially miraculous *power* (usually by implication a *miracle* itself) :- ability, abundance, meaning, might (-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of) miracle (-s), power, strength, violence, might (wonderful) work.
2. Generally refers to:
  1. Power of God (Matt. 22:29; 1 Cor. 1:18\*; Eph. 1:19; Rev. 11:17)
  2. Mighty deeds/Miracles (Matt. 11:20; 13:54; Acts 19:11)
  3. Power of the Holy Spirit (Lk. 4:14; Acts 1:8; Rom. 15:13)
  4. Power of demons/Satan/sin (Rom. 8:38; 2 Thess. 2:9; 1 Cor. 15:56)
  5. Power of the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:43; Phil. 3:10)
  6. Power of the gospel (1 Thess. 1:5)

**VI. Salvation**

1. **σωτηρία**—Strong's #G4991. *rescue* or *safety* (physical or morally) :- deliver, health, salvation, save, saving.
  1. Used 45x in the New Testament. Paul uses the noun 19x (5x in Romans); he also uses the verb form 29x (8x in Romans).

2. Only through Christ can we obtain salvation from: sin, Satan, judgment, wrath, and spiritual death (Matt. 1:21; Rom. 5:9; Col. 1:13; Rom. 8:10)
3. Salvation is only given to those who believe (Rom. 1:16)

#### VII. Faith/Believes

1. πιστεύω—Strong's #G4100. to *have faith* (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), i.e. *credit*; by implication to *entrust* (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ) :- believe (-r), commit (to trust), put in trust with.
  1. Used 248x in the New Testament. In the Gospels: 1) Matt = 10x, 2) Mark = 10x, 3) Lk = 9x, and 4) John = 99x.
  2. Paul is speaking of a supernatural God-given faith to believe (Eph. 2:8)
  3. The verb is in the present tense, thus it could be translated “is believing,” indicating a continuous form of belief that is lived out everyday. Faith is not just a one-time event, but an ongoing condition.
  4. Salvation only comes through believing in Jesus Christ.

#### VIII. To Jew and Gentile

1. Chronologically, salvation is given to Jews first because they are God's chosen people and the means by which salvation came (Gen. 22:18; John 4:22; Matt. 15:24)
2. Christ also offers salvation to anyone else who believes (Acts 9:15; Acts 10; Gal. 3:26-28; John 7:35)

#### IX. Summary