**Power for Living**

 Paul has focused his life on others knowing God and then growing in God. He is now writing to a church in Rome that he did not start. He wrote to them while he was building the ministry from the city of Corinth. He writes a very organized book.

**Paul is the writer of Romans.** (We learn as he writes his intro.)

 How the love of God has given Paul his priorities.

**1. PAUL IDENTIFIES Himself** *1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—*

 We need to be able to identify our relationship to Jesus and what our role is in His church.

 **Bondservant** – completely subject because of being devoted to.

 **Apostle –** not given the title butqualified to be as a leader, their leader.

 **Set apart** – designed for a purpose; to tell about Jesus.

**2. PAUL gives the Church PRAISE.** *8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world…*

Paul, whose role is to spread the Gospel, is thankful to the God he serves for their faith.Faith for a great church, not for a great building. Faith for an active church in the center of the Roman empire.

**Love finds praise for faith.**

**3. PAUL REVEALS HIS PURPOSE.**  *His desire 11 I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong…*

 As a servant of JC, I want to see your church grow. I **need** to help you grow in some way! I want you to be strong and to last long!

 If people describe you, how long would it take them to finally describe your spiritual life? What is it you NEED to do spiritually?

**Love sends us together.**

**4. PAUL STATES HIS PASSION.** *His goal; To Reach Everyone 14 I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish…*

 Paul is giving an illustration of how diversified his preaching audience is. He covers their birthright and their education. He wants to reach everyone everywhere! This church was part of everyone everywhere!

**Love touches the broken.**

**Paul has a faith worth duplicating. Paul is going to describe his faith.** This is the result in walking consistently with God. These concepts are not unique to just Paul. **Everyone can develop this passion!**

**Romans 1:16-17:** 16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

**1. A faith to be proud of. (confident)**

16 I am not ashamed (foolishness from world’s perspective; bold; obvious) of the (good news) gospel (his servanthood from love),

 From the world’s point of view, from the perspective of “lost” people, Paul appears to be foolish. God sent his son who died, and didn’t become an earthly King?

 Paul starts with a double negative. He is not ashamed of the good news, gospel, of God. He is proud of the message of salvation for the world. Are you embarrassed about being a Believer in Jesus Christ? **Are you proud of how faith in Jesus Christ has changed your life?**

**2. A faith that has power. (Converts, changes)**

because it is the (divine dynamite) power of God for the salvation (life for perishing people)

 This is a faith that has God’s power, not man’s *“positive thinking”* mentality. Positive thinking may help you, but God’s power will change you!

**To be rescued from… To being in…**

Guilty Innocent

Polluted Pure

Slave Freedom

Punished Blessed

Limited happiness Limitless joy: *fellowship with, love of, Separation, alone, sinful, unfulfilled fulfillment*

 The love of God that leads to a faith that has power! **Power in my life!**

**3. A faith that is personal. (Available to every person)**

of everyone who (active faith) believes: first (in time) for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

 Every person has the ability to have an active faith. Every person either chooses to believe or chooses to not believe. Paul refers to the Jews, who were first called as God’s people. Now God was using Paul to reach the rest of the world about this opportunity.

 **Everyone is invited to have a personal faith.**

 You can’t inherit faith or give it away like a present. God is the giver of Salvation through Jesus, His Son. You choose to have an active faith or you choose to not have an active faith.

**4. A faith that is proclaimed. “**I have a salvation that is available to you.”

**CONNECTS; PRESENTED; PROCLAIMED; DISPLAYED**

17 For in the (this good news) gospel a righteousness from God is revealed (God’s righteousness is shown to all),

Through the revelation of this Gospel, God also reveals a righteousness that is available to us. But God gives this righteousness in a unique way.

 **God puts up a big road sign in your life saying, “I’m waiting…for you!”**

 You can’t buy it. You can’t earn it. You can’t build it. You can’t inherit it or get it by offerings to your church. You choose to believe in God, and then you build your life upon it!

**5. A faith that is permanent.** *(Not temporary fad, just for some, but permanent concept for all)* God’s idea, not mine.

a righteousness that is by faith from first to last (only faith for everyone), just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” **Hab 2:4, Gal 3:11, Heb 10:38** (This righteousness corresponds with the Old Testament)

 **Habakkuk was a prophet of God in the Old T.** The first half he lays out the question about why there is wickedness. 1:2 he asks, **“How long, O Lord, must I call for help; but you do not listen?”**  In the middle of the book, 2:4, he states, **“the righteous will live faith.”** Then Habakkuk spends the last half of the book praising God! Paul keeps using this verse. Here it is in Romans, to the Galatians in 3:11, and the writer of Hebrews uses it in 10:38.

 **The repeated concept of God is simple.** Those that have the righteousness of God have chosen to build their life on faith in God. This isn’t a new and improved concept. It always had been a concept of God.

**Those who seek the righteousness of God…**

**Will find real life…**

**By choosing to live by faith in God.**