

Sovereign Grace Church

“The Gospel” outline

October 9, 2016

Romans 1: 16-17

As we enter the month of October we are beginning a celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. We will consider a few themes relating to the Reformation for this month and return to Hebrews in November. For Martin Luther a pivotal moment in his understanding of the gospel came with a more adequate understanding of Romans 1: 16-17.

Before this time Luther had been plagued by his awareness of God's uncompromising holiness and wrath against sin, in contrast to his own obvious transgressions. Luther was so burdened for his sins against this holy and just God that any peace or joy in His presence was simply inaccessible.

He spent his life daily confessing his sins and experiencing peace only when his sharp memory failed to bring to his attention another one. As soon as it did, the darkness of failure enveloped him once again. Many may think that Luther was too particular, but Luther understood that any sin, no matter how slight, was enough to merit eternal separation from a truly HOLY God.

We all believe that obeying God is necessary for a genuine Christian life. But, given God's perfect holiness and our continued sin, how can such a commitment issue in anything but frustration, depression and failure? Where can we find an assurance of salvation in any of this? Or must we content ourselves with never knowing and living in fear and doubt?

Luther found his answer from the very God whose holiness was such an insurmountable barrier.

1. “I am Not Ashamed of the Gospel.” v. 16

- **The Gospel** Matt. 4:23; Ac 3:19; Jn 12:24

- **The Gospel's Power** Matt 28: 18ff; Mk 5:30; Heb. 4:12; Jer. 23: 29

- **The Gospel's Purpose: a Power unto Salvation**

- **The Gospel's Effectiveness** Jn. 3:16; Ac 19:2

- **To the Jew First** Matt 23:37

2. But how does this Work? v. 17

- **Needed: A Righteousness from God Rom. 5:17-19**

- **A Righteousness “revealed from Faith to Faith” Rom. 3: 21-22**

- **A Righteousness Confirmed from the OT Hab. 2:4; Prov. 3: 5-6; Gal. 5:1**

3. Challenges

Questions for Conversation and Discussion

- 1. How would you describe the Good News of Christ in your own words?**
- 2. What does the Gospel have to do with forgiveness of sins? Is forgiveness of sins the extent of the gospel or does it also convey something more? What is Jesus' emphasis when He speaks of the gospel of the Kingdom? Has His kingdom been postponed?**
- 3. What does the Gospel have to do with living the presence of God? What is to motivate our desire to live in Christ's Kingdom? How is such a life manifested in our thought life? Our bodies? Our relationships?**
- 4. Does the gospel of Christ require a commitment to be Christ's disciple? As a disciple of Christ, upon what are we to set our minds? (see Col. 3: 1-17) How will this make a difference in our struggle with sin?**
- 5. What is the difference between asserting the Gospel as knowledge vs as opinion? Are you comfortable in saying that the the Gospel of Christ is true? Does faith exclude knowledge? Why is it impossible for faith to exclude real knowledge?**