

Romans Part One: What It Takes to Change the World – First Week

God's Central Message for Humankind

Romans 1:1-6

Introduction: The book of Romans is Paul's explanation about how God changes the world one person at a time as they commit their lives to Christ. Paul begins *at the beginning* with a crystal clear explanation about God's central message for the world. Here are five things we need to know about the good news – the Gospel.

- 1. *IT'S A LIVED-OUT MESSAGE – The good news is designed to be demonstrated before it is declared. Romans 1:1***
 - A. Paul says that he was set apart for the gospel of God, and he lives it out in an exemplary way.
 - B. Jesus, before him, also lived out the gospel of God.
 - C. God calls us to demonstrate the good news.

- 2. *IT'S AN EXPECTED MESSAGE – The good news is the crux of God's story that he's been telling since the very beginning. Romans 1:2***
 - A. The gospel was not invented in the 1st Century A.D., neither by Paul or the rest of the apostles.
 - B. God has been progressively unfolding the good news since Adam and Eve fell into sin. Gen. 3:15

- 3. *IT'S A MESSAGE ABOUT JESUS – The good news is embodied in a person. Romans 1:3-4***
 - A. Jesus is fully human – therefore, he can relate to us. 1:3
 - B. Jesus is fully God – therefore, he can represent us. 1:4a
 - C. Jesus accomplished something significant in his death and resurrection. 1:4b
 - D. How the gospel works in practice.

- 4. *IT'S A UNIVERSAL MESSAGE – The good news applies to all peoples for all times. Romans 1:5a***
 - A. The Jewish people divided the world between two groups: Jews and Gentiles.
 - B. The universality of the gospel has clear implications on how we should share it.

- 5. *IT'S A TRANSCENDENT MESSAGE – The good news ultimately brings honor to Christ's name. Romans 1:5b-6***
 - A. Jesus' current position in heaven is highly exalted.
 - B. Our enormous privilege – to magnify the one with the greatest name.