

July 25, 2021



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**Class Leaders:**  
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### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
Religion can reform but only the gospel can transform

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**  
The words we speak, the lives we live  
Say much about the Lord we love;  
But power in our witnessing  
Comes from God's Word, sent from above. —Sper

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek  
**(Rom 1:16 NKJV)**  
*(from "Our Daily Bread", Sept 21, 2001)*

**Series: Confident Hope**

**UNIT 1: Faith and Salvation**

**NEXT WEEK**  
**Faith of Abraham**  
**(Rom 4:1-12)**

## **Power of the Gospel** **Rom 1:8-17**

### **Lesson Background and Introduction**

Paul wrote the book of Romans in about AD 58, during his third missionary journey. The contents of Romans reflect Paul's experience in presenting a gospel that is both doctrinal and relational in matters faced by growing Christians. Paul was in the prime years of his ministry, being able to present the fruit of his personal familiarity with bringing people to Christ and providing an atmosphere for their growth. He was prepared to send a letter that addressed many important issues, countered spiritual errors, and emphasized core truths of the Christian faith. The most recognized Christian symbol is the cross. We see it on churches, as jewelry, in logos, in massive monuments, and in cemeteries. For many, the cross is most associated with the latter as it marks a grave of a loved one. As Christians, we affirm that Jesus' cross is about death. But the cross is also about life, for Jesus' death gives us the possibility of being forgiven of our sins, escaping the penalty of death, and embracing eternal life as a gift. To do this, we must come to the cross in faith. We must not be ashamed. We must come believing that the cross represents the great love of God. We must come convinced that faith in Christ has the power to save us. It is there that our burden of sin was lifted and our spiritual blindness will become the sight of faith.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**An Anticipated Visit** - The apostle Paul had always desired to visit the church in Rome to clear up any misconceptions about his teachings and to boldly preach the truth of the Gospel. Usually, the letters Paul wrote encouraged the churches he'd established during his missionary journeys. The church in Rome was likely begun by Jewish converts who happened to be in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. They returned home and created a Christian community. Paul wanted to visit this congregation in the most important city in the Empire. Paul started his letter by thanking God for the Roman church as he interceded on their behalf. He complimented the congregation for its outstanding reputation; their ministry in Rome pitted them against the idolatry and paganism that consumed Roman culture. Paul was offering himself to the believers and the unbelievers in that region. His visit had been a long time coming, but now it seemed possible. He would stop on his way to another place he wanted to visit: Spain, Always available as God's instrument, Paul would talk to anyone. His listeners might be hard-headed, resisting the truth, or they might be soft-hearted, ready to hear the truth of the Gospel. Either way, he'd boldly proclaim Jesus' message. The apostle did not hesitate.

**When in Rome** - The city of Rome is similar to many cities today. Our culture is full of attitudes about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit that are not true, but Christians often find it hard to speak out. Current culture says all religions lead to God or heaven and all truth is relative. People just need to be sincere or committed. Jesus' words are seen as narrow-minded: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Jesus did not leave other options open. Sometimes a believer just wants to be quiet—but Paul spoke out boldly God desires for His children to share Paul's tenacity and determination.

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Power of Witness (Rom 1:8-10)**

#### *Witness of the Church (8)*

Church witness by making disciples of all nations (Matt 28:19-20)

Church witness through the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)

Church witness by using God's word (Rom 10:17-18)

Church witness to others through teaching (2 Tim 2:2)

#### *Witness of the individual (9-10)*

Individual witness that Jesus is the Son of God (John 1:32-34)

Individual witness that Jesus is the Word of life (1 John 1:1-3)

Individual witness that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matt 16:15-18)

Individual witness that Jesus has the words of eternal life and is the Holy One of God (John 6:67-69)

Individual witness that Jesus is God (John 16:29-31)

### **Power of Spiritual Gifts (Rom 1:11-15)**

#### *Spiritual encouragement (11-12)*

Spiritual encouragement through use of spiritual gifts (Rom 12:8)

Spiritual encouragement through God's Word (1 Thess 4:17-18)

Spiritual encouragement through God's grace (2 Thess 2:16-17)

Spiritual encouragement through the teaching of sound doctrine (Titus 1:9)

Spiritual encouragement through the Church (Heb 10:25)

#### *Spiritual fruit (13)*

Fruit that is the work of the Lord (1 Cor 15:58)

Fruit that comes from the giving of oneself to God (2 Cor 8:2-5)

Fruit of love (Phil 1:9)

Fruit of thanksgiving (Col 2:7)

Fruit of pleasing God (1 Thess 4:1)

Fruit of growing faith (2 Thess 1:3)

#### *Spiritual indebtedness (14-15)*

Indebtedness to love one another (Rom 13:8)

Indebtedness to give to help others (Rom 15:26-27)

Indebtedness to be led by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:12)

Indebtedness to spreading the gospel (1 Cor 9:16)

Indebtedness to help the elect (2 Tim 2:10)

### **Power of Faith (Rom 1:16-17)**

#### *Faith's role in salvation (16)*

Salvation through faith in Jesus (Gal 2:16)

Salvation through faith in Jesus' death and resurrection (Rom 4:25)

Salvation through faith in the gift of Jesus (Rom 5:16)

Salvation through faith in righteousness by Jesus (Rom 5:18)

Salvation because God counts faith as righteousness (Rom 4:5)

Salvation through faith in peace with God (Rom 5:1)

#### *Faith's righteousness (17)*

A righteousness that brings eternal life (Rom 5:21)

A righteousness that we have in Jesus (1 Cor 1:30)

A righteousness that God made through Jesus (2 Cor 5:21)

A righteousness that increases faith and hope (Gal 5:5)

A righteousness that comes from God through faith (Phil 3:9)