

“The Righteousness of God”

Romans 1:8-17

August 9, 2026

Romans 1:8-17

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you because the news of your faith is being reported in all the world. 9 God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in telling the good news about his Son—that I constantly mention you, 10 always asking in my prayers that if it is somehow in God’s will, I may now at last succeed in coming to you. 11 For I want very much to see you, so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you, 12 that is, to be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine. 13 Now I don’t want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I often planned to come to you (but was prevented until now) in order that I might have a fruitful ministry among you, just as I have had among the rest of the Gentiles. 14 I am obligated both to Greeks and barbarians, both to the wise and the foolish. 15 So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written: The righteous will live by faith.

Who was Martin Luther and what did he strive for?

“For I hated that word ‘righteousness of God,’ which, according to the use and custom of all the teachers, I had been taught to understand philosophically of the formal or active justice, as they called it, by which God is righteous and punishes sinners and the unrighteous. Though I lived as a monk without reproach, I felt I was a sinner before God with a most disturbed conscience. *[Martin Luther]*

“I felt that I had been born anew and that the gates of heaven had been opened. The whole of Scripture gained a new meaning. And from that point on the phrase, ‘the justice of God’ no longer filled me with hatred, but rather became unspeakably sweet by virtue of a great love.” *[Martin Luther]*

Have you felt worried about your salvation—that you couldn’t meet the standard?

Matthew 5:48 – Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

(v. 8) Faith spreads... Paul thanks God through Jesus.

(v. 11-12) Faith encourages... They can be mutually encouraged; and Paul has a spiritual gift (the gospel) for them!

“The gospel of Jesus Christ is a profound deep. It has depths in it for which we should constantly praise God. It is a shallow river in which a lamb may wade, but it is also a deep sea in which an elephant may swim. There are heights in it that no man can scale, and depths that no human line can ever fathom. You may study it all your life, and when you come to die, you will feel that you are only standing on the shore of a vast ocean of divine love, whose depths are still completely unknown to you.” *[Spurgeon]*

(v. 13) Faith obligates... he will make it to Rome!

"Obligation to him who died produces obligation to those for whom he died. [*PS Minear*]

(v. 16-17) Faith saves...

Romans 1:16-17

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written: The righteous will live by faith.

I am not ashamed of the gospel—not ashamed to preach it and not ashamed that I need it.

Philippians 3:9 – And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ — the righteousness from God based on faith.

2 Corinthians 5:21 – He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Faith from faith...

Lamentations 3:22-24 – 22 Because of the Lord's faithful love we do not perish, for his mercies never end. 23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness! 24 I say, "The Lord is my portion, therefore I will put my hope in him."

Because of this faith you live, and you experience all of the goodness of Jesus. You get... no condemnation (Romans 8:1); forgiveness (Ephesians 1:7); identity (Ephesians 1:4-5); completeness (Colossians 2:10); security (Romans 8:32); purpose (Ephesians 2:10); a people in which to belong (Titus 2:14); eternity with Him (John 3:16).

Will you stop your striving and realize everything in Romans hinges on this: the righteous shall live by faith?

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. What did God say to you through His Scripture during our Sunday gathering?
2. Do you identify with Luther in feeling the weight of trying to be holy for your salvation?
3. What shame do you carry that you think makes you unworthy of Christ?
4. Why is it good for Christians to be reminded of the gospel again and again?
5. Paul says he is "not ashamed of the gospel." What are some reasons Christians today might be tempted to be silent about their faith?
6. Paul says that "the righteous will live by faith." What does living by faith look like in everyday life, not just at the moment of conversion?
7. Paul felt obligated to share the gospel because of God's grace toward him. How does remembering God's grace motivate us to serve and witness to others?
8. How can your Life Group help you apply this passage to your life this week? How can they pray for you this week?