

## THE GOSPEL IS POWER

ROMANS 1:1-17 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD  
OCTOBER 4, 2020



*Am I experiencing the power of the gospel as I carry out the mission of Christ? (1:1-6)*

*Am I experiencing the power of the gospel as I live day-by-day by faith in Christ? (1:7-15)*

*Am I experiencing the power of the gospel as I stand without shame for Christ (1:16-17)*

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Over the last several months we've had to take stock of what's important when it comes to gathering together. Looking at Romans 1:7-12, we see that Paul is, first of all, thinking about why he is thankful for the believers he's writing to. He's not yet with them but he longs to see them (see Romans 1:11). Three ideas emerge that set the tone of thankfulness for gospel relationships. 1. Commonality of being loved by God. 2. Gratitude for shared faith that is proclaimed to the world. 3. Opportunities for mutual encouragement.*

It is appropriate to reflect and state why you are thankful for a group of people that helps you experience the power of the gospel. Try to come up with as many unique reasons for gathering as you can in two minutes. If one reason stands out to you, explain why that might be the case.

*Paul was driven by an internal urgency to see the gospel mission carried out through his life. His efforts are recorded in the book of Acts and his heart is shared through several letters to the churches he knew. In Romans 1:5 Paul writes that he received both grace and apostleship to help him fulfill the mission. We may think that the title of "apostle" is what made him effective on mission but we should look beyond his position.*

Why might Paul want us to first consider that he was given grace?

What happens when you start to believe that your job-title, or position in life, matters more than God's grace as you consider your part in sharing the gospel with other people?

What kinds of things can you do, day-by-day, to encourage yourself and others to live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ? (Does this have to be a daily pursuit to be worthy of the gospel?)

The larger context of Philippians 1:27 reminds us that joy comes as we build our lives around sharing the gospel. What helps (or hinders) your daily experience of joy?

There are many leaders and ideas that turn out to disappoint people. Sometimes pursuing a person or an idea even causes shame. Have you felt that Jesus or the gospel has ever given you a reason to be ashamed? Do you think God wants faith in him to lead to regret? What is a mature way to think about shame and regret as you grow in faith?

Living by faith requires that you pay attention to today's troubles and opportunities with a perspective from the Day to come (Revelation 5:9). According to belief in the gospel, what is a perspective from our future that is urgent for the culture to hear today?

What would it look like for you to consciously, unashamedly, and effectively share the above perspective with the people God places on your heart? How is the gift of God's grace meant to help you do this?

**Prayer focus:** *Dear God, help us appreciate the power of the gospel to change the way we live, think, and act. Forgive us for holding your message inside or hiding it because of shame. Help us overcome these things by working together for your glory! Amen*