

Gospel means good news, great news, momentous news! As the apostle Paul begins his letter to the Christians gathered in Rome, we learn much about the gospel...

#1 - God's gospel is about Jesus the King

Following a brief introduction about himself, Paul leaves us in no doubt that the gospel was not his idea, but God's. More than that, whilst it is certainly good news, it is not new news. Rather it was promised by God and fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Son of God who died in weakness, but rose from the dead to be crowned the Son of God in power. Therefore, whilst the gospel is good news for each one of us, it is not about us. Above all else, God's gospel is about Jesus the King, and his glory. And because Jesus is the Lord of everyone, the right response to the gospel is for people of all nations to bow the knee before Jesus as Saviour and Lord, each and every day.

#2 - Paul is eager to preach God's gospel to everyone

Even though he has not been able to visit the church in Rome, Paul's prayerful longing to do so is very clear. But why?

Paul knows he has been given something wonderful (understanding of the gospel), a part of which is the understanding that it is not just God's good news for *him*, but for the Greek and the Barbarian, the wise and the foolish (i.e. everyone). Therefore, he is eager, indeed obligated, to preach it everywhere, including Rome.

#3 - God's gospel has the power to save everyone who believes

Paul is not ashamed of the gospel because he not only knows it is true (Jesus is alive) and relevant (it is good news for all nations), but because it is God's power to save people. Paul cannot save himself or anyone else, but God's gospel can! For all those who believe the good news (i.e. bow the knee before Jesus as Saviour and Lord), then they will be freely given a righteousness from God. The wonderful result is that God is able to not just accept us, but delight in us... and that news is surely worth sharing with everyone!!