

Series Title: Truth Unashamed, Part 7- Together in the Journey

Sermon Title: Week 3: The Obedience of Faith

Date: 07-14-19

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✠ Back to the beginning!

- **Good morning! After 13.5 Months, 16 Chapters, 46 messages, two weddings and three babies, this Sunday we will complete the book of Romans!**
- **We began with this...**

**Romans 1:1-6** *Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—<sup>2</sup> the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures<sup>3</sup> regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David,<sup>4</sup> and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.*

- **KEY- Primacy of the Gospel. All foretold/promised from OT. Most important, it all focuses on JESUS.**
- **There's the object of Paul's letter. Jesus. This is a letter about GOD. CONTINUES!**  
*Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake.<sup>6</sup> And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.*
- **Obedience that comes from faith. NIV. NASB gives more direct... OBEDIENCE OF FAITH. Hold that phrase, because now, after everything he has covered, this is how Paul ends his letter...**

**Romans 16:25-27** *Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.*

- **PRAY! OK- lets take this apart... NOW TO HIM**

✠ Now to Him

- **This ending is a doxology, statement of praise. Significant that Paul ends this, most theologically and doctrinally significant of all his writings, not with one last big truth, but with a deep expression of praise to God. And he begins with three incredible words. (From First Tracks article)**
- **We find these three words three times in the New Testament Now to Him.**
  - **Now.** *Right now- in this world, in our church, in our families, in your life. Now, with your struggles, success, joys, sorrows, questions. All of who you are, in all of life as it really is, right now.*
  - **To.** *Towards, for, focused upon, lived in the conscious choice of trusting, loving, believing, surrendering, yielding.*
  - **Him.** *God. The Father. Trinity. Jesus, Holy Spirit. The fullness of His presence, the One who brings Redemption, Freedom, New Life, His Life, and has called us to be His very own. Him, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Him, who chose us in Christ before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. Him, our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, One who brought us from death to life! Him!*
- **When we consider all parts of our lives...**
  - **In our country, Now to Him!**
  - **In our churches, Now to Him.**
  - **In our businesses, our careers, our social lives...**
  - **In our families, Now to Him!**
  - **In our marriages, Now to Him!**
  - **In your life, in my life, in everything, Now to Him!**

- *Thru-out this study, we have seen that for all of its breadth, depth, and expanse of topics, Romans is from first to last a book that calls us to GOD. About God. Here we have learned the sober truth of who we are apart from Christ and the Glorious hope of who we now are In Christ. We have seen how God calls us to live in relationship to Him, and how to live in relationship with each other. We've seen lots of teaching focused on us. And yet, Roman's isn't about us. It's about God, just as our lives ultimately are not about us, but about God. And friends, this is a good thing, because only through God, only In Christ, do we discover the Life God created us to know and in which to thrive. It is His Life: to us, for us, in us, and through us. It is Him.*
- **SEE THREE TIMES-** each time followed by a statement of what **ONLY GOD CAN DO**, and that **HE** does because of **HIS LOVE**

**Romans 16:25a** *Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ,*

**Ephesians 3:20-21** *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,<sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

**Jude 1:24-25** *Now To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—<sup>25</sup> to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.*

- **Challenge. When you wake up. Challenge. Temptation. Gratitude. Offended... sin...**

#### ✠ Established

**Romans 16:25a** *Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ...*

- **Establish. Mature. Root. Strengthen. FORM Christ in..**
- **Notion in cultural Christianity that it's totally normal for us to stay spiritually immature, to struggle continuously in our relationship with Jesus, to never grow in our struggle with sin, doubt, FLESH**
- **HEAR! GOD never abandons us. HE IS PATIENT WITH US... but he promises that as we TRUST HIM, follow him, set our mind upon him, WE WILL BE ESTABLISHED. What is already completely true of us IN CHRIST will increasingly become our EXPERIENCE in our minds, will, emotions....**

**Colossians 2:6-7** *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

**Ephesians 3:16-18** *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, **being rooted and established in love**, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,*

- **If time, example of my sod.. lots of work to prep and lay down... but without watering, grass withers, not established. GOD DOES IT... out part, is to CHOOSE to open ourselves to him- Word, prayer, fellowship, servanthood... trust him to be obedient to how he is working... these are the nutrients, water, God uses...**
- **HOW DOES GOD WORK IN THIS WAY? MYSTERY, but a mystery that God has revealed**

#### ✠ The Mystery Revealed

**Romans 16:25b-26a** Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, <sup>26</sup> but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets,

- It has been God’s purpose, His plan, since before world was created, to reveal His Grace, His nature, HIMSELF to mankind... **DONE IN CHRIST.**
- How is this a mystery? **MANY WAYS**, but perhaps most, in that **WE/humans** could not have come up with this on our own. It is **FROM GOD**. That God would leave heaven, live and die for us, that we would be forgiven, enter salvation/life only by faith... counterintuitive to everything about how we think.
- “By Scriptures”, the **OT Scriptures** point to Christ consistently... incredible testimony of **OT scriptures** that directly/accurately point to the coming of Christ.
- **THIS MYSTERY** isn’t just that Jesus was the messiah, the son of God, **BUT THAT BEING THE SON OF GOD**, he came to give himself to **US...** through his death, burial and resurrection... but he didn’t stop there... having given himself **TO US**, in conjunction with our faith, he has placed **HIMSELF/LIFE IN US**

**Colossians 1:25-27** I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—<sup>26</sup> the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord’s people. <sup>27</sup> To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

- **AND NOW**, Paul comes full circle to how he began his letter. He praises God for the inevitable result of our **FAITH IN CHRIST**, which is our obedience **TO CHRIST.**

#### ✠ The Obedience of Faith

**Romans 16:26b...** “revealed the mystery, now manifested (in Christ)”... according to the commandment of the eternal God has been made known to all the nations, leading to **obedience of faith**;

- **NIV**, “obedience that comes from faith”... not quite full force of it. **OBEDIENCE OF FAITH. Our faith in Christ, and obedience to Christ, are the same thing.**
- **FAITH IN CHAIR LIFT.** Faith isn’t just believing **ABOUT** the lift, it is placing your life in it.
- **YES**, we hear the gospel, and we take the initial step of faith **INTO NEW LIFE IN CHRIST.** We **BELIEVE...** and now, we **WALK IN THAT FAITH, WE WALK IN, BY THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST WITHIN US.**
- **NOW**, as believers, when we are **TRUSTING CHRIST**, living by **FAITH**, we **WILL BE LIVING IN OBEDIENCE TO HIM.**

**Matthew 28:18-20** Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- **What does this obedience look like? HERE’S THE GOOD NEWS! IT’S NOT LEGALISTIC RELIGION!** It is a life that is motivated by our **LOVE OF GOD**, empowered by **SPIRIT OF GOD IN US**, to express his nature as we live in relationship with him.
- **Is there teaching in NT about how we shall live? YES!!!** Romans 12 on... **AND all of it can be summed up in the primary expression of God’s nature...**
- **WHAT IS PRIMARY EXPRESSION OF HIS NATURE? THAT WE WILL LOVE OTHER PEOPLE.**

And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. **1 John 3:23**

- **THIS IS GOOD NEWS!**

- *When we begin to grasp this... our hearts desire will be to GLORIFY GOD. The final breath of Romans...*

✠ To God be the Glory!

**Romans 16:27...** *to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.*

- *We desperately like to glorify ourselves. The core of our flesh is to make life about us. BUT a life that has been made alive in Christ... LIVING IN THIS... our heart will be to give God the glory.*
- *Practical real quick! We give glory to God when his nature, his goodness, holiness, - MIRACLE OF GRACE- is expressed through us*