

The Righteous Will Live By Faith
Romans 1:8-17
Key Verse: 1:17

"For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'"

1. Read verses 8-10. What can we learn from these verses about the importance of prayer in St. Paul's life? What was St. Paul's thanksgiving topic in his prayer? What was his prayer topic at the present time? Why do you think St. Paul prayed about these things? What are some of your prayer topics? What can you learn from St. Paul about how to pray (1 Th 5:16-18; Mk 11:22-25)?

2. Read verses 11-12. What was Paul's goal in visiting the church at Rome? What can we learn from this about the ideal Christian relationship? How can we live up to this ideal?

3. Read v. 13-15. What was the spiritual gift that Paul wanted to impart? How is this related to his calling (Ro. 1:1, 5)? Why was he so eager to serve at Rome? What made him obligated to all men? (See Acts 9:4-6, 15-16, 1 Co 15:10) What are our spiritual obligations as God's people?

4. Read v. 16 and 17. How did Paul summarize the meaning of the gospel message? Why might he be ashamed of the gospel? Why wasn't he? Why shouldn't we? How can we proudly share the gospel in an unbelieving generation?

5. Read v. 17. What is righteousness? Why do people need it? What is the difference between self-righteousness, and a righteousness from God, both in regards to ourselves (Jer. 31:33-34), and to our relationships with others?

6. Read v. 17 again. What does it mean that the righteousness from God is by faith? From first to last? Why is this good news? What then, as Christians, is the main struggle of our spiritual life? How is this different from that of Jews or Muslims? What is our assurance in carrying out this struggle? (See Ro. 8:37-39 as well)