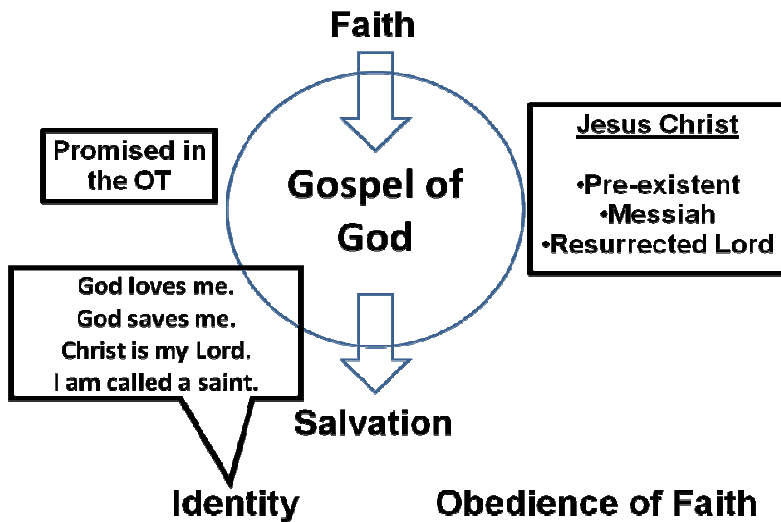


Belonging to Jesus: “Developing a Life of Dependence”
Romans 1:18-3:20

I would like to spend the next few months focusing on “belonging to Jesus.” There is a sense of security in these words. They provide a clear description of my identity. They also help to focus my eyes on obedience and on Christ’s mission. Belonging to Jesus begins by learning to depend on Him and Him alone. Romans 1:18-3:20 provides an overview of how we can do that. It concentrates on how God reveals Himself to all of humanity and all of humanity rejecting His truth. Belonging to Jesus only comes about by God’s grace as we put our faith in Him.



Day by Day in the Word

“Day by Day in the Word” is a tool we use to help us in the process of becoming more and more like Jesus and ultimately to bring glory to God. The biblical principle is: The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to bring about Christlikeness.

Monday-Tuesday

- Let’s spend some time today working through general revelation. Read Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:18-32; 2:14-16; Acts 14:15-17; 17:22-31. What do we find out about God through creation, the moral and spiritual qualities of humankind, and history? How is this different from the “gospel” (special revelation)? What does every person know about God?
- How does sin distort general revelation? Read Genesis 3:17-19; Romans 8:18-25; 2 Corinthians 4:4.
- As a Christian, you read general revelation through the “spectacles of faith.” In what way are you able to glorify God, particularly as you spend time meditating on God’s creation? What do you learn about God? In what areas do we need to respond to and obey God in light of His general revelation? Share with one other individual what you are learning. Spend time worshipping the Lord in creation and allow yourself to be “awed” and “overwhelmed” with his power and beauty and design.

Wednesday-Thursday

- Read Romans 1:18-3:20. What do you discover about the sin of the Gentiles (1:18-32), the sin of the Jews (2:1-3:8) and the guilt of all humanity (3:9-20)? What conclusion does Paul come to? Why do they not have an excuse for not honoring God?
- What do you think the “wrath of God” means? What does his abandonment of the wicked to their sins look like? See Romans 1:21-32. Focus on the phrase—“God gave them over” in vv. 24, 26, 28.
- What do you find out about God from your study? How does this impact and deepen your relationship with him? In what way can God use this to change/transform your life? Determine to bring about one change this week in light of your study. Be sure to celebrate with others as you see God work in your life.

Friday-Saturday

- What contrast is being made in Romans 2:28-29? What qualifies a person to be a “true Jew” and to be saved? What role does the Spirit play? For further OT work, see Jeremiah 31:33; 32:39-40; Ezekiel 11:19; 36:26-27.
- What does this tell you about what we as believers are to focus on? What would it mean to focus on our inner being? Think in terms of Colossians 3:5-14. What would it look like in your life to focus on the power of the Holy Spirit in our walk with the Lord? See Galatians 5:16-26 and Ephesians 5:15-21.
- Finally, spend time alone with the Lord preparing your heart for our time together. Use Psalm 63 as a starting point.