

## **Dr. Craig Keener, Romans, Session 3**

### **Romans 1:2-17**

### **Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

#### **1. Abstract of Keener, Romans, Session 3, Romans 1:2-17, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

**Dr. Craig Keener's lecture** on Romans 1:2-17 **explains Paul's introduction** to the Romans, focusing on **Paul's apostleship**, his **mission to the Gentiles**, and the **meaning of the gospel**. Keener **analyzes key terms** like "righteousness" and "faith," **discussing their Old Testament roots** and their significance in Paul's theology. He also **examines Paul's purpose** in writing to the Romans, highlighting themes of **God's love, salvation, and the importance of obedience and faith**. The lecture concludes with **an explanation of Paul's unashamed proclamation of the gospel**, emphasizing its power and its accessibility to both Jews and Gentiles.

**2. 11 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Keener, Romans, Session 3 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Pauline Epistles → Romans).**



**Keener\_Romans\_Session03.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document

#### Briefing Doc: Romans 1:2-17 Lecture by Dr. Craig Keener

##### Main Themes:

- **The Gospel's Power and Reach:** The gospel is God's powerful instrument for salvation, intended for both Jews and Gentiles. It is rooted in Old Testament promises and fulfills God's plan for all humanity.
- **God's Righteousness and Our Faith:** God's righteousness is not merely his justice but also his faithfulness to his covenant. It is through faith in Jesus Christ that we receive this righteousness as a gift, leading to a transformed life.
- **Living by Faith:** True faith is not passive belief but an active trust in God's faithfulness. This trust should permeate every aspect of our lives and lead to a life of obedience and righteousness.
- **The Wrath of God:** God's wrath is a reality, and it is manifested in handing people over to their own folly and moral decay. However, through the gospel, we are saved from this wrath and receive eternal life.

##### Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Paul's Calling and Mission:** Paul emphasizes his calling as an apostle to the Gentiles, driven by a divine obligation to spread the gospel. His mission has delayed his visit to Rome, prioritizing areas with greater spiritual need.
- **The Centrality of Jesus Christ:** The subject of the gospel is Jesus Christ, God's son, who was declared to be the Son of God with power through his resurrection. Paul highlights the importance of proclaiming the death and resurrection of Jesus as the core of the gospel message.
- **The Importance of the Old Testament:** Paul consistently grounds his arguments in the Old Testament, demonstrating the continuity of God's plan and the fulfillment of the promises made to Israel.
- **The Nature of Faith:** Faith is not merely intellectual assent but a deep trust in God's faithfulness, leading to a life transformed by his grace. Paul emphasizes that this faith is accessible to both Jews and Gentiles.
- **The Interplay of Justification and Regeneration:** Paul links justification, being declared righteous by God, with regeneration, the transformation of the believer.

by the Holy Spirit. He argues that true faith will inevitably result in a changed life, characterized by obedience and righteousness.

#### **Quotes:**

- **On the gospel's power:** "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile." (Romans 1:16)
- **On God's righteousness:** "For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'" (Romans 1:17)
- **On living by faith:** "The righteous will live by faith." (Romans 1:17, quoting Habakkuk 2:4)
- **On God's wrath:** Dr. Keener states, "We're going to see that this wrath is expressed by handing people over to their own folly, in a sense by handing people over to moral insanity."

#### **Conclusion:**

Dr. Keener's lecture offers a deep dive into the foundational themes of Romans, emphasizing the power and reach of the gospel, the nature of God's righteousness and our faith, and the reality of God's wrath and our salvation from it. By grounding his arguments in the Old Testament and drawing on examples from early Jewish and Christian practice, Keener provides a rich and insightful understanding of Paul's message in Romans.

## 4. Romans Study Guide: Session 3, Romans 1:2-17

### Romans 1:2-17 Study Guide

#### Short Answer Quiz

1. What is the "good news" (gospel) that Paul is set apart to proclaim?
2. How does Paul describe Jesus in Romans 1:3-4? What significance does this have?
3. What does Paul mean by "the obedience of faith" in Romans 1:5?
4. Why does Paul say he is "not ashamed" of the gospel in Romans 1:16?
5. What is the significance of the phrase "to the Jew first and also to the Greek" in Romans 1:16?
6. How is the concept of "righteousness" understood in the context of Romans 1:17?
7. Explain Paul's use of Habakkuk 2:4 in Romans 1:17. What point is he making?
8. How does Paul describe the relationship between faith and righteousness in Romans 1:17?
9. Why has Paul been delayed in visiting the Roman church, according to Romans 1:8-15?
10. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in relation to power and resurrection, as discussed in this lecture excerpt?

#### Answer Key

1. The "good news" is the message of salvation through Jesus Christ, focusing on his death and resurrection as fulfillment of Old Testament promises. It's a message that offers reconciliation with God for both Jews and Gentiles.
2. Paul describes Jesus as both a descendant of David "according to the flesh" and the Son of God "according to the Spirit," demonstrating both his human lineage and divine nature. This duality underscores Jesus's role as the promised Messiah and God incarnate.
3. "The obedience of faith" signifies the active, transformative response of believers to the gospel. It's not just intellectual acceptance but a commitment that leads to a life of submission and obedience to God's will.

4. Paul is "not ashamed" because the gospel, though it may appear foolish, is the power of God unto salvation. He recognizes its transformative power to change lives and reconcile people to God.
5. "To the Jew first and also to the Greek" reflects the historical order of God's plan, offering the gospel first to the Jews due to their covenant relationship with God, then extending it to all nations. This emphasizes the gospel's universal scope.
6. Righteousness (*dikaiosune*) in Romans 1:17 refers to God's faithfulness to his covenant and his act of declaring people right with him, not their own human merit. It's a gift of right standing received through faith in Jesus.
7. Paul uses Habakkuk 2:4 to emphasize that right standing before God comes through faith, not through works or adherence to the law. The "righteous" will live by placing trust in God's faithfulness, which is the foundation of the gospel.
8. Faith and righteousness are intrinsically linked in Romans 1:17. Righteousness is received through faith, which is an active trust in God's promises. This faith leads to a changed life as a result of God's grace.
9. Paul's delay was due to his commitment to spreading the gospel in other areas. Paul prioritizes reaching new areas that have yet to hear the message over going to established churches.
10. The Holy Spirit is the source of power evident in Jesus's resurrection and the same power that enables believers to live transformed Christian lives. The Holy Spirit empowers believers as they pursue obedience to God.

## Essay Questions

1. Analyze the significance of Paul's self-identification as an apostle set apart for the gospel of God in Romans 1:1-7. How does this shape his message and authority in the letter?
2. Explore the relationship between grace, apostleship, and the mission to the Gentiles in Romans 1:2-17. How does Paul understand his calling and its implications?
3. Discuss the meaning and importance of the phrase "the righteousness of God" in Romans 1:17. How does this concept challenge traditional notions of righteousness and lay the foundation for Paul's argument in the letter?
4. Examine Paul's use of the Old Testament in Romans 1:2-17, particularly his quotation of Habakkuk 2:4. How does he interpret and apply Scripture to support his argument about faith, righteousness, and the gospel?
5. Paul emphasizes the power of the gospel in Romans 1:16-17. What is the nature of this power, and how does it connect to the themes of salvation, transformation, and the inclusion of both Jews and Gentiles?

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Apostleship:** The office and mission of an apostle, specifically chosen by Jesus to spread the gospel.
- **Dikaioisune (Righteousness):** A key theological term meaning justice, right standing with God, and God's faithfulness to His covenant.
- **Epistle/Epistolary:** A letter, particularly those in the New Testament. "Epistolary we" refers to the use of "we" by the author of a letter to refer to themselves.
- **Evangel/Evangelion (Gospel):** The good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, specifically focusing on his death and resurrection.
- **Gentiles:** People who are not Jewish.
- **Grace:** God's unmerited favor and empowerment for salvation and living a Christian life.
- **Justification:** God's act of declaring a sinner righteous based on faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Litotes:** A figure of speech where an understatement is used to emphasize a point.
- **Metonymy:** A figure of speech where a word or phrase is substituted for another with which it is closely associated.
- **Obedience of Faith:** The active response of a believer to the gospel, demonstrating their faith through actions and a changed life.
- **Pistis (Faith):** Trust and reliance on God and His promises.
- **Regeneration:** The spiritual renewal and transformation of a believer by the Holy Spirit.
- **Saints:** All believers in Jesus Christ, set apart and consecrated to God.
- **Septuagint:** The Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament.
- **Shema:** A central Jewish prayer from Deuteronomy 6:4, declaring the oneness of God.

## **5. FAQs on Keener, Romans, Session 3, Romans 1:2-17, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)**

### **Romans 1:2-17 FAQ**

#### **What is the "good news" of the Gospel that Paul is proclaiming?**

The "good news" or "gospel" is the message about Jesus Christ, God's Son. This message centers on Jesus's death and resurrection, the climax of God's work throughout salvation history. It's good news for both Jews and Gentiles because it offers salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, regardless of one's background or ethnicity.

#### **What does Paul mean by the phrase "obedience of faith"?**

This phrase highlights the inseparable connection between true faith and a changed life. For Paul, faith is not merely intellectual assent; it involves a complete surrender to Jesus Christ, resulting in a life transformed by His grace. This transformation naturally leads to obedience, a life lived according to God's will.

#### **Why is Paul "unashamed" of the Gospel?**

In a culture obsessed with honor and shame, the message of a crucified Savior might seem foolish or weak. However, Paul is unashamed because he understands the Gospel's power. It's God's power for salvation, offering transformation, new life, and freedom from sin's consequences.

#### **Why is the Gospel "to the Jew first and also to the Greek"?**

The Gospel is rooted in God's promises to Israel. Therefore, it was first offered to the Jewish people, who already had a foundation in the Scriptures and the concept of a Messiah. However, God's plan encompasses all people. Thus, the Gospel is also for the Greeks, representing all Gentiles, offering them the same opportunity for salvation through faith.

#### **What does Paul mean by "God's righteousness"?**

In the context of Romans, "God's righteousness" is not merely His moral perfection. It also refers to His faithfulness to His covenant and His commitment to putting His people right with Him. This righteousness is not earned through human effort but received as a gift through faith in Jesus Christ.

#### **How can God be "just and the justifier of the ungodly"?**



This seemingly paradoxical statement is central to Paul's argument in Romans. While God is perfectly just and must punish sin, He also offers justification – a declaration of righteousness – to those who trust in Jesus. This is possible because Jesus bore the penalty for sin, allowing God to remain just while extending mercy and forgiveness.

**What does it mean to "live by faith"?**

To "live by faith" means to rely completely on God's faithfulness and promises. It's not a passive belief but an active trust in God's power to transform lives and provide eternal life. This trust motivates a life of obedience and seeking God's will.

**How is the wrath of God revealed?**

The wrath of God is not arbitrary anger but His just response to sin and rebellion. In Romans, this wrath is revealed in God "giving people over" to their own sinful desires and the consequences of their choices. This results in a downward spiral of moral decay and separation from God.