**The Book of Romans**

**Prologue:**

**The Message: God’s Righteousness Revealed as**

**His Power to Save (1:1-17)**

***The Unpaid Gospel Obligation***

***Or, The Debt We Owe the Nations***

***Romans 1:1-17***

***A Bird’s Eye View of this Amazing Book***

The Apostle Paul wades right into his subject, his passion, the gospel. But before explaining how it works, and why it is so glorious, he tells us that it is a message that must be preached to the nations. After the explanations and exhortations, Paul ends the book with an epilogue of how the *message* has become his *mission*, bringing us full circle.

 *Prologue – The Message: God’s Righteousness is revealed as His power for salvation to all nations. 1:1-17*

 I. God’s Righteousness is revealed in His just wrath against mankind’s sin. 1:18–3:20

 II. God’s Righteousness is revealed in His gracious provision of the Gospel. 3:21–4:25

III. God’s Righteousness is revealed in His free gift of Spirit-Life. 5:1–8:39

IV. God’s Righteousness is revealed in His sovereign decrees for the nation Israel. 9:1–11:36

 V. God’s Righteousness is revealed in His loving demands upon His people. 12:1–15:13

 *Epilogue – The Mission: God’s Righteousness is revealed as His grace is proclaimed to all nations. 15:14–16:27*

**The God-Centered Gospel and The Gospel-Centered Apostle**

***The God-Centered Gospel.***  *vv. 1-7*

 Here, God (Father, Son, Spirit) is named eleven times, act-ing on behalf of humans: calling (x3), setting apart, promising, declaring, resurrecting, giving grace, granting apostleship, bringing about obedience, loving, and granting grace and peace.

 This is how Paul defines his life and message. The gospel is God-originated, God-centered, and God-glorifying. God’s object, in addition to His glory (v. 5) is to reach out to humans for their joy through the promised Son of David, Son of God, Jesus.

***The Gospel-Centered Apostle.*** *vv. 8-15*

Twelve personal pronouns (I, me, my) show this God-called apostle’s heart to pursue God’s plan to give the gospel to the world, each and every nation. He explains his passion to do so as a debt that will be paid by preaching Christ to unreached peoples, whether civilized or uncivilized, not single-handedly, but by creating partnerships with already established churches.

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✔ The coming of Jesus is personal, and requires a response. Each moment you say “Yes!” or “No!” to God’s revelation.

✔ Romans is understandable only in the context of God’s plan and Paul’s love for the nations. Don’t get so lost in the outline of the book that you miss the heartbeat of God.

✔ The gospel is not the beginning of something, but the con-tinuation and consummation of all God has revealed in the TANAKH: Torah, Prophets, Writings, our “Old Testament.”

✔ The church exists to worship and serve God in telling everyone on Planet Earth of His love in and through Jesus Christ. So our purpose is not to entertain people, but to pay our debt by “calling all people to spiritual growth in Christ Jesus.”