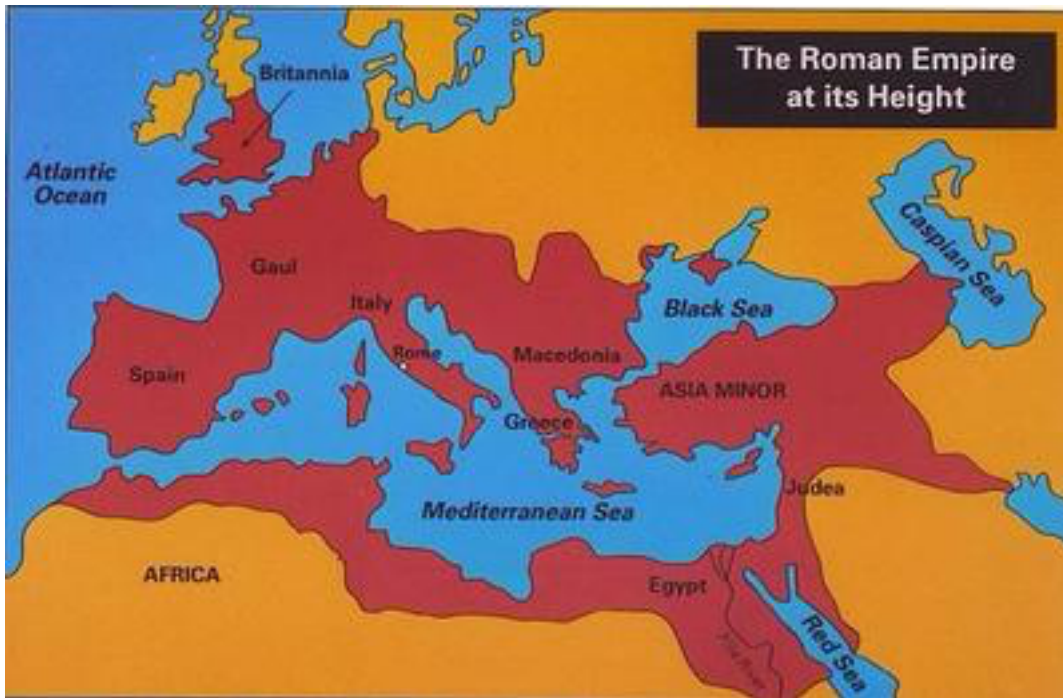


Union Bethel AME Church (dial-in and Facebook™ Live)
Bible Study Dial-in Number: (425) 436-6260 Access Code: 141997#
Tuesday, June 23, 2020, **Note time 6:30 – 7:30 PM**

Paul's Letter to the Church at Rome (Romans)



Romans 1:16-17 The Power of the Gospel

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

Why would preaching or teaching the gospel ever bring shame?

How is God's righteousness revealed through faith?

Romans 1:18-23 The Guilt of Humankind

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth. **19** For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **20** Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse; **21** for though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened. **22** Claiming to be wise, they became fools; **23** and they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling a mortal human being or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles.

Paul specifically calls out those who speak untruth. The major problem is the refusal to acknowledge what God makes plain. They did not thank God for their blessings. They exchanged following God with elevating mortals.

Why is this futile?

Romans 1:24-27

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the degrading of their bodies among themselves, **25** because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. **26** For this reason God gave them up to degrading passions. Their women exchanged natural intercourse for unnatural, **27** and in the same way also the men, giving up natural intercourse with women, were consumed with passion for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in their own persons the due penalty for their error.

Why is lust dangerous? How do you define lust?

Romans 1:28-32

28 *And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind and to things that should not be done. 29* They were filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice. Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, craftiness, they are gossips, **30** slanderers, God-haters, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, rebellious toward parents, **31** foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. **32** They know God's decree, that those who practice such things deserve to die—yet they not only do them but even applaud others who practice them.

Paul presents a serious list of transgressions in this first chapter of his letter to the church at Rome. He started the letter with a long introduction and then jumps to not being ashamed by the Gospel.

How do we compare and contrast not being ashamed of the Gospel with the list of sins Paul uses to close this chapter?
