

The Book That Freed the World

(Ang Librong Nagpalaya sa Mundo)

Theme: *Grace Makes Us Free In 20-23!*

Text: *Romans 1:1-7*

PREFACE

Pastor Del led us to the inspired theme for 2023: Grace Makes Us Free In 20-23! - Ang kabutihang loob ng Panginoon ang magpapalaya sa atin sa 20-23! We were given four subpoints.

- I. Free to **Learn** and **Know** - *May kalayaang mag-aaral (magturo) at kilalanin ang ating pananampalataya
- II. Free to **Apply** and **Grow** - *May kalayaang kumapit sa Salita ng Diyos at maging luntian katulad ng malusog na halaman
- III. Free to **Reflect** and **Flow** - *May kalayaang ianinag ang liwanag ng Panginoon at umapaw sa pagpapala
- IV. Free to **Share** and **Sow** - *May kalayaang magbahagi sa kapwa at magbaon ng punla ng Salita ng Panginoon

INTRODUCTION

1. Freedom is an **elusive** concept. - Rom 6:18 "Pinalaya na kayo sa kasalanan at kayo ngayon ay mga alipin na ng katuwiran." May mga taong patuloy na nakakulong kahit sila ay may kapangyarihan gawin at puntahan ang kanilang nais at may mga tao namang kahit nakagapos ay sa puso nila sila ay malaya.

2. Every time we feel humanly free, there will somehow be impediments that will arise. Imaginary fears, or **bugaboos**, cause us to not enjoy our God-given freedom. - Romans 7:19-25

3. The more humans try to write books to capture freedom, the **less** free they become. - 2 Tim 3:7 "Na laging nagsisipagalar, at kailan pa man ay hindi nakararating sa pagkaalam ng katotohanan." 2 Tim 3:7

a. To free himself from religious dogma in England, Charles Darwin wrote a book, *On the **Origin** of Species (1859)*, the environment selected the most favorable versions to survive, where people had been enslaved by the extreme thought that humans came from apes, stepping out of God's creation, grace and salvation plan that we are created in God's image (Gen 1:27) and that we are a God's handiwork (Eph 2:10), .

b. Karl Marx wrote ***Das Kapital*** to free workers from exploitation, yet it created a system where one absolute single authority oppresses and limits individual freedoms to pursue their dreams, provide for their families, and bargain collectively.

c. Friedrich Nietzsche wrote a book that explains that there is a master race, a superman in many of his works, a race above all, an ***Übermensch***, an Overhuman (the conceptualization of Man and Superman) - yet it had ensnared hearts of people towards arrogance, hatred towards people who aren't similar as their own, and selfishness when God wants us to love our neighbors as our own. Rom 13:8-10

d. Young Adolf Hitler read Nietzsche's book, agreed to it, formed an opinion, and developed his own book, ***Mein Kampf***. In that book he put his Nazi philosophies, and the outgrowth of that book is World War 2, resulting in the **Holocaust**, and **6 million** Jews put to death. This is just because of a book.

e. When books written by man are **not** God-breathed, it most certainly led to many, many **deaths** and brought millions of people to **slavery**.

6. While these books had an incredible power to **influence**. There has been no book written that has **freed** the world but the Book of **Romans**. There's no other book like it. It has been called the Constitution of Christianity. It is the book that says that in grace through faith, is what it takes to be **TRULY, ABSOLUTELY FREE!**

Roma 4:22 Kaya't dahil sa kanyang pananampalataya, siya'y itinuring na matuwid ng Diyos.

7. Romans is the **greatest** piece of literature that has impacted history. While many of the most influential books continued to **enslave** men and women, the Book of Romans is the only book that expounded how man can experience **REAL FREEDOM**.

a. The 6th of Paul's letter, written in Corinth around 58-60 AD and sent to Rome by Phebe (Rom 16:1)

b. First order of epistles, doctrinally and in canonical order, 45th book of the Bible, 16 chapters, 388 verses of history, 29 verses of fulfilled and 16 verses of unfulfilled prophecy, 433 verses, 9447 words, 87 questions, all pointing to the principle, "that the **just** shall live by faith." - Rom 1:17

c. Until its lessons are learned we are ignorant of true Christian principles; Romans is the **Constitution** of Christianity and the **ABCs** of Christian Education!

d. Without Romans -- this letter written by Paul -- we will not know that the **path** to salvation is through **Jesus Christ!** Romans 3:24 "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ."

e. Through Romans, we are able to know that "we are **saved** by grace through faith", that's why we are:

I. Free to Learn and Know - (The first step to freedom is to learn and know God's saving Grace, revealed to us by God from faith to faith.)

"Romans 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

Roma 1:17 Sapagkat sa Magandang Balita ay ipinapakita kung paano itinutuwid ng Diyos ang kaugnayan ng tao sa kanya. Ito ay sa pamamagitan ng pananampalataya buhat sa simula hanggang sa wakas. Tulad ng sinasabi sa Kasulatan, "Ang itinuring ng Diyos na matuwid sa pamamagitan ng pananampalataya ay mabubuhay."

A. **Learn** is from the root word that means "to teach" and **know** is from the root word that means: "to be able to identify" - When there is a teacher, you will be able to identify your faith. Roma 10: 14-15

B. Martin Luther, who used to be a Roman Catholic monk, wanted to be right with God, but couldn't **identify** his faith. He tried everything, 1. he worked, 2. he prayed, 3. he fasted, 4. he sojourned to Rome. 5. he climbed the Holy Stairs in Rome, **The Scala Sancta**, the Holy Stairs, but never felt closer to God than he had been.

(Hindi niya naramdaman si Kristo, dahil hindi ipinapakita ng Panginoon ang Kanyang presensiya sa mabuting gawa.)

C. Only when Martin Luther (1483 - 1546) studied the Book Romans that a light burst into his heart on Romans 1:17, "The just shall live by faith!" He realized,

1. "I am not saved by my **good works**, 2. not by my **religion**, 3. not by my **rituals**, 4. not by my **good** intentions, 5. BUT I am saved by the grace of God when I **put my faith** in what Jesus did for me on the Cross.

D. Because of this, Martin Luther was **born again**, and the Protestant Reformation began in 1517 that changed the entire world! All because of the Book of **Romans!**

II. Free to Apply and Grow (The second step to freedom is humility, obedience, and full acceptance that Jesus is the Lord of your life.)

"Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

"Roma 10:9 Kung ipahahayag ng iyong bibig na si Jesus ay Panginoon at buong puso kang sasampalataya na siya'y muling binuhay ng Diyos, maliligtas ka."

A. **Apply** is from the root word that means "to fold, or to fasten to," and **grow** comes from the root word green, as a reflection of a healthy plant.

B. And the Book of Romans - What we have here is a letter. This letter was written from Corinth to church at Rome. There was a little colony of heaven (a small group of **believers**) in Rome when Roman Empire is at its height. Rome with its **intellectualism**, Rome with its **militarism**, Rome with its **laws**, Rome with its little **gods**. Rome with its **roads**, Rome with its **heroes**. Rome **ruled** the world. But Paul wrote a letter to a little colony of heaven within Rome - and they were going to turn Rome upside down.

C. Romans the letter we just read - contains the table of contents of what can bring a Baby Christian to cling to and fastened to God and be healthy as a green grass, a Mature Christian. Romans expounds the Foundation of our Faith.

"If we study together the Book of Romans - I believe - we will have a personal and corporate revival." - Adrian Rogers

Chapters 1-3. **Sin**. Tells us the problem. Talks about God's Holiness as compared to our sin.

Chapters 4-5. **Salvation**. Tells us the answer.

Chapters 6-8. **Sanctification**. It's one thing to be saved. It's another thing to grow in the faith.

Chapters 9-11. God's **Sovereignty**. Sovereign God is ruling the world and the nations and He is in charge

Chapters 12-16. Service.

D. The Book of Romans' secret to enduring effectiveness is because it relays the experience of the author when he met Christ.

E. About the Author - Paul

Of course, God is the ultimate author of Romans. But Paul is its human author. In Bible times, they signed the letter at the **beginning**, very much unlike today. The author of the book signed it in Romans 1:1 "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God."

1. The author was a **saved** man.

2. Paul wasn't always his name. His mother named him after a king of Israel, King Saul, a **prideful** king.

3. Aside from being a Jew, Paul was a **free** man, a Roman citizen.

4. He was an honest **graduate** at the University of Tarsus. He was well **travelled**. He speaks a lot of **languages**. He was sent to Jerusalem to become the personal **scholar** of Gamaliel--the greatest teacher in the world at that time. He was a Pharisee and a **Pharisee** of Pharisees. He is a **big** shot and has a big shot name.

5. Saul **changed** his name to Paul. A new person, he now chose to be a slave of Christ! - 2 Cor 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

6. Paul means **little**, Paul means small. When he met Jesus, he saw how small he was. Eph 3:8 "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;"

III. Free to Reflect and Flow (The third step to freedom is obedience (full surrender) to your new Master.)

Roma 12:1-2 Kaya nga, mga kapatid, alang-alang sa masaganang habag ng Diyos sa atin, ako'y nakikiusap sa inyo na ialay ninyo ang inyong sarili bilang isang handog na buháy, banal at kalugud-lugod sa Diyos. Ito ang karapat-dapat na pagsamba[a] ninyo sa Diyos. 2 Huwag kayong makiayon sa takbo ng mundong ito. Sa halip, hayaan ninyong baguhin ng Diyos ang inyong pag-iisip upang maunawaan ninyo ang kanyang kalooban. Sa gayon, magagawa ninyo kung ano ang mabuti, kalugud-lugod at ganap na kalooban ng Diyos.

A. **Reflect** comes from the root word to bend (as in the bending of light) - there's a quality of malleability and willingness to ignore its own quality to reflect another light - and **flow** is from the root word means to flood, to outpour. It's so full that your container overflows. You are reflecting God's light that you breathe life to others. When you accept Christ, you become a source of life; you become a source of **light**.

B. It was a **unique** experience that Paul had when he met Christ and he wanted to testify and reflect Christ and he felt full in his heart that ideas to write were overflowing.

C. Paul reflected Christ because...

1. He was a **saved** man.
2. He was a **surrendered** man. Romans 1:1 Paul said I'm a slave of Jesus. Literally - a bond slave - he becomes a property of the person to whom he owes debt. In Jewish tradition, after seven years, there's a rule that you can't be a bond slave forever.
 - 2a. Yet Paul became a bond slave of his own **choice**. I love my Master. I am a **bondslave** of tChrist.
 - 2b. Everyone is a slave to **something** or to **someone**. Ambition. Fear. Career. Money. Person. Habits. BUT Bondage to **sin** is the worst kind of slavery.
 - 2c. When a person goes to the Master and said I want to be free - You are Lord and Master - then that individual receives **glorious freedom** and that individual becomes free indeed. When the Son sets you free, you are free indeed. "John 8:36, KJV: If the **Son** therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free **indeed**."
 - 2d. Bondage to Jesus doesn't mean: Well its His Will instead of My Will. His Will is Now My Will. Ps 37:4 Finding satisfaction and worth in Christ!
3. He was a **sent** man. Romans 1:1 "**Called** to be an apostle." He didn't choose to be in the ministry. God called him to be in the ministry. Romans 1:6 Apostle means one who was sent.
4. He was a **separated** man. Unto the Gospel of God. We are to stand out. Rom 12:1-2
 - 4a. Separated unto the Gospel - it is not a separate from - it is a positive separation. Pharisee is already separated but not unto the Gospel. **Separated** is a word in Greek, means "from off the **horizon**".
 - 4b. When your **center** changes, your horizon changes. And when Jesus the center of your life, then your entire horizon has changed. Is Christ the center of your life? Like David, we got to be separated unto the Gospel of Christ.

D. Paul knew the real **hero** of this book: Jesus Christ is Hero of the Book. Romans 1:1-3

- D1. He is the **Promised** One. Romans 1:2 Paul when he talks about Scriptures he was talking about the Old Testament. So when he talks about the Messiah. He was talking about fulfilled prophecy.
*After Saul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he went to the desert he had in his knapsack the old testament. When he opened the Old Testament - he saw Jesus. Then he came back from the desert and came back with new epistles: Galatians, Ephesians, all the epistles in his heart.
- D2. He is the **Provided** One. Romans 1:3-4 He is the God-Man. He is not a divine man; He is not a human god. Absolute Humanity /Absolute Deity - Experienced every pain, Capable of all power
- D3. He is the **Powerful** One. Romans 1:4 "He walked out of the grave." There is more proof that Jesus Christ rose from the dead, than proof that Julius Caesar lived. He walked out of the grave.
- D4. He is the **Pure** One. Romans 1:4 He was absolutely and totally **SINLESS** in his deity and humanity.

"His life was perfectly holy. He never looked with lust. He never uttered a hasty, unkind, untrue or frivolous word. He never entertained an impure thought. He was never accused by conscience. Never inflamed by wrongful passion. Never out of step with the will of God. His time was never wasted. His talents never debased for selfish ends. His influence, never bad. His judgment, never wrong. He never had to apologize for anything He did or retract a single word He said. He was never too late or too soon, never upset, never insipid, never shallow or afraid. From the summit of the Mount of Transfiguration He could have stepped straight into glory. He had absolute victory from the moment He drew his first breath in that Bethlehem barn until the moment He closed His eyes in death on the cross of Calvary." - Dr John Phillips

If you're looking for a hero, try **Jesus!** We have a REAL HERO

IV. Free to Share and Sow (The mark of true freedom is when you share and sow the Gospel in Jesus' Name.)

"Romans 1:5 5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name."

A. **Share** originates from the word that is meant to divide food and resources for the troops, those who are going to war together with you and sow or plant it in. **Sowing** is not sowing when you don't dig it in.

B. The only **subject** of the book is the Gospel. It's the Gospel of God's Son.

Galatians 1:12 "For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Galatians 1:8 "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

There's but **one** Gospel. The Gospel of God.

C. The only **source** of the Gospel is Jesus Christ. "A synthetic Gospel leads to a synthetic salvation that leads to a very real hell." Jesus is the Gospel!

C1 The Gospel is: not a **creed** (a system of promotion), not a **code** (a set of passwords), not a **cause** (a group project) - The Gospel is **Christ**.

*you can take **Buddha** out of Buddhism and still have Buddhism

*you can take **Mohammad** out of Islam and still have Islam

*you can take **Confucius** out of Confucianism and still have Confucianism

*but you can not take **Christ** out of Christianity - and still have Christianity

It's like taking **numbers** out of mathematics, taking **notes** out of music, or taking **water** out of a well!

D. The only **bottomless supply** of the Gospel is grace.

Roma 1:5 Sa pamamagitan niya, tinanggap namin mula sa Diyos ang kaloob na maging apostol alang-alang kay Cristo, upang ang mga Hentil ay akayin sa pagsunod na naaayon sa pananampalataya.

E. **John Wesley's Story of Grace.** In the 1730s, John Wesley had gone to Georgia in the United States as a missionary but had a futile endeavor to bring Indians to Jesus Christ. He went back and on his way back, met these missionaries called the Moravian Missionaries who believe that a personal, heart-felt relationship with God through Jesus Christ is an essential part of faith.

During the voyage the ship was struck by a terrifying storm. John was afraid. While the English passengers screamed in terror, the Moravians continued singing - men, women and children seemingly untroubled. John knew then the reality that he didn't have Christ in his heart. He realized that he didn't quite have the same quality of life as the Moravians. He knew that his heart was empty.

Back in England, seeking God, he went to a place called Aldersgate, and there was a Bible study in the book of Romans. And he testified: "I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death." Out of the meeting, a great revival swept England, and out of Wesley's ministry, revival began. It all started from the Book of Romans.

CONCLUSION

Once a child was asked: "Son, how did you get saved?" The child answered, "Well, I did my part. And God did His."

They knew something was wrong with that - and said Son, you better explain that "Oh well I did the sinning. And JESUS did the saving." That's the Gospel. The kid understood it. It's all about grace. ONLY Grace made him **FREE**.
GRACE: God's Redemption at Christ's Expense!

"The Son of God became the Son of man so that the sons of men could become the sons of God!"

My prayer that through our church Faith Baptist Church South Metro that: May many more souls come to know this:
That Grace Makes Us Free in 2023! # end of document #