

## Romans 1:1-17

## Individual Study Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## A Study in Romans

### Session 2 of ?

#### Men's Bible Study

When you wake up every morning what drives you?

If you want to live a life of fulfillment and joy, you must discover your purpose. You see if you don't know what your purpose is, if you don't know what drives you, what inspires you, then you have no reason to improve your current situation in life.

Why do you do what you do? What is the reason, the why of your existence? Do you know what it takes to be better than you are? Are you willing to go the extra mile?

Listen, time and time again you will get tired and feel you cannot go another inch. There will be times when you just don't want to get out of bed. There will be events that make you ache to the innermost part of your soul. There will be moments when you will not want to smile. But if you have a purpose, a reason, a driving force, you will go the next mile. If you have a purpose, it will remind you again and again to rise and shine. If you have a purpose, a WHY, it will make the pain bearable. If you have a purpose, a WHY, smiles will bend up your mouth.

Let me ask you, why are you different from everyone else who's trying to do the same thing you're doing? What makes you stand out? It is your why, that drives you.

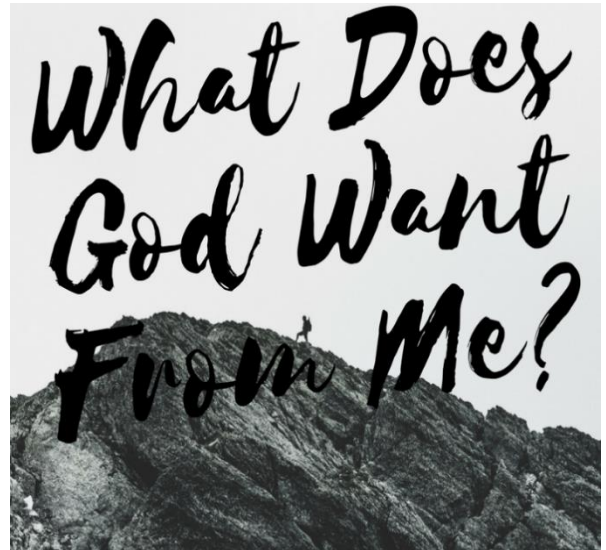
God has a purpose for you, a why. Moses had a purpose, a why. Jesus had a why. Paul had a why. John had a why. Luther had a why. Calvin had a why. C.S. Lewis had a why. You need to find your why and find it now.

Because when you find it, you must write it down, carry it with you, write it on the dash of your car, post it on the fridge, and on the headboard of your bed. Write it on your palm in permanent ink. Put it everywhere you go.

You need to feel your why deeply and consistently. You need to promise yourself everything you do will follow that WHY. Promise yourself you will live your purpose with zero excuses. So when you are challenged by life, when you feel like you have found your bottom, you know what to do, remember the WHY. Do not look backwards and say, "gloom, despair, excessive misery, if it were not for bad luck I would have no luck at all", just remember your reason for life, your purpose of life, your WHY.

It is not always going to be an easy road. But when you have your Why in the deepest part of your soul, you will find it and it will drive you to keep on keeping on. Your why may not change anyone else right away. Your why will not change what is already done and past. You need to find something that drives you. You need to find something that matters. You need to find something that drives you, something that no matter the circumstances this part of you does not change. Your Why will never die, despite how many times life knocks you down. Your purpose, your why, will pull you up every time.

My why is the reason I will fight for my dreams. This is the reason I will never take no for an answer. My why is there when it hurts, to keep going on cloudy days, those days that stones are flying toward me. My Why tells me to keep going.



Your why will keep you going in those times when you can not see where you are going. Your why will spur you on when life slaps you in the face. You have a choice to make. The right choice. To press on to the high calling. Every day must start and end with my why: my purpose.

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Take two minutes, close your eyes, and think about yourself. Think about those things that make you who you are. Think about what you want in life. Think about your goals. Then answer this question: What does God want from me?

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### What is your life's purpose?

**“Living a life without an objective or without knowing its purpose is like preparing for an Examination where there is no passing percentage.”**

In life we set expectations:

- Where we want to be financially
- Where we want to be relationally
- Where we want to go on our time off
- What my ideal weight would be

But expectations without the why are simply nothing more than reasons to forsake other things. We don't want to do things out of pure randomness. We prioritize, we sift, we open ourselves up to opportunities and risks. But the real problem comes when we ask WHY

Why are we here? Is it the next French fry?

Why are we here? Not just in this room but here on earth?

### IS THERE A REASON FOR ME

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The **Dalai Lama**: “I believe that the very purpose of life is to be happy. From the very core of our being, we desire contentment.”

**Steve Pavlina**: “The purpose of life is to explore and experience.”

**Byron Katie**: “To understand that what is, really isn't.”

**Conan**, in the movie of the same name, was asked, “what is good in life?” and Conan answered, “To crush your enemies, to see them driven before you, and to hear the lamentations of the women.”

- Some would believe because of KARMA, simple a recycled life to suffer for past lives so the next one will be better.
- Some would reason we are just chemical compounds that exist due to a billion trillion happenstances over a trillion of years and if just one of those events were different, we would not be here.
- Some would say we are products of evolution and when we die we are simply gone.
- “I am here to leave a legacy, I mean it's all going to end someday and I hope someone will remember me. Maybe if I have made a contribution to humankind, then someone will bring my life to mind. We are here to make a better place for those who follow in our footsteps.
- Others would say our ultimate purpose is to make ourselves better. Me, myself, and I is the center of it all. We study, toil, sacrifice, struggle to be better. But in the end, what does it matter: a better person in a hole in the ground?

- Others simply say there is no meaning, no purpose, no place, no reward, no punishment. Shakespeare, **“Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player, that struts and frets his hour upon the stage, and then is heard no more. It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.”**
- Some would say there is something more out there.
- Created to live a life of good and bad actions and we will be rewarded or punished in this continual eternity. This is more of an angry God theory. That He is out to get you, to judge and punish.

Saul of Tarsus **before** he experienced Jesus on the road to Damascus was a holder of the last of these options. Created to live a life of good and bad actions and we will be rewarded or punished in this continual eternity.

It **was** the WHY of his life.

Last week we looked briefly at the purpose of the Book of Romans.

UNITY in the Church. But was the purpose of Paul bigger than a single letter to a single church?

I WOULD SUBMIT TO YOU THE PURPOSE OF PAUL AND WHAT SHOULD BE THE PURPOSE OF ALL OF US

It is found in the Book of Romans.

Perhaps tonight we will search and find Paul's life purpose. And in so doing we can find our own.

Shall we take a look and see if we can find it?

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In 2 Timothy 4:7-8, Paul at the end of his life summed it up, *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing”*

He had a purpose in life. His WHY of his life was set. This WHY was what kept him day and night. When he was in prison, it pointed to his purpose. When he was the ship was going down chained to the rail, it pointed to his purpose. When he was beaten, it pointed to his purpose. When he traveled, weary and footsore, it pointed to his purpose.

To put our faith in tangible goals would seem to be, at best, unwise. We do not strive to be firemen, we do not strive to be bankers, nor policemen, nor doctors. WE STRIVE TO BE OURSELVES. Paul was not called to be a tent maker, it was the expectation of his father. Paul was not called to be a Pharisee again an expectation from his teacher Gamaliel. He thought he had found his purpose in rounding up Christians for the Sanhedrin, and he was successful in the eyes of his peers and the religious hierarchy, but it was not his purpose in his life. It was not his WHY.

If there was anything in the world that you could be, what would it be? \_\_\_\_\_

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There are many steps to finding your life's purpose. That doesn't mean you're supposed to know it by the end of the lesson. Nevertheless, what's even more exciting is that your purpose will expand and be refined as you continue to grow. You will build new skills, find new opportunities, and suffer new setbacks. It's a beautiful journey. So, relax. You don't need to have it figured out yet.

Perhaps we can look today at Paul's purpose, his WHY and perchance find our own. Let's us look at the scripture for tonight.

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## THE PATH TO THE WHY OF LIFE

- To discover the why of Paul's life, he first declares who he is: Romans 1:1-7
- To discover the why of Paul's life, we must examine his individual interests. 1:8-15
- To discover the why of Paul's life, we must look at his goals 1:5, 8, 12, 17
- To discover the why of Paul's life, we must find the distilled life. 1:16,17

GOD MADE  
YOU FOR A  
PURPOSE...  
FIND IT

1. How you see yourself suggests your WHY.
2. What interests you suggest your WHY.
3. The goals in your life suggest your WHY.
4. Your WHY is the reason for ALL.

## Romans Chapter 1 verses 1-17

### 1. Paul's Greeting – Who he was.

1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, 4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of **faith** among all the Gentiles for His name's sake, 6 among whom you also are called of Jesus Christ; 7 to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### 2. Paul's Interest - Actions

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your **faith** is being proclaimed throughout the whole world. 9 For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you, 10 always in my prayers making the request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God, I may succeed in coming to you.

### 3. Paul's Goal – the goals

11 For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established; 12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's **faith**, both yours and mine. 13 I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles. 14 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. 15 So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

### 4. Paul's Purpose – the Why

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from **faith** to **faith**; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."

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## The GAR of life

Où yàp GAR – The assignment of a reason (used in argument, explanation or intensification; often with other particles): - and, as, because (that), but, even, for indeed, no doubt, seeing, then, therefore, verily, what, **why**, yet.

### Romans 1:16-17 the **Why**

- The why of Paul.
- The why of Martin Luther and the reformation
- The why of Christianity.
- It is the why that will change the world
- It is the why that will change the hardhearted
- It is the why that will move belief to faith to faith

He begins verse 16 with the word “for” which in Greek is GAR and means WHY. It connects it with verse 15. There Paul said, “I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.”

Why do you think Paul wanted to go to Rome?

Was it the place of prominence?

Was it a checkmark on a list of things he wanted to do?

It was one goal of his purpose.

Paul wanted to go to Rome WHY, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel...”

Why was he not ashamed? Why does he almost boast? \_\_\_\_\_

Why was Paul not ashamed of the Gospel, \_\_\_\_\_

Why are you not ashamed of the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is salvation so important to God that He had to do something? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is the power of the Gospel enough to do something? \_\_\_\_\_

Why does the righteousness of God be revealed from faith to faith.” \_\_\_\_\_

BELIEF is the first step to the purpose for me and for you.

Is this a new idea that Paul thought up? No, he cites Habakkuk 2:4, “as it is written, ‘But the righteous man shall live by faith.’”

The why of Paul

The why of Romans

The why of Christianity

The why of Jesus

Is the GOSPEL.....

## NEXT WEEK

1. To discover Paul's understanding of FAITH
2. In your study times, write your own definition of FAITH.
3. Be ready to discuss it next week
4. Please do not use an existing definition but make it your own.
5. Read Hebrews Chapter 11
6. If you have time write a paragraph on the back of this week's study sheets on how having the reputation of faith has changed your attitude to those you encounter daily.

## REFERENCE

### Vocabulary

**Proclaimed:** katangéllō; to declare, preach, to show, to speak of, to teach, report, preaching. 1:8

**Prayers:** proseuchē; Talking to God, addressing God. The same root word for worship. 1:10

**Gift:** charisma; A favor with which one receives without any merit of his own. 1:11

**Brethren:** adelphós; a sibling born of the same parents, with common ancestry, from the same womb. 1:13

**Fruit:** karpós; That which originates or comes from something, an effect or result. An act, deed, advantage, profit, utility. "I have, I give, you get". 1:13

**Greeks:** Hállēn; a nationality, from Greece. In a wider sense, it includes all nations, not Jews that made the language, customs, and learning of the Greeks their own; the primary reference is to a difference in religion and worship. 1:14

**Barbarians:** bárbaros; a person whose speech is rude, rough, and harsh. Ones who speak a foreign or strange language that is not understood. Used by Greeks to describe any foreigner ignorant of the Greek language. 1:14

**Salvation:** sōtēría; deliverance from the molestation of enemies, preservation of the original, safety of being, and by implication redemption from the effects sin.

**Righteous:** dikaiosynē; The state of a person which should be, a condition acceptable to God. Integrity, virtue, purity of life, the correctness of thinking, feeling, and acting. A proper relationship with God.

**Faith:** pístis; Persuasion, credence; moral conviction of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher, especially reliance upon Christ for salvation. Part of a grouping of people by such by profession. assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.

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