

ROMANS

Romans 1:1-17

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS:

1. Paul's use of the word *gospel* (used six times throughout this passage) challenged the power of Caesar, who frequently proclaimed that his Empire was "good news" to the world. The gospels promoted by Rome were massive (including peace, prosperity & security) and reached far and wide. What does this tell us about Paul's confidence in the gospel of Jesus?
2. In what ways does the Western culture we live in promise *good news*? What are some of the "gospels" of our western culture today?
3. Paul's introduction as a "slave of Messiah Jesus...set apart for the gospel" shattered the conventions of the honour/shame system of the Roman world. To identify as a *slave* was to intentionally associate with the lowest of society (*see table below of the order of Roman society*).

Why did the good news of Jesus make Paul a slave to Christ Jesus? In what ways do you see yourself as a slave to Jesus (e.g. Jesus Lord of all your life)?

Emperor

Patricians

Equestrians

Plebeians

Freedmen

Slaves

4. Being a "slave" to Christ Jesus also made Paul *indebted* to all people to preach the gospel to them (v14). In what ways do you feel indebted to *all people* (your neighbours, colleagues, boss, family) to proclaim and demonstrate the gospel?
5. Paul states in 1:16-17 that he is unashamed of this gospel he is bringing to Rome. What makes you ashamed of the gospel today?
6. Paul's basis for being "unashamed" was that in the gospel, the power of God to save is revealed. Paul ties this power back to his statement in v4; namely, Jesus' resurrection from the dead. How does the resurrection of Jesus (God's perfect display of his power) give you confidence that you can boldly live out and proclaim the good news of Jesus' lordship to the world?