

Conformed to His Likeness

Session 1: Introduction

Paul's Challenge

The historical context of Romans

Rome threatened by _____.

Their belief: The strength of the empire was not in her military, but in the _____ of her citizens.

Virtue
The character traits that enable a person to live a morally excellent life.*

Their challenge: How to _____ virtue to a society that had lost its virtue?

Their solution: Moral _____.

Paul's Gamble

After years of development and testing, Paul introduced his radical new philosophy called _____ into an already crowded field.

Fourteen years later I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. I went in response to a revelation and set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I did this privately to those who seemed to be leaders, for fear that I was running or had run my race in vain (Galatians 1.13-2.5)

* For a basic listing of Roman virtues see http://www.novaroma.org/nr/Roman_virtues. Notice that this website is dedicated to the restoration of the Roman way of life, as a reaction to the moral decay of our contemporary society.

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His claim: The gospel is _____ to all other philosophies.

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. (Romans 1.16)

The test: Does it _____?

The stakes: Incredibly _____.

The response: _____

Skepticism (Acts 26.24-29).

Resistance (Mark 6.3; Romans 9.32).

Hostility (Acts 19.23-27).

Paul's Gospel

How radical is the gospel?

Clue 1: The gospel is hard to _____

For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." (Romans 1.17)

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Paul's Gospel – cont.

The Commands of Romans 12-15		
Love others	Be hopeful	Respect authority
Hate evil	Be patient	Behave morally
Be loyal	Be hospitable	Don't judge
Honor others	Be empathetic	

Clue 2: The gospel is hard to _____

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. (Romans 1.16)

The gospel is the very _____.

What makes the gospel superior?

- An entirely _____ of righteousness.
- An entirely _____ of becoming righteous.
- It claims to offer supernatural _____ to produce supernatural _____.

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Clue 3: The gospel requires a _____

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12.2)

Why Romans?

- It provides a _____ of the gospel that shows us how to _____ all the pieces of the puzzle together.
- It describes _____ the gospel is, _____ it works, and _____ it works that way.
- It shows us how _____ came to _____ and _____ on the gospel to save and transform them.

Where we're headed

Session 1 – Introduction

Session 2 – The Goal

Session 3 – The Barrier

Session 4 – The Provision

Session 5 – The Process