

# ROMANS

## THE CHRISTIAN'S CONSTITUTION

### STUDY THREE

## The Good News for the Whole World

*Romans 1:14–17*

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*You do all you can to reach all you're able, knowing that when you have done all to reach all, you win some.*

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

**T**HE urgency of escape hits us in the presence of imminent danger. Our feet hurry to the nearest way out, like an emergency exit or a stairwell. As we find our way to safety, we do all we can to tell others, “Come! Hurry! *Escape this way!*”

An escape is one of the gospel's many benefits. It offers us a way out of the chains of sin and a way out of God's eternal judgment against sin. What great news! How urgent! Yet, our pulse beats faster, our lips get sealed, and our eyes look away when an opportunity arises for us to point people to Christ. It's strange how that happens, isn't it?

It doesn't always have to happen. Telling others about Jesus can become natural for you. With biblical encouragement and practical principles, you can be clear in your convictions, winsome in your approach, and bold in your efforts to lead others to *God's stairwell of escape*.

In this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study, we'll carefully examine Paul's personal testimony to the Roman believers to glean some help on sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.



### PREPARE YOUR HEART

Prayer invigorates your study of Scripture. So, first, we pray. Begin by reflecting on the fact that God knows you. He knows where you are right now. He is here with you to help you grasp His Word so that your life may reflect who He is.

*You made me; you created me.*

*Now give me the sense to follow your commands. (Psalm 119:73)*



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Echo this psalmist's prayer. Tell the Lord the struggles you're facing as you begin this Bible study. Acknowledge His power. Request His help. Trust His guidance. Express your heart.



## TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

Born in the city of Tarsus, located in the Roman province of Cilicia, Paul—his Latin name—or Saul—his Hebrew name—grew up as a devout Jew. In [Philippians 3:5](#), he referred to himself as “a Pharisee,” a Jewish sect known for its strict observance of Jewish law and customs ([Acts 23:6](#)). He studied under Gamaliel, a prominent Jewish teacher in the first century AD ([22:3](#)).

Saul thought that those who believed Jesus to be the Messiah were spreading a false religion. So he got permission from authorities to hunt down Christians to put them in prison ([8:1–3](#)). On his way to Damascus, a heavenly light struck him! Jesus chose Saul of Tarsus as His instrument to take His message to Jews and gentiles ([9:1–19](#)).

God's power transformed the worst enemy of the gospel into a passionate evangelist who could not stop pointing people to Christ! Listen to his testimony in his own words.



## Observation: Paul's Testimony

Observation is the first step of our *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method. Carefully and repetitively read [Romans 1:14–17](#).<sup>1</sup> What are three key observations you make about Paul's testimony?

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## Indebted

Look at [Romans 1:14](#) again. What drove Paul to share the gospel everywhere he went? What words did Paul use to indicate that the good news is for the whole world?

## Eager

Return to [Romans 1:15](#). How did Paul describe his attitude about sharing the good news?

## Unashamed

Look at the connecting word in [Romans 1:16](#). When you see *for*, you can often substitute *because*. So, why was Paul eager to share the gospel? Why was Paul not ashamed of the gospel?

Reread [1:17](#). Why else was Paul unashamed to share the good news with everyone?

Indebted, eager, unashamed, Paul went from town to town, city to city, region to region proclaiming the good news. Knowing that only God has the power to save people from sin and Satan, death and damnation, Paul was compelled to let others know!

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## Interpretation: The Gospel—God’s Power to Deliver

Now, we’ll go through interpretation by using Bible-study tools to better understand the gospel—God’s power to rescue humankind—as Paul intended for his Roman readers.<sup>1</sup>

In [Romans 1:14](#), Paul mentioned his obligation to share the gospel with everyone. The Greek word is *opheiletes*. Look up its meaning in the Greek dictionary available for free at [billmounce.com](http://billmounce.com). How would you explain our obligation as Christians to a non-Christian friend?

*I have been given the good news from the Savior, Jesus Christ. I now have the responsibility, the debt to pay, to give this news to someone else.*  
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Paul expressed his eagerness to share the gospel in [1:15](#). Look up the Greek word *prothumos*, which is translated “eagerness” in the Greek dictionary above. In your own words, flesh out its meaning and relevance for us today.

*That’s what is on Paul’s mind here. “I am eager to talk to those who are perishing. I am eager to tell them about the stairwell of escape, and my message is to go to whomever I am with.” How marvelous it is that we have the opportunity, and Paul describes it as something he never really got over.*  
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

In [1:16](#), Paul stood unashamed when sharing the gospel because it’s God’s power, *dynamis*, for salvation. Look up this verse in a Bible commentary, like Pastor Chuck’s [Insights on Romans](#) or an online commentary like [Constable’s Notes](#) at [netbible.org](http://netbible.org). How is the gospel God’s power? Explain that power and its importance for us today.

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*Paul is saying, “I am not ashamed because when I give the good news, I am giving a dynamic that will impact a life, that will make a change in a life. It’s the dynamic for deliverance.” —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*

In [Romans 1:17](#), we see that Paul boldly proclaimed the good news because God reveals His righteousness in it. Explore the meaning of the term [righteousness](#) in the *Holman Bible Dictionary* at [studylight.org](#). Note the key insights that stand out to you.

*It works like this. I come to the cross by faith. I believe that Jesus paid the complete penalty for my sins. I express my trust in Him in my own words with a simple prayer, “Lord, I know that there’s nothing I have that’s worthwhile, but I need Your Son. I need what He has provided for me, and I take the gift You have given me in Christ.” At that moment God declares me righteous.  
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll*



## Correlation: The God of Deliverance

Scripture provides a host of exhibits of God’s power to save. For instance, His mighty judgments against Egypt continue to astonish us today. They culminated in the parting of the Red Sea, which let the Israelites escape slavery. Peruse exhibits A and B in [Exodus 12 and 14](#). Compare the two. What does each exhibit teach about God’s power to deliver?

Take some time to examine exhibit C of the bronze serpent in [Numbers 21:4–10](#). How does this account demonstrate God’s immense power and provision? In what way does exhibit C resemble Paul’s description of the gospel in [Romans 1:16](#)?

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Exhibit D shows a nocturnal scene—a dialogue between a Jewish religious leader named Nicodemus and Jesus. Carefully read [John 3:1–18](#) and see how Jesus referred to exhibit C to explain to Nicodemus how only God’s power can cause people to be born again. Reread verses [14–15](#), [16–18](#). Summarize these verses in a sentence or two.

*God’s Lamb paid the price for our sins and died on our behalf. So that **whoever**—doesn’t matter what gender, doesn’t matter what race, doesn’t matter what nationality, doesn’t matter what color, doesn’t matter what geographical location, doesn’t matter what level of maturity, doesn’t matter what level of education. Doesn’t matter. **Whoever believes**. There’s a word the cults never use; they talk about working, earning, gaining. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*

Compare [Romans 1:14–16](#) to [Acts 1:6–8](#) and [4:23–31](#). How did Peter and John react when they were afraid to share the gospel? Who helped them? How did the early Christian community request His assistance?

God’s power saved us! God’s power can make us firm in our convictions, winsome in our approach, and bold in our efforts to lead others to Christ.



### **Application: Boldness to Share the Gospel!**

As you hear the Holy Spirit asking you to be eager and unashamed, you may wonder where to start. Begin by asking your Divine Helper for boldness and guidance. Take some time right now to make known your request to Him. As He brings to your mind the names of unbelievers, ask Him to soften their hearts to the good news and open doors of opportunity for you to speak.

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Boldly sharing the gospel requires total reliance on God's power and guidance. Think of some practical ways you can be intentional about telling others about Jesus. Also, note some ways you can remind yourself that God's power is at work while you're sharing the good news.

*I trust God. I trust Him to keep His word. I trust what He says about the Savior is true. I have no better message than this. Now then, I trust Him to do what I'm not able to do. And then I expect Him to take over. I expect Him, once I've trusted Him, to fulfill what He says He will do. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*



## A FINAL PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gospel, Your power to save everyone who believes. Help me realize that I have a debt, a debt to discharge. Make me eager. Make me bold, unashamed to point others to God's stairwell of escape: Jesus Christ. I rely on Your power to help me share the good news today. I ask You to do all these things in the Savior's blessed name. Amen.

## ENDNOTE

1. To learn more about Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, go to the web page, "[How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?](#)"

For the 2025 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study was developed by Mirlenda Noëlliste in collaboration with Aaron Massey, senior vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, and Bryce Klabunde, vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages. Copyright © 2006, 2025 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

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