

Getting a Jump on 2014

Week One The Centrality of the Gospel

“The gospel is not the first ‘step’ in a ‘stairway’ of truths, rather, it is more like the ‘hub’ in a ‘wheel’ of truth. The gospel is not just the A-B-C’s but the A to Z of Christianity. The gospel is not just the minimum required doctrine necessary to enter the kingdom, but the way we make all progress in the kingdom.”

Tim Keller

What do you think?

Romans 1:15-17 "Thus, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. 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. 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.*"

I. To whom is Paul eager to preach?

a. To the people of Rome

What do verses 13-14 tell us about Paul?

What do they tell us about his desired audience?

b. To the church of Rome

What does verse 7 tell us about his audience?

What does verse 8 tell us about his audience?

What do verses 11 and 12 tell us about his audience?

II. What is the content of His preaching?

a. In a word: the Gospel

What does "gospel" mean?

Could you sum up the gospel in a word?

b. In a long letter: the Gospel

What is the subject of Romans?

At what point does Paul change topics?

Why should the content of Paul's preaching in light of his audience matter to you?

III. Why is he eager to preach it?

a. It is the power of God for justification

What is justification?

Is it the same as pardon?

b. It is the power of God for sanctification

What is sanctification?

How does it take place?
(Cf. Galatians 3:1-3)

What does it mean to "live by faith"?

How does this matter for 2014?