



## Romans 1:16-17

Following Jesus Together Through Faith | February 2<sup>nd</sup> - February 8<sup>th</sup>

**Warm-up:** This Sunday marked the beginning of a new chapter in the life of The Shoreline Church. Share your experience from this past Sunday's inaugural worship service. Was there anything specific you felt the Lord speaking to you?

- Read **Romans 1:13-17** aloud. This passage places great emphasis on the nature of the gospel, here referred to as the "Good News."
  - What does the final verse mean when it says that a righteous person has life through faith? What does this faith look like?
  - George shared some dangers of treating the faith as synonymous with the word *belief*. What makes our faith in Christ so much more than belief?
  
- It is one thing to have faith in a tight-roper's own ability to walk across two skyscrapers, but it is much more difficult for you to find the courage to climb upon his back as he makes his way across. You would literally be betting your life upon his ability and word.
  - In what ways does the word *trust* more fully embody what faith in Christ really is? In what ways does trust manifest itself in human relationships?
  - Do you *trust* Christ fully? Explain the nature of your trust. Can anyone share an experience of gaining this sort of trust?
  
- Have one person read **Romans 8:1-4** and another read **2 Corinthians 5:21**. These two passages discuss first that our sins are forgiven, and also that positive righteousness is given for us.
  - Can you live with *complete* confidence that you will be redeemed by Christ and live eternally with him in heaven? Why or why not?
  
- During a marriage ceremony the bride and groom are married as soon as the minister declares them, "husband and wife." They themselves are *relatively* passive. In the same way we are made righteous in the moment that we accept Christ and are justified and sealed by the Holy Spirit.
  - What is the significance of the immediacy of our justification?
  - Do you truly believe you are justified and made righteous by Christ? What exactly does this mean to you?

**Wrap-up:** Paul declares that he is unashamed of the gospel. He had complete faith in God's message and an overwhelming desire to share it. As a group, pray for opportunities to do share God's word throughout your spheres of influence in the coming weeks as we continue through our study of Romans.