

How the Gospel is Like a 'Smart Phone'

Last week at our Sunday morning study, we were looking at Romans Chapter 1. You will recall that the Apostle Paul was telling these believers that He longed to come to them and impart some spiritual gift to them. In other words, He wanted to tell them what they actually had in their relationship with the Lord Jesus. About that time, I mentioned that the "gospel" is kind of like owning a "smart phone."

Now before I get too far along, I must confess that it is my wife who owns the phone. I have trouble just turning it on. She on the other hand knows a great deal about her phone. For example, if we are out and about and need directions to the nearest Walmart her phone will not only tell us where it is, but will direct us to its location. In addition, if we are having a discussion of the meaning of a word, it will tell us what it means. We can listen to the score of a ball game (we are big A&M fans), or read the headlines of our favorite newspaper. This phone is amazing. There seems to be no end to what it will do.

Well isn't that what the Apostle Paul was doing when He said in verse 13 of chapter one that He wanted to "have some fruit among you." In other words, He wanted to tell them what they already had because of their relationship with the Lord Jesus. He says in verse 15 and following "so as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes. For the Jew first and also for the gentiles"

In other words, there is more to this "gospel" than just "going to heaven when you die." He was talking to *justified* believers. His desire was to tell them what was theirs because of their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. It was kind of like my wife Sally, telling our group exactly what her phone could do in addition to answering and receiving phone calls. What Paul was explaining in verse 16 was that "salvation" to these believers was much more than just going to heaven. As you study the word salvation, you will note that it means; preservation, safety, healing, wholeness, soundness and on you go with it. Paul wouldn't be going to these believers that were already on their way to heaven and telling them that they were going to heaven. He wanted to impart to them what they contained today in their relationship with the Lord Jesus.

Well from there, we had fun with this whole idea. Ann said; "wow, the more you know about this phone, the more you want to tell others about it." Weaver said; "that thing is amazing" and Chris said; "I see the correlation here. The good news of Jesus Christ is so much more than just "answering the phone" it is actually a new life we have entered into and like Sally's phone, offers so much more to the believer than just going to heaven." From there everyone got into the act. Larry said; the message of the gospel is all positive. It is not a list of "do's and don'ts, and like this phone, it is unlimited in its ability to bring pleasure to the owner.

Well needless to say that I was so pleased at these students. My buttons were busting as I heard them relate the gospel of Jesus Christ and its benefit to all who believe, in the same manner that this smart phone is to everyone who owns one.

Paul had told these Roman believers that their faith was known throughout the whole world in verse 8. In other words, everyone had heard about their relationship to the Lord Jesus. He had referred to these folks as saints in verse 7, so we know that they were already saved (justified). His desire to impart something to them was actually telling them what they now had because of their relationship with Him.

It was like my wife telling us all, exactly what her new phone could do. I must admit after hearing all this phone could do, I needed to spend more time with it because I felt I was missing out. Are you missing out because you are not aware of all that Jesus has done for you?