

# The Obedience of Faith

Lesson 1

October 6

Romans 1:1-17

Galatians 1:6-9

We're calling this study of the letters of the apostle Paul to the saints in Rome and the churches of Galatia "The God-Shaped Obedience of Faith." What does it mean to be "shaped" by God?

Consider what Paul wrote in **Romans 9:20-21**:

But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" Has the potter no right over the clay...?

Throughout this study, that's the way we're being taught to think of God, as the shaper of the best and what matters most in our lives. So what is that? How does he do it? Let's allow Paul to tell us...

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God...

(**Rom 1:1**)

Listen to how he describes this gospel:

So 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 for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." (**Rom 1:15-17**)

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. (**Gal 1:6-9**)

God has given us the gospel of Jesus Christ, his power for salvation to everyone who believes. The apostle Paul had "received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations" (**Rom 1:5**). In fact, "the obedience of faith" is how Paul's letter to the Romans begins and ends (**16:26**). This was his mission—to bring about the obedience of faith, because "the righteous shall live by faith" (**1:17**). So let's talk about it...



## For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's think about the important principle revealed in **Romans 9:20-21**. If God is the potter and we are the clay...
  
- When Paul describes himself as “a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God” (**Rom 1:1**), what does he mean by that? What are we meant to understand?
  
- Notice how he describes the gospel in **Romans 1:2-4**. What stands out to you from those phrases? What does the gospel involve? What is it all about?
  
- Paul used some very strong language in **Galatians 1:6-9**. Why do you think that is?
  
- Why would it even be necessary for someone to say, “I am not ashamed of the gospel” (**Rom 1:16**)?
  
- Let's think about this important phrase, “the obedience of faith.”
  - What's the power of using that phrase as “bookends” from the beginning to the end of the letter to the Romans?
  
  - What does this phrase teach us about the nature of faith? And obedience?
  
  - In **Romans 1:17**, Paul tells us that in the gospel, the righteousness of God is revealed “from faith for faith.” What does that mean?
  
  - Finally, he quotes **Habakkuk 2:4**, “The righteous shall live by faith.” In your own words, in view of what we've learned, what is it going to mean and look like to “live by faith” this week?