

**Romans 1:1** Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God--

- gospel : *eu-angelion* - good news; good announcement

**Romans 1:1-4** Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God-- <sup>2</sup> the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures <sup>3</sup> regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, <sup>4</sup> and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

- The gospel is primarily news about what Jesus has done, not advice on how to live.

**Romans 1:6-7** And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

- The gospel is primarily a status you receive now, not a reward you receive later.

**Romans 1:16-17** I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>17</sup> For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

**Matthew 16:15-18** "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

- Hope Value #1 **Jesus – It's all about Jesus.** We believe that Jesus plus nothing equals everything. The Church is his and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it. Since Christ is for us and with us, we are a fearless, risk taking, exponential thinking church. We refuse to insult God with timid thinking or selfish living. *Question: Do you live as if following Jesus is the best way to live and the only way to die?*