

The Gospel

Clarification In Confusing Times

Volume I

A Commentary on the Book of Romans by Paul M. Dohse Sr.

VOLUME I
ROMANS: CHAPTERS 1-8

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INTRODUCTION

Christian academia has failed the American church in the extreme. More than 200 years after supposed theological genius embodied in the Puritans arrived on our shores, and countless institutions of religious higher learning later, we dwell in churches full of doctrinally illiterate Christians. Few understand the difference between justification and sanctification (or have an understanding of what those words even mean), covenants, law, or hermeneutics. And the idea that God's word has the answers for life's most difficult problems is scarcely taken seriously.

It is not for lack of books, internet, conferences, or lofty big name teachers. Nor is it for lack of these things being consumed by professing Christians. That is certain, Christian consumerism is a multi-billion dollar industry, but yet, American Christians are woefully dumbed down at the hands of men and women who receive the undivided attention of the Christian masses on a daily basis. Obviously, the philosophy and mentality of Christian academia is seriously flawed—the results speak for themselves. In fact, among evangelicals, the debate still rages about what exactly the gospel is!

A Christian and lay pastor since 1983, events in my own life revealed how little I knew of the Bible that mattered. Six months ago, my wife (Susan) and I embarked on a journey. We started a church in our home and began studying in the book of Romans. Susan has been a Christian for fifty years, and I have been a Christian for nearly thirty, and we have learned more about God and His truth in the past six months than we have in our entire lives.

The messages I have prepared for our upstart church, the "Potter's House," now meeting on Sunday evenings for a fellowship meal and message, are prepared by interpreting the Bible with the Bible. This book is the transcripts from those messages. For the first time in our Christian lives Susan and I

understand the role of law in sanctification, and are gaining a deeper understanding of God's overall redemptive plan—especially regarding the covenants. Our ability to share the gospel has also been greatly enhanced.

We believe it very important to share what we have learned. Perhaps others can use it to lead Bible studies in their own homes as well. We hope it will encourage other lay people to study the Bible for themselves. This has been an incredibly freeing experience for Susan and me, and we wish to share the fruits of our studies with others.

Because only truth sanctifies (John 17:17),

Paul M. Dohse Sr.

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~ From the Introduction of *The Gospel: Clarification in Confusing Times*.

