

THE GOOD NEWS FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

Romans 1:14–17

Thanks to newscasts that flood the media, all of us are accustomed to bad news. We witness it every day of our lives. If it's news from abroad, it invariably includes reports of death and tragedy. If it's about life in America, we can count on one story after another to trouble our minds. News from the sports world turns our attention to some scandal involving an athlete or coach, bad news about a losing team, or a serious injury. Not even the weather report makes us smile! It quickly turns our minds toward a flood, a fire, a hurricane, a drought, or some other natural disaster. A day is usually "partly cloudy," never "mainly clear skies." Maybe this is why many of us find such delight in reading the Bible. While it doesn't skip past life's dark side or ignore painful realities, the Word of God offers hope beyond all this . . . reasons to go on in spite of disappointments and disease, headaches and heartaches, suffering, shame, and sin. Why? Because at the core of the message, when everything in life seems sad and bad, there is always the good news. And as we'll learn today—it's good news not for just a few special, select individuals, but for the whole world.

I. Paul's Testimony Regarding the Good News

Introduction

- "I am _____" (1:14)
- "I am _____" (1:15)
- "I am _____" (1:16)

II. Our Response to the Good News

Exposition

- We have been _____ (1:14)
- We are _____ (1:15)
- We must be _____ (1:16)
- We now live _____ (1:17)

III. And So?

Application