



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: **Lexicon of Faith: A Fresh Look at Ancient Words – Gospel**

Speakers: **Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor**

Scripture: **Romans 1:1-17**

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life^[a] was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power^[b] by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from^[c] faith for his name's sake. ⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷ To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. ⁹ God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you ¹⁰ in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.

¹¹ I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— ¹² that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. ¹³ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,^[d] that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles.

¹⁴ I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. ¹⁵ That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last,^[e] just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."^[f] (NIV)

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, we will start a new summer sermon series entitled, Lexicon of Faith. We will explore 8 popular Bible words that many people have misunderstood or misused. Pastor Rich will kick off our series focusing on the word, **Gospel**. If we get the gospel wrong, we'll get many other things wrong as well.

Sermon Questions:

1. Share a time when you realized you were incorrectly using or understanding a word or saying.
2. Rich defined the gospel as "the good news that God's kingdom has come near in Jesus Christ, and through his life, death, resurrection, and enthronement, Jesus is declared Lord, a new humanity is created, and the powers of sin & death no longer have the last word." What stands out about his definition? How does it compare to how you have heard it defined or would define it yourself?

3. The gospel is fundamentally about Jesus. He is our good news. How has your life been shaped by his good news?
4. Rich pointed out that the gospel establishes a new family. How have you seen the gospel break down walls of division and bring people together as one in Jesus Christ? How does this understanding of the gospel help you think more communally?
5. Romans 1:16-17 says “the righteous will live by faith.” Rich emphasized that the object of our faith should be the faithfulness of Christ and not our own ability to believe. How does this reinforce or reframe your understanding of what it means to live by faith?