

# I

## The Priority of the Gospel

### ROMANS 1:8–15

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

<sup>9</sup> For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you <sup>10</sup> always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.

<sup>11</sup> For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you — <sup>12</sup> that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. <sup>13</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. <sup>14</sup> I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

<sup>15</sup> So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

## READ | ROMANS 1:8–15

## THINK ABOUT

There is nothing more important in life than the Gospel. Paul had a heavy burden to take the message about Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection all over the world. One place he had not been yet (at the time of the writing of Romans) was Rome. He was excited about their faith and what God was already doing there, but he was eager to go and share as well.

Sharing the Gospel would allow Paul to:

1. Encourage the believers
2. Be encouraged as he enjoyed fellowship with them
3. Help those who were not followers of Christ to come to saving faith

Everyone needs the Gospel. We never grow past the need to hear, think about, share, and thank God for what He has done for us in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. We never outgrow the Gospel; as followers of Christ, we grow deeper in the Gospel.

## APPLY

How eager are you to share the Gospel with others? People all over the world need to hear about Jesus. Make a list of people in your family, at your school or work place, and in your neighborhood for whom you can pray. Think of how you might communicate with them! You might even write down the name of a place you would like to go on a missions trip.

## ASK

*If you were talking with another follower of Christ about the Gospel, what would you say?*

*If you were talking to someone who was not a follower of Christ about the Gospel, what would you say?*



## THE BIG IDEA

*Paul shows genuine care for people he had not previously met and for the work of God in a city he had not previously visited. He shows love for the people, interest in their growth in Christ, and gives priority to the proclamation of the Gospel to Jews and Gentiles alike.*

## KEY POINTS

He was thankful for them and their faith in Christ (v. 8).

He prayed for them (vv. 9–10a).

He committed his desired trip to Rome to God's will (v. 10b).

He desired to impart spiritual food and to share in each other's faith (vv. 11–12).

He revealed his ministry intentions among Jews and Gentiles (vv. 13–15).

## LIFE APPLICATION

Believers must make prayer a priority in their lives.

Believers must keep their hearts pliable to God's will.

Growing believers take steps to facilitate the spiritual growth of others.

Our passion for prayer must extend beyond those we know to include others we do not know—for example missionaries serving further afield.

## DISCUSSION

What is intercessory prayer? For whom are you interceding?

Do you agonize in prayer for those beyond your immediate circle of relationships?

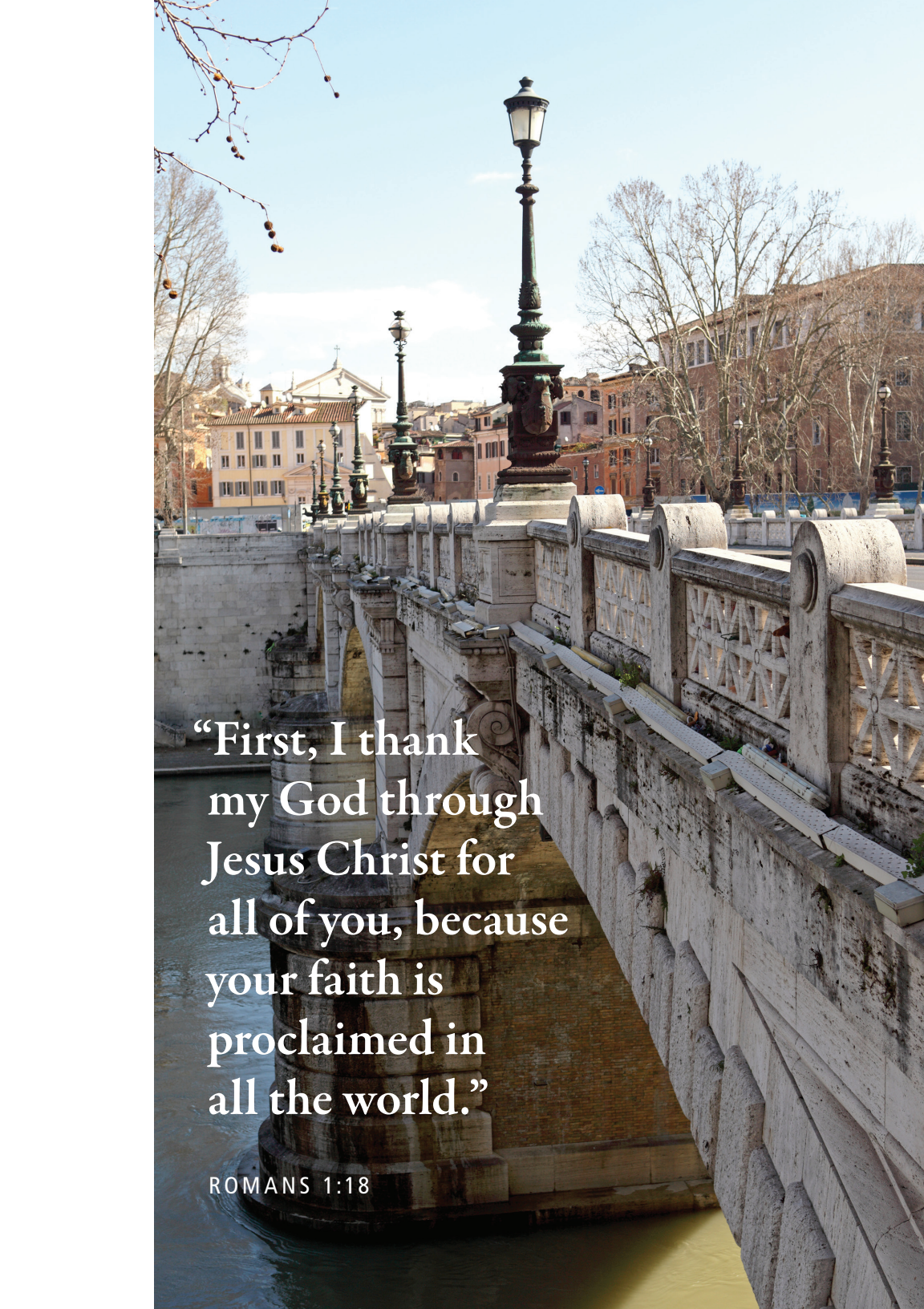
Do you have a desire to see the lost saved?

What are you doing to lead the unsaved to faith in Christ?

**“THE PRIORITY OF THE GOSPEL”**

Romans 1:8-15

A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.

A scenic view of a stone bridge over a river in Rome. The bridge features ornate street lamps and classical architecture. The water is calm, and the sky is clear. The bridge has a decorative railing with a lattice pattern. In the background, there are buildings and trees. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

“First, I thank  
my God through  
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ROMANS 1:18