

The Bookends of Romans

(Romans 1:5; 16:26)

- Introduction:
1. If you have ever written a letter, you've probably spent time in the initial greeting and the closing saying the same things.
 2. These opening and closing remarks often give away the gist of the letter.
 3. Such is the case with the book of Romans.
 4. By looking at the first chapter and last chapter of Romans, we see an important theme that must not be forgotten today.
 5. The irony of this theme is that the book of Romans is a book that is often misused to suggest we need only "believe" in Jesus to be saved.
 6. But as you will see, it's not just "faith" that is stressed in this book, but rather the "obedience of faith."

I. The Bookends of Romans

- A. (Romans 1:5).
- B. (Romans 16:26).
- C. The book begins and ends with the declaration that the purpose of preaching and prophecy was to bring about the "obedience of faith."

II. The Passages In-Between

- A. (Romans 2:8).
 1. The truth is not to just be believed, but to be obeyed.
 2. Likewise, consider that unrighteousness is not just rebellion from God, but it is obedience to Satan.
- B. (Romans 6:15-17).
 1. Paul makes it clear that the grace of God obligates us to live holy lives.
 2. Who we obey, not just believe, indicates whose servants we are.
- C. (Romans 10:13-17).
 1. The gospel is not just something in which we are to believe, but something to which we must obey.
 2. Our lack of obedience can betray our belief.

- Conclusion:
1. To say that the book of Romans is one of the great books about faith in all the Bible is only half right.
 2. The book of Romans is about our obedience of faith.
 3. Friends, we cannot be justified by a faith that doesn't obey.
 4. Our words, our actions, our attitudes, our lives, must be consistent with the faith we profess.