

SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

# SUNDAY SERMON

**THE HEART OF**

Romans 1:1-6; 16-17

*Paul*

**by Pr Robin Liew**

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A photograph showing a pair of hands, palms up, holding a row of wooden letter blocks that spell out the word "GOSPEL". The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with the fingers slightly curled around the blocks. The background is a warm, textured brown surface. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the skin and the wood of the blocks.

**GOSPEL**

# Description:

The cathedral of the  
Christian faith.



The great Himalayas range. Romans 8 is Mount Everest.



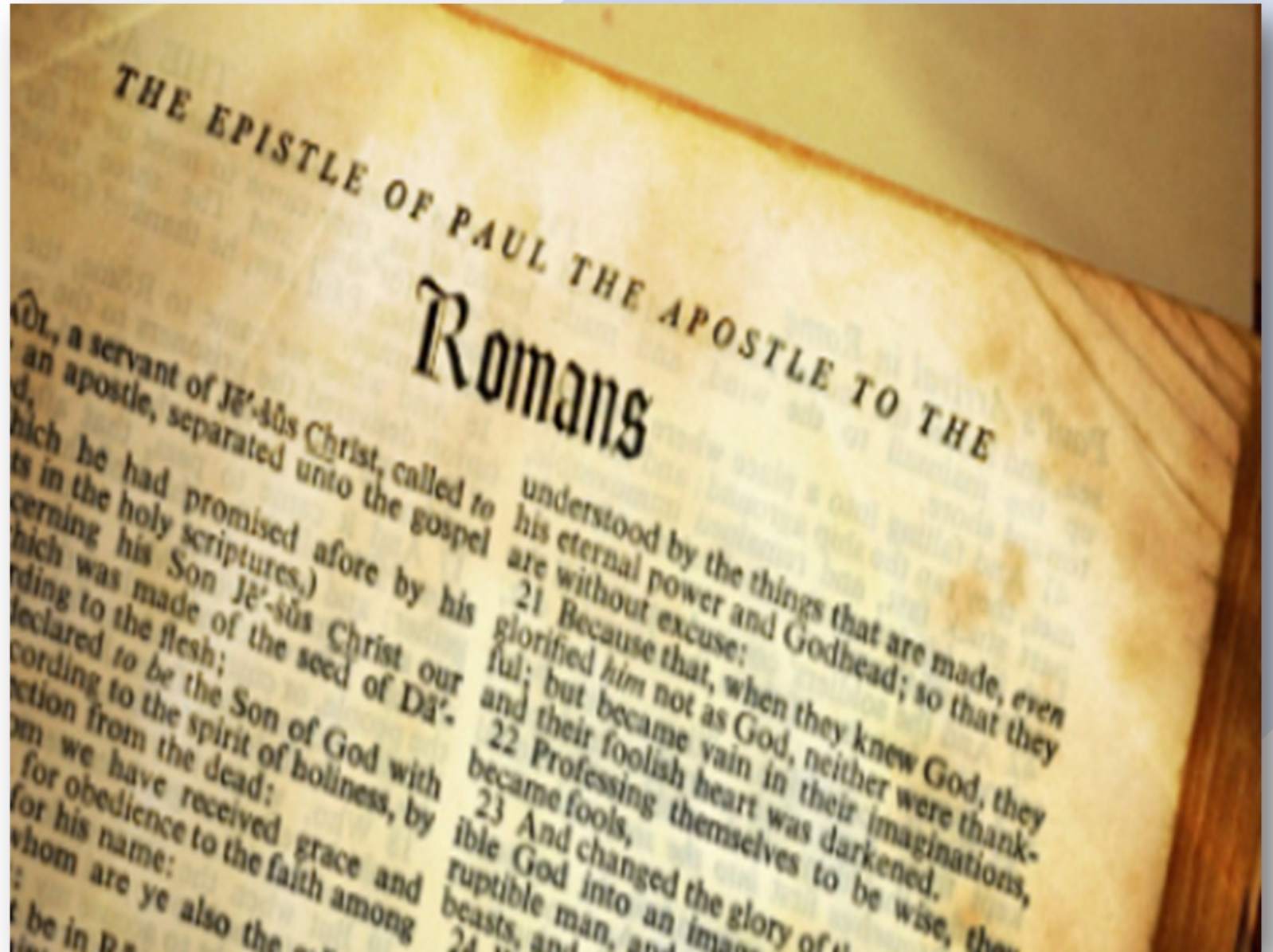


*I felt I did trust in Christ,  
Christ alone, for salvation;  
and an assurance was given  
me that He had taken away  
my sins, even mine, and  
saved me from the law of sin  
and death.*

*- John Wesley, 24 May 1738*

# Why was the epistle to the Romans written?

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epistle to the  
Romans written?



# 1. Introduce himself, inform of his impending visit and to strengthen, encourage the Roman Christians

10 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.**

## Romans 1: 10-12

# 1. Introduce himself, inform of his impending visit and to strengthen, encourage the Roman Christians

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 was a descendant of David, 4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by His resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Romans 1: 1-5

# REDISCOVER

## JESUS is LORD (Christo-Centricity)

- ❖ Identity
- ❖ Purpose
- ❖ Mission

## 2. Support to Spain (Romans 15:19-24)



from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. (v.19)

to preach the gospel where Christ was not known (v.20)

But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions (v.23)



# Paul's heart....

25 Now to Him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past,

26 but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God,

**so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith -**

27 to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen. **Romans 16: 25-27**

### 3. To appeal for unity amongst the Jewish and Gentile Christians

a. Salvation narrative is embedded in Israel's history **(Romans 1:1-5)** Through Israel (God's elect) God's salvation will be extended to all nations.

b. Where Adam, Israel failed. God did it in Jesus Christ through faith (to believe and obey) like that of Abraham's faith. Jesus Christ our Lord now brings both Jew and Gentile together as His restored and renewed Israel through faith to image God and be mediators of the covenant promise. **(Romans 4, 9-11)**

### 3. To appeal for unity amongst the Jewish and Gentile Christians



[18](#) do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.

[20](#) But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble.

[21](#) For if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you either. Romans 11:11-24

# Key verse:

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, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

## Romans 1:16-17

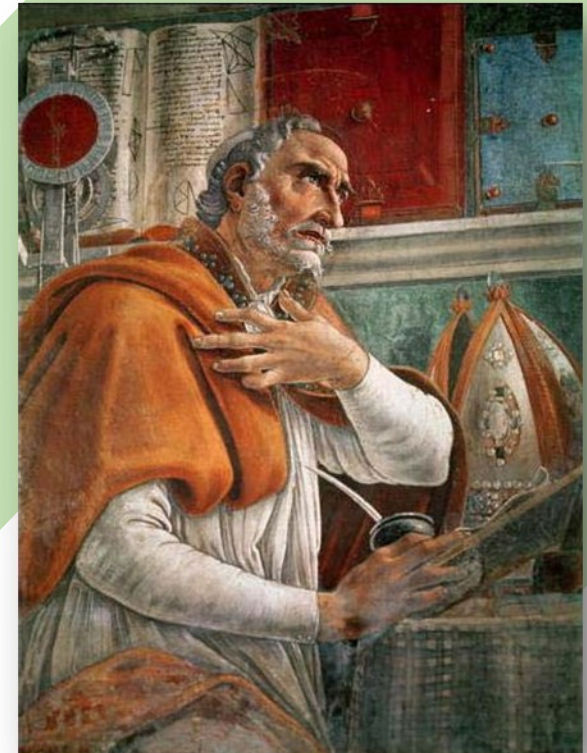
### 3. To appeal for unity amongst the Jewish and Gentile Christians

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification **(Romans 14:19)**.

Ref Ephesians 4:32 and 1 Peter 4:8

**In essentials, unity;  
in non-essentials, liberty;  
in all things, charity**

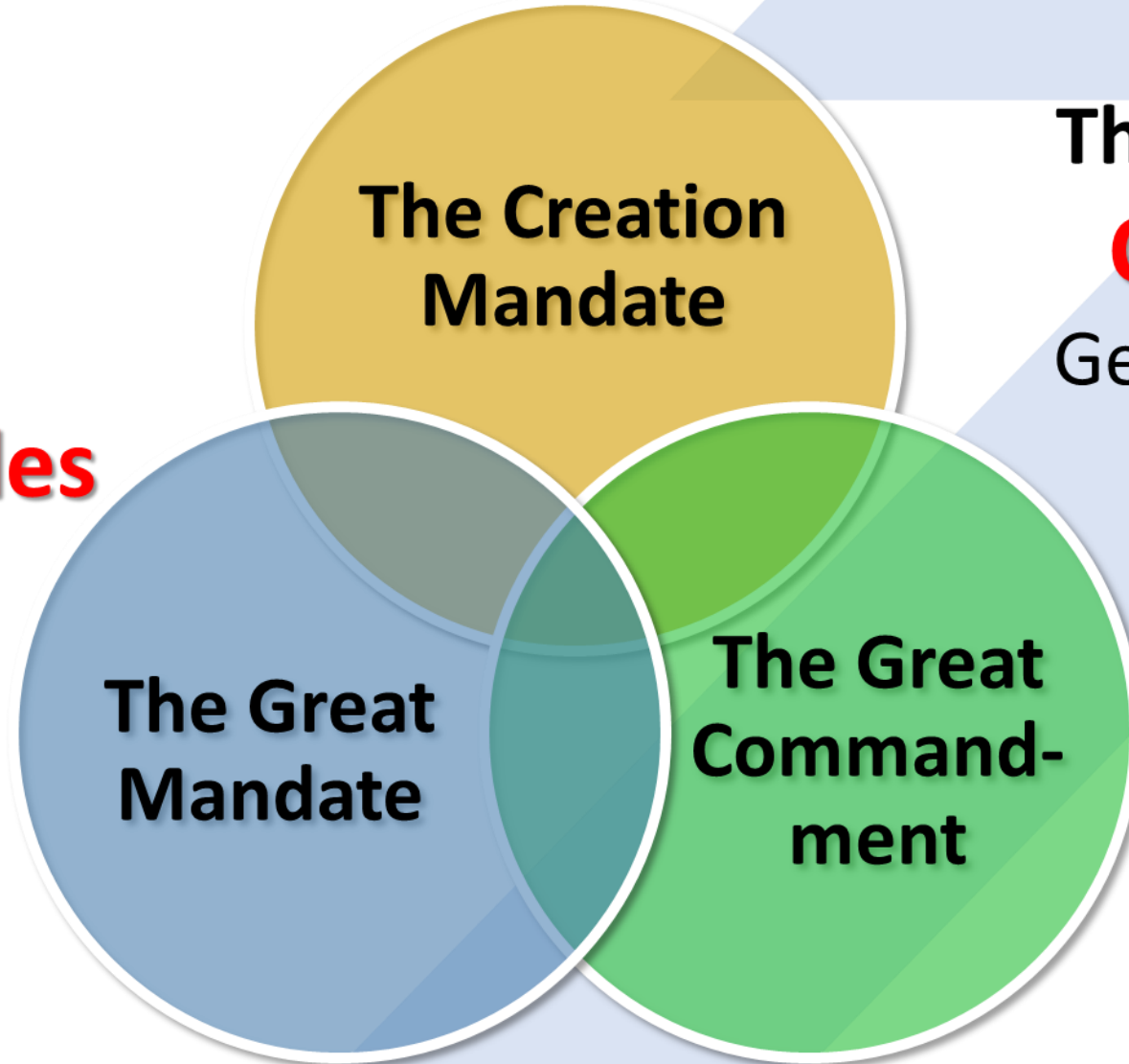
*- St Augustine of Hippo (354-430)*



# *Love* God. *Love* People. *Make* Disciples.

**The Call to  
Make Disciples**

Matthew  
28:18-20



**The Call to  
Create**  
Genesis 1-2

**The Call to  
Love**  
Mark 12:29-31