**“Rock Solid & Bold”**

Going deeper in Romans 1:8-17

**INTRODUCTION** – The Apostle Paul has longed to visit the church in Rome. He shares that desire with them and gives them an introduction to what is in the rest of this letter to them.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 8 First of all, I thank God through Jesus Christ for all of you. People all over are telling me about your faith. 9 And the God whom I love and serve in my spirit by spreading the good news of the Son is my witness that I am constantly bringing you up in my prayers. 10 And I pray that now, at last, I, by the will of God, may come to you. 11 The longer I wait the deeper my desire to see you. I want to be there to deliver God’s gift so I can watch you grow rock solid in your faith 12 so that you and I can be encouraged together by one another’s faith. 13 I don’t want you to misunderstand my failure to visit, my brothers and sisters. You can’t imagine how often I planned to come to you (and have been prevented until now) that I might know the joy of seeing God’s work among you, as I have seen in so many non-Jewish towns and communities. 14 These kinds of experiences only deepen my sense of interdependence and my commitment to work for God’s glory with gentiles and all others, whether wise or simple. 15 That is why I can’t wait to get to you in Rome to proclaim the wonderful good news of God. 16 I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God to rescue everyone who believes, starting with the Jews and then right on to everyone else. 17 For in it is a righteousness of God that is by faith from the first to the last (or from faith to faith), just as it is written, “The just will live by faith (Hab. 2:4).”

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. Have you ever been thankful for people you never actually met? Who are people in your journey of faith apart from family members that you are thankful for? Have you told God about it? Have you told them?

2. How has the apostle Paul expressed his love for God according to verse 9?

3. Who are the people you want to invest in so that their faith might become rock solid?

4. Why do you think the Apostle Paul says, “I am not ashamed of the gospel” rather than saying “I am proud of the gospel?”

5. Why was Paul so bold about his faith? When have you been in a situation where you left out sharing your story that you regretted later?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Ask the Spirit of God to open your heart and mind to whatever He wants to teach you in this study of Romans in the weeks to come.

\*Thank the Lord for those He brought into your life who were like the Apostle Paul for you.

\*Ask the Spirit of God to fill you so you can be bold in your life with Jesus this week.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The Lord Jesus is the triune God’s rescue plan for individuals, our relationships, and for all of creation. The Apostle Paul is convinced of this and chooses to live boldly making others rock solid in their faith. Will you live with this kind of bold, rock solid kind of faith this week?