

A REPRESENTATIONAL STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ROMANS

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THE GOSPEL: ETERNAL PREFIX TO THE HUMAN CONDITION

(ROMANS 1:8-17)

INTRODUCTION AND TERMINOLOGY

The thematic shows that the human condition--which the book of Romans succinctly identifies as in need of salvation--is operated upon by the eternal prefix to the eternal condition--the gospel. That is conveyed through the prefixed mind of Paul, who devoted himself with his "whole heart" to the preaching of the gospel; and through the church, whose faith was "reported all over the world."

The object of this prefixed mind's influence on the human condition are minds in the temporal context. "Mind" here indicates a spiritual entity. In the scriptural passage under discussion here, we can see that the temporal context is not that which has the major influence of degrading the mind; but the most destruction is wrought through a condition we might refer to as being "unprefixed"--by the mind of God/the gospel.

"Preaching," "faith," and "church" are all textual indications of this idea of a prefix within the passage under study. Such a prefix can shape time and space (by opening up avenues otherwise blocked--v. 10; by preventing certain things--v. 13.)

Prefixed language is formed when eternal prefixes subsume human language through the two avenues previously seen in Romans 1: revelation (Paul wasn't ashamed of the Gospel) and power (righteousness revealed--an active agency of God. All of these are manifestations of the principle of extrusion we saw in the last lesson.

SCRIPTURE TEXT:

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you 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.

I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong--that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, 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.

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

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes; first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from 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 1:8-17

GENERALIZATIONS DERIVED FROM THE FIRST THEMATIC AND FROM THE TEXT:

Christians must embody in a visible way the extrusion of God into the world where minds and souls are at stake. We are unable to live without prefixes. In Genesis 3 when unprefixing minds were allowed free reign, the flood was necessary to wipe such from the earth. Similarly, the Tower of Babel shows the destruction of unprefixing minds.

For us, the human condition of unprefixing minds is the source of distortions, lies, worldly leadership, violence, sin and loss.

ELEMENTS OF THE SECOND THEMATIC:

This thematic shows a combining of the ideas of the 3-D model of reality with a depiction of how absolute symbols from the mind of God subsume the elements of the model. As both indices and prefixes, the linking elements provide prefixes, each for the level above it. Thus the Holy Spirit is prefix to revelation; revelation is prefix to faith; faith is prefix to the manipulation of symbols.

ELEMENTS OF THE THIRD THEMATIC:

This thematic shows the relationship between the eternal prefix and the mind of man, or human intelligence. It also indicates a distinction between the moralized mind, the doctrinalized mind, the ethics-driven mind--and a prefixed mind.

Because we are often baptized but not prefixed, we are unable to understand the symbols God provides for us because we do not read the Bible representationally.