

Morning Greeting  
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Good morning! I came to Christ in 1971. Even though I had been raised in church, the personal understanding of who Jesus is and what He had done was new to me and I couldn't wait to tell everyone. It was an exciting time to be alive. The US was going through a time of significant social upheaval; the war was winding down in Viet Nam. The "politics of change" were sweeping the country and in the midst of all of this change, the Holy Spirit was moving among young people. For us, Christianity was not an institution---it was a movement. I am reminded of this time when I read today's passage; let's read it together...twice:

And that's why I can't wait to get to you in Rome, preaching this wonderful good news of God.  
Rom. 1:15 TM

So I am eager to come to you in Rome, too, to preach the Good News. 1:15 NLT

I like this passage because it is such a great reminder that the Gospel is news, not systematic theology. Paul uses language like "I can't wait" and "I am eager to come to you...to preach the good news." We have some really good news and we should be eager to share it! I'll give you an example: In 1972, my friend Jim Newsom killed his best friend in a drug deal that went bad. When he went to the wake the next night, a girl he knew shared this passage from Matthew 11:28: "Come to me all you who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest." Jim gave his life to Christ that night and turned himself in the next day. While he was in the local jail for two months awaiting sentencing, he led 29 of the 31 inmates there to Christ! Jim didn't know any theology. He didn't know "The Four Spiritual Laws" or "The Roman Road". He knew Jesus had lifted his burden and he shared out of how the Bible applied to his own experience. It is interesting to note that the Greek word translated "preach" here isn't *kerusso*, which means to proclaim publicly, but *euaggelizo*, which means to share good news. We are not called to tell some complicated biblical theology but to tell our *euaggelizo*, our story of what God has done in our lives. This was so powerfully true in Paul's life that he actually referred to the Gospel in several places (Romans 2:16 and 2 Tim. 2:8) as "my Gospel". Do you have a "my Gospel"? Sure you do! When you share your story, your *euaggelizo*, it releases the power to change lives into the lives of those around you. This morning, take time to consider: how has living life with Jesus shaped your life? How can you share that with others?