

The Porch Light Was Already On

Romans 1:1–17

TAKE-HOME GUIDE · SHARE THIS PAGE

Big idea: God's welcome is lit before you ever clean up. The good news comes first.

Settle In

- Where's a place — or a person — you've felt truly welcome, before you'd done anything to earn it?
- When you hear the words “good news,” is the gospel actually good news to you? Be honest.

Lean In

Read Romans 1:1–17 together in your translation, then talk it through:

- Paul calls people he's never met “loved by God” and “saints” (1:7). What would shift if you believed God saw you that way today, exactly as you are?
- Notice the order: Paul opens with grace and belonging and doesn't mention sin until verse 18. Why do you think the good news comes first?
- Paul says he's “not ashamed of the gospel” (1:16). What makes people hesitant or embarrassed about faith — and what do you think gave Paul his nerve?
- Sit on one word in verse 16: *everyone*. Who do you tend to leave off that list — including, maybe, yourself?

Carry It Home

- **Reflect:** Is there a part of you that believes you have to clean up before you can come home to God? Where did that belief come from?
- **Practice:** Leave a light on this week — a porch light, a lamp in the window. Every time you see it, say quietly: “I’m invited before I’m fixed.”

A VERSE TO SIT WITH

Romans 1:16

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord, the light was on before I knocked. Help me believe the welcome is real — and help me leave it on for someone else. Amen.

No matter the distance, you're not alone. The porch light's on, and there's always room on the porch.