

# Romans 1:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

## Analysis

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**First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.**

Paul's thanksgiving establishes relational warmth before theological instruction. *Prōton men eucharistō tō theō mou* (πρῶτον μὲν εὐχαριστῶ τῷ θεῷ μου, 'first, I thank my God') shows Paul's habitual gratitude and personal relationship with God. The phrase *dia Iēsou Christou* (διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, 'through Jesus Christ') indicates that access to God is mediated by Christ alone (John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5). Prayer and thanksgiving flow through our High Priest and Mediator.

*Peri pantōn humōn* (περὶ πάντων ὑμῶν, 'for all of you') is inclusive—Paul thanks God for every believer, not just leaders or mature Christians. The content of thanksgiving is *hoti hē pistis humōn katangelletai en holō tō kosmō* (ὅτι ἡ πίστις ὑμῶν καταγγέλλεται ἐν ὅλῳ τῷ κόσμῳ, 'that your faith is proclaimed throughout the whole world'). The verb *katangelletai* (proclaimed/announced) is passive—their faith had become news that spread widely. *En holō tō kosmō* (throughout the whole world) is hyperbolic but reflects Rome's centrality; news from the capital traveled via trade routes and imperial communications to all corners of the empire. Their faith was visible, public, and exemplary.

## Historical Context

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By 57 AD, Christianity had spread throughout major urban centers of the Roman Empire. Believers in Rome, despite persecution, maintained faithful witness. When Paul wrote, Nero's reign (54-68 AD) had not yet turned violently against Christians (the Great Fire and subsequent persecution came in 64 AD). Nevertheless, professing Christ in pagan Rome required courage, as the religion was viewed with suspicion by authorities and the populace alike.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean to thank God 'through Jesus Christ' (διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ) for blessings, and how does this differ from generic gratitude?
2. If your faith were 'proclaimed' publicly among your community, would it be known for authenticity, love, courage, or something else?
3. How can you cultivate a habit of thanksgiving for other believers, even those you disagree with or find difficult?

## Interlinear Text

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Πρῶτον	μὲν	εὐχαριστῶ	τῷ	θεῷ	μου	διὰ	Ἰησοῦ
<b>First</b>	G3303	<b>I thank</b>	G3588	<b>God</b>	<b>my</b>	<b>through</b>	<b>Jesus</b>
G4412		G2168		G2316	G3450	G1223	G2424
Χριστοῦ	ὑπὲρ	πάντων	ὑμῶν	ὅτι	ἡ	πίστις	ὑμῶν
<b>Christ</b>	<b>for</b>	<b>all</b>	<b>you</b>	<b>that</b>	G3588	<b>faith</b>	<b>you</b>
G5547	G5228	G3956	G5216	G3754		G4102	G5216
καταγγέλλεται	ἐν	ὅλῳ	τῷ	κόσμῳ			
<b>is spoken</b>	<b>of throughout</b>	<b>the whole</b>	G3588	<b>world</b>			
G2605	G1722	G3650		G2889			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Romans 16:19** (Parallel theme): For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.

**1 Corinthians 1:4** (References Jesus): I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

**Romans 6:17** (References God): But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

**Ephesians 1:15** (Faith): Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

**1 Peter 2:5** (References Jesus): Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

**1 Peter 4:11** (References Jesus): If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

**Hebrews 13:15** (References God): By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

**Colossians 1:3** (References Jesus): We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

**Philippians 1:3** (References God): I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

**Ephesians 5:20** (References Jesus): Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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