**Scripture:  Read Romans 1:8-17**

**Title: How’s your relationship going?**

How is your relationship with God?  How does it reflect in your relationship with others?  This passage reveals that the ultimate driving force in the life of St. Paul is his relationship with God.  It is through his faith relationship with God that he relates to all others and understands his life experiences.  This is clear in that he:

* expresses his gratitude *to*God (not the church) for the faith and growth of the church in Rome (v.8)
* constantly mentions and thinks of the church in the context of his prayers (v.9,10)
* subjects his own plans and desires to the will of God (v.10)
* considers them as brothers or family (Gk. *delphus/adelphos*meaningwomb/much like a brother) despite the fact he has never seen them or personally know them (v.13)

His relationship is further boldly defined not by a transient hope or tangible reward but, by the gospel of Jesus Christ which he understands as the very power of God.  Power, because it has the potential to free all humanity from the clutches of death through faith in Christ.  That is how the “righteous will live by faith” (v.17).

Often times we wrongly base many of our relationships on our own self interests, preferences and conveniences.  We may also tend to segregate our relationship with others from our relationship with God.  Yet, the Scripture reminds us that our faith relationship with God must be the focal point in all our relationships and the eyes through which we view life itself.  This experience of faith will not only reform our lives, attitudes and perspectives but, all those around us towards God.  So, no more delays…let’s get our relationship with God straight!