

Rooting Through Romans Pt 2 Romans 1:1-7, Paul's Greeting

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney at Porchlight Baptist Church, 10/28/2020

Romans 1:1-7

- 1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,
- 2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)
- 3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;
- 4 And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:
- 5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:
- 6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:
- 7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We pick back up in our studies where we left off last time, Lord willing we will look at these first seven verses. We thoroughly covered verse 1 last time so we will not spend much time on it, however we do need to include it in what we are talking about to keep everything in proper context.

- 1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

We established last time that this is the WHO of Romans. Paul the Apostle, also known by his Jewish name Saul of Tarsus. As we studied, Paul was called to be an Apostle by the Lord himself. He was unlike the disciples that walked with Jesus daily and were later called Apostles. As you know Paul's earlier life was spent trying to rid the world of Christians and to stamp out the name of Jesus if he possibly could. That is why he said in **1 Corinthians 15:9** *For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.*

Keep in mind that the Church at Rome was not a Paul planted Church. He had planted several churches during his missionary journeys such as; Philippi, Ephesus, Galatia, Colossae and many others. And though there were most likely converts in Rome that were a by-product of Paul's preaching, many of them may not have known who he was. Therefore, Paul wanted to establish the fact that he was indeed a "called Apostle." Paul had to defend his Apostleship numerous times throughout his life.

After Paul was saved, his only mission or goal in life was to preach the Gospel. He says that he was "*separated unto the gospel of God.*" The word "**separated**" that is used here means "**appointed to,**" or "**set apart for a purpose.**"

In Paul's letter to the Churches of Galatia, he wrote that that God separated him to preach the gospel before he was even born: **Galatians 1:15-16** *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, 16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:*

A lot of people go through life not knowing what their purpose is and they fritter away years searching, but Paul knew as soon as he was saved what his purpose was.

- 2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)

Now, we get to verse 2 which is in parenthesis. Whenever you see words or verses in parentheses in your King James Bible, it means the KJV translators identified a

thought within a thought. So, it is possible to read the surrounding verse or verses without the words or verses that are in the parentheses and it will still make sense.

In verse 2 Paul is stating the fact that God had promised that he would send his Son even in the old days of the Prophets and the holy scriptures, meaning the Old Testament.

This is how Paul often was able to convince someone of the truth of Christ by showing them from their own Scriptures how the Messiah was promised. He could take them back to such passages as:

Genesis 3:15 *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

Isaiah 7:14 *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

Isaiah 11:1 *And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:*

All of Isaiah chapter 53

Zechariah 9:9 *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.*

Zechariah 12:10 *And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

And we could go on and on with the OT Messianic prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus. It is the same thing that Stephen did in Acts 7 when he spoke before the council that stoned him. He took them all the way through their Old Testament proving that Christ fulfilled everything that was written and they didn't want to hear it – so they killed him.

- 3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

Verse three is much like verse two. It is Paul reiterating the fact that God sent his Son, Jesus, who – oh by the way "*was the seed of David according to the flesh.*" In other words, Jesus fulfilled the requirement of the Messiah being from the royal bloodline of King David. He fulfilled it both through his mother and the father that raised him. Jesus could trace his bloodline all the way back to the throne of David through both parents.

- 4 And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Paul isn't wasting any time in this letter. He immediately starts diving into some pretty heavy doctrine. He mentions Jesus' **resurrection**. The resurrection is fundamental in the Christian faith. Without it, we have no faith, we have no Christianity.

Listen to how Paul explained the importance of the resurrection to the Church at Corinth: **1 Corinthians 15:12-22**

12 *Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?*

13 *But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:*

14 *And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.*

15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.
16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:
17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith *is* vain; ye are yet in your sins.
18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.
19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.
20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.
21 For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.
22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

The resurrection of Christ was so fundamentally important to Paul that he mentioned it several times in his writings. He said this to the Church at Philippi: **Philippians 3:10-11** That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

He warns his young son in the faith, Timothy, that improper teaching about the resurrection will damage the faith of some people: **2 Timothy 2:16-18** But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. 17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; 18 Who concerning the truth have erred, **saying that the resurrection is past already;** and overthrow the faith of some.

And, of course, it should go without saying, but in Paul's description of what the Gospel is, he makes sure and mentions the resurrection of Jesus from the dead: **1 Corinthians 15:1-4** Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, **and that he rose again** the third day according to the scriptures:

He "**rose again**" is another way of saying "**resurrection.**" It is fundamental to our faith and the Gospel message.

5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

Paul uses that word **grace**. You often hear that the Apostle John was the Apostle of Love, well, Paul is known as **the Apostle of Grace**. Grace is another running theme throughout the Book of Romans, and he mentions it 24 different times in this letter alone. If you examine all of Paul's letters, you will find that he mentions grace 99 times altogether.

If anyone knew about God's grace it was Paul, therefore, he made sure to place it in the forefront every time he preached the Gospel.

Then Paul mentions "**obedience to the faith.**" Being obedient to the faith was a sign of who was or wasn't a Christian. If you are a true Christian then you will be obedient to the faith.

Paul says over in Chapter **Romans 6:16-18**

16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?
17 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.
18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

So, if you belong to Christ then you will be obedient to him. If you belong to Satan then you will be obedient to him – it will show in how you live. What does the Bible say? **Matthew 7:20** Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Fruit is what is produced by a seed. If you have the seed of Christ in you then you will bear His fruit.

I know we all sin and fall short and from time to time some Christians will be backslidden and seem more like the world. However, they cannot remain that way. That is why I am skeptical of anyone that tells me that they got saved at such and such time in their life yet their lives never yielded the fruit of a Christian. They never demonstrated any obedience of the faith.

The truth is – there are going to be a lot of people that you and I know that will not be in Heaven because they have never truly been saved and the biggest indicator is whether or not they have ever been obedient to the faith.

6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

When he says "**the called,**" he isn't meaning those that are called to fill an office such as Apostle, Preacher, Pastor, Deacon, or Evangelist – it means those that have been called out of the darkness of sin and wickedness, into the glorious light of the Lord Jesus Christ and His righteousness. Salvation, being a Christian, is a calling out.

He says that we are called "**of Jesus Christ.**" If you are called of anything or anyone else then you are not saved. Salvation only comes through Jesus Christ.

In fact, look at our last verse – he mentions being called again:

7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Did you see that? "**Called to be saints.**" The opposite of a Saint is a Sinner.

The Roman Catholic religion believes that the Pope has to declare people as a Saint or not and it depends on whether you were martyred or whether there is evidence that you performed some miracle. It's a whole big drawn out process for them to declare someone a Saint.

I'm glad that I was declared a Saint immediately when I got saved! At 6-years old in 1972 I became a Saint. Now, that doesn't mean I've always lived a perfect life that people think a Saint ought to live, but thank God that it isn't based on MY righteousness but on HIS righteousness that I became a Saint.

So, as we've already said, it is being called out of the darkness of sin, into the light. Once you are saved you become a Saint. That is what Paul refers to saved people as - Saints.

Then he ends his greeting by using a very familiar phrase: **Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

This is typical of Paul's writings. Paul wrote 14 books of the Bible (if you believe that he wrote Hebrews, which I do) and of those 14 he uses this same phrase, or one very similar to it in 11 of the 14 books he penned down:

1. **Romans 1:7** To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. **2 Corinthians 1:2** Grace *be* to you and peace from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. [Galatians 1:3](#) Grace *be* to you and peace from God the Father, and *from* our Lord Jesus Christ,
4. [Ephesians 1:2](#) Grace *be* to you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. [Philippians 4:23](#) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.
6. [Colossians 1:2](#) To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. [1 Thessalonians 5:28](#) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.
8. [2 Thessalonians 3:18](#) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.
9. [Titus 3:15](#) All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace *be* with you all. Amen.
10. [Philemon 1:3](#) Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
11. [Hebrews 13:25](#) Grace *be* with you all. Amen.

So, as we have already mentioned, is very important to Paul, and it should be to us as well. May we show others as much grace as we expect them to show us.

We will end this study tonight and pick back up with verses 8-15 next time, Lord willing.