

Subject: *Separated unto the Gospel*

Scripture: *Romans 1:1-7*

The word “gospel” means good news. We live in a world of bad news and fake news. We need good news, especially the good news of the Gospel. From the very first words of this letter to the Romans we see Paul’s theme is the Gospel.

1. THE MESSENGER - Paul

Paul first identifies himself as a servant of Jesus Christ and one who is called to be an apostle. He was a bond-slave of Christ. He had for many years served sin and self, but when Christ saved him, he then had a new Lord and Master. Paul was also an apostle (one sent on a mission).

Paul was separated unto the gospel of God. What does that mean? By that Paul means two things:

A. Paul was separated by the gospel – his conversion to Christ

B. Paul was separated for the gospel – his call to ministry

Paul was separated before his conversion.

Galatians 1:15-16 ¹⁵ *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.*

Paul was separated at his conversion.

Acts 9:13-15 ¹³ *Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:* ¹⁴ *And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.* ¹⁵ *But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.*

Paul was separated after his conversion.

Acts 13:2 *As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.*

2. THE MESSAGE – the gospel of God

In verse 1, it is the gospel of God. This is good news from God, the source of gospel truth.

In verse 9 and 16, it is the gospel of His Son. There is only one true gospel, and that is the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel dominated Paul’s life and ministry.

In Philippians 1:5, Paul was thankful for their fellowship in the gospel.

In Philippians 1:12, Paul was concerned about the furtherance of the gospel.

In Philippians 1:17, Paul was set for the defense of the gospel.

In Galatians 1, Paul warns anyone who preaches any other gospel or tampers with the gospel.

In Romans 1:9, Paul said that he serves in the gospel.

In Romans 1:15, Paul is ready to preach gospel to the church at Rome.

In Romans 1:16, Paul was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ because it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, and it reveals the righteousness of God (vs. 17).

Why would Paul want to preach the gospel to the church at Rome? Weren't these people already saved? Yes, they were saved, but the gospel is for all people, believers as well as unbelievers. This is the gospel:

***1 Corinthians 15:3-4**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.*

Christ died for our sins. He died to save us from the penalty of sin (justification), to save us from the power of sin (sanctification), and from the presence of sin (glorification). All of that is the gospel of God, the good news of what He does for us in Christ.

In verses 2-7, Paul specifically mentions three important things about the gospel:

A. The gospel was promised in Old Testament scripture (vs. 2)

The gospel is not something new. It is rooted in OT teaching. The gospel of Christ was promised in the OT and pictured in the OT in many ways, for example Isaiah 53.

B. The gospel is all about Jesus Christ (vs. 3-4)

Paul refers to Christ's humanity (made of the seed of David according to the flesh) and His deity (declared to the Son of God with power...by the resurrection from the dead).

There are many false gospels, but only one true gospel. How can you identify the true gospel? The true gospel is God's message that lost sinners are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone.

C. The gospel is to be received by all people (vs. 5)

The gospel is received in obedience to God. The good news of salvation is not an invitation or an offer. It is a command from God. Repent and believe the gospel. All who repent and believe will be saved. All this is the work of God, as it says in verse 16, the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes. All who believe in Jesus for salvation will continue a life of obedience to Him. Our faith and obedience are for the sake of Christ's name among the nations.

All those who are saved are called of (by) Jesus Christ (effectual call – election), beloved of (by) God, and called to be saints (separate, holy, sanctified). Paul was separated by the gospel and for the gospel. He preached and taught the gospel so that others would be separated by and for the gospel.