



***Romans 1:1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God***

Paul introduces himself as the author and said he is a bondservant of Jesus Christ. The Greek word for servant is *dulos* and means to bind. Paul bound himself to Jesus but this was voluntary. He subjected himself to Jesus and became a love slave.

The word called in this verse is *kletos* and means appointed. Paul did not appoint himself into the fivefold ministry (Eph 4:11). He was called by God. It is important that we do not put ourself in positions but that God is the One who has placed us in them. First, Paul was called, then he was separated.

The word separated in Greek is *aphorizo* and means to exclude. Paul states that he was separated from his mother's womb and called by God (Gal 1:15). There is a period between when we are called and when we actually step into our ministry. At the age of twelve Jesus had a calling over His life but spent time in the temple both listening and asking the teachers questions (Lk 2:46). He then began His ministry at about thirty years of age (Lk 3:23).

Before a seed can grow it is buried in the ground and isolated; it then begins to develop into a plant. There are periods of isolation that we can find scripturally that relate to ones calling. Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness, Moses spent forty years in the desert, and Elijah sought a cave for refuge.

***Romans 1:2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,***

Paul says in the previous verse he was separated for the gospel of God. What is that? Paul was set apart and got a revelation of the good news that Jesus came to pay for our salvation, and it is all about what He did on our behalf, not what we're doing. Throughout the Old Testament we can see God's plan of redemption from the moment Adam and Eve transgressed against God; He had a plan to redeem us, and it was through His Son Jesus (Gen 3:15). What Paul is about to preach is not anything new (1 Pet 1:10). The purpose of the law was not given to earn right standing with God but to point us to Jesus (Gal 3:24).

***Romans 1:3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,***

Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. He was from the lineage of David and that is speaking of His physical or natural side. Jesus was born a virgin birth because everyone born into the world is born of the seed of Adam with a sin nature that is disconnected from God. God had to bypass the fallen seed of man and choose Mary to have a virgin birth with God's very seed in her (1 Peter 1:23) so that Jesus would be born with no sin, thus being able to redeem mankind (Heb 4:15).

The only way man can be redeemed is through the Seed of sinless man. Paul was an intellect and said Jesus **knew** no sin (2 Cor 5:21). Peter was a man of action and said Jesus **did** no sin (1 Peter 2:22). John was a man of love and said **in** Jesus was no sin (1 John 3:5). In conclusion, Jesus had no sin thus He could redeem fallen man.

***Romans 1:4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.***

This is speaking about Jesus' divinity as the Son of God.

The word declared in Greek *horizō* and means that which has been determined. This is confirming the plan of redemption that was in place before the world began.

In the beginning the scriptures say the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters and then God said "Let there be light". Notice there was not anything that changed in the physical until God said. Our covenant is voice activated and the Holy Spirit is ready and eager to intervene the moment we speak in faith (2 Cor 4:13).

***Romans 1:5 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,***

It is through Jesus that we receive grace. Grace cannot be earned or worked for. It must be received as a gift. Obedience of faith is referring to acts that stem from what a person believes. We are saved not by our own works but by His purpose and grace through Jesus (2 Tim 1:9).

***Romans 1:6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;***

All are called, but few answer the calling (Mt 22:14). Grace offers salvation unto all (Titus 2:11) but it is those who believe on Jesus that receive that salvation.

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

Paul is writing to believers in Rome. Grace and peace always go together, they are twins. Peace is a byproduct of grace. The word grace in Greek means *charis* and is a word that the Gentiles used to greet one another. Peace in Greek is *shelom* and was used by the Jews to greet one

another. Paul is tying in one of his greatest themes in the book of Romans; both the Jew and Gentile need for righteousness and the righteousness of God revealed.

**Romans 1:8 *First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.***

The apostle Paul opens all of his letters with thanksgiving with the exception of the book of Galatians and Titus.

Faith can be seen and heard. Many people believe Paul and James' letters are contradictive, however they complement one another. The book of James is a horizontal letter and emphasizes there are works but it is a byproduct of what we believe. Faith without works is dead (Jam 2:20).

**Romans 1:9 *For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,***

Paul served God with his spirit. God is a spirit and we are a spirit (Jn 4:24). We must relate to God based off our born-again spirit that is now identical to Jesus (1 Jn 4:17) and not by our feelings or circumstances.

Paul also says in this verse that he served God with his spirit in the gospel. Paul had forsaken serving God with his on works and righteousness and had began to relate to God through Jesus righteousness that was imputed to him at salvation. As believers, we all should be doing the same; this is the gospel.

Paul had a consistent prayer life that centered around praying for others. One main reason Paul was able to carry out his calling under extreme persecution was because he constantly had his mind on other people. A great way to stay out of depression is to fix our eyes on others. This is the way Jesus was able to endure the cross (Heb 12:2).

**Romans 1:10 *making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you.***

Paul is writing this letter with a desire to visit Rome and is about to jump into the theme of chapter one which is the Gentile need for righteousness and the root or foundation of where that righteousness must come from. Many people believe if we keep the 10 commandments then we are right with God; however, there are 613 commandments and no one ever kept them perfectly but Jesus (Rom 3:10).

Paul eventually did make it to Rome.

**Romans 1:11 *For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established***

The word long in Greek is *epipotheō* and means desire. Again, Paul had a strong desire to share with his recipients of this letter the good news that he had received himself. The apostle Paul was

chosen by God to share the gospel. It is interesting that God chose Paul who was once zealous in the law and if anyone could express to the Gentiles that they were wasting their time trying to earn right standing with God on their own merit, it was Paul.

We can impart spiritual gifts to others. This can come through the laying on of hands and a vital gift that can be imparted is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Paul himself received the baptism of the Holy Spirit from Ananias through the laying on of hands (Acts 9:17). Paul also imparted this spiritual gift to the believers in Ephesus (Acts 19:6).

The reason for imparting spiritual gifts is for the person to be established. The word established in Greek is *stērizō* and means strengthen. When a person receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit, they become bold, empowered, and strengthened to do what they could not do in their own ability.

**Romans 1:12 *that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.***

Spiritual gifts are used for the edifying of others.

**Romans 1:13 *Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles.***

Paul was writing to believers in Rome but he states that he was hindered from coming to them. What hindered Paul? Paul was preaching in areas who had not heard the gospel and were unreached areas (Rom 15:21).

Notice Paul is expecting fruit that had been recognized among other Gentiles. The Gentiles bore fruit because they had received the gospel. It is only through the gospel that a person will bear fruit because they are connected to the true vine which is a person and not a policy (Jn 15:5).

**Romans 1:14 *I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.***

The Greek word for debtor is *opheiletēs* and means one held by some obligation. Paul's commission from the Lord was to preach the gospel. He was obligated but it was based off love.

In the next three verses Paul says he is obligated, eager, and not ashamed of the message he is about to preach. Paul's calling was to directly go to the Gentiles and preach the gospel among them (Rom 11:13).

**Romans 1:15 *So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.***

Paul now says he is ready or eager. Before Paul's conversion he was zealous in religious tradition, but it was without knowledge (Acts 21:20, Rom 10:2). He then got a revelation of grace and had a zeal to preach the good news.

Paul stating that he was ready to preach the gospel reveals that he was not uncertain in his calling and purpose. Paul said that he was not running his race with uncertainty, he knew exactly what his assignment was and was ready to reveal it (1 Cor 9:26).

***Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.***

The theme of the book of Romans is the righteousness of God revealed by faith. Paul says here that he is not ashamed of the message of grace. He was saying that he is not ashamed that Jesus came to die on his behalf and pay for the debt that he owed to God and his righteousness that was of filthy rags (Is 64:6). Religious people hate the message of grace because it is offensive to them to say all of their works for God means nothing.

The word gospel means good news. There is no good news outside of Jesus and His finished works on the cross. The gospel releases the power of God unto salvation meaning when we put our faith in Jesus and not ourselves and what we can do for God; that releases the power. If we think our tithing or church attendance will make God move, that is the very reason we are not seeing results in our life.

Under the covenant of grace, we learn to receive based off of what Jesus did not ourselves. God will never move because of our holiness because it has to be perfection and there was only one that can produce perfection. We think if we go to church just enough or quote the word just enough then God will heal us. No, God won't respond to our efforts. Healing is a gift and must be received based off Jesus finished works.

The word salvation in Greek is *sozo* and entails more than what many Christians realize. This word *sozo* should be one of the number one words known by Christians but only a few really know all it includes. This is an all-inclusive word that means healing, deliverance, to save, prosper, and rescue. The gospel or good news that Jesus came to die on our behalf, not just to go to heaven but to do everything listed above is the power that is released when we see it is all based off Jesus' obedience and not our own.

Ministers today are preaching pre cross but we need to start taking our members with a full trip around the cross and expose them to all that is available to them. Healing, prosperity, and wholeness belong to a believer!

This is for everyone who believes; not for everyone who works or earns it. Religion says if you do this, then God will do that. Grace or the gospel says God has done this, now you simply believe.

***Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "the just shall live by faith."***

For in the Gospel the righteousness of God is revealed. Righteousness simply means right standing with God. We cannot be in right standing with God apart from Jesus. We were born into

this world with a sin nature (Rom 5:12) and we all like sheep had gone astray (Is 54:6). The law that was given in the Old Covenant was 613 commands that no man other than Jesus could fulfill (Mat 3:15). If we missed even one command, we were guilty of breaking the entire law (Jam 2:10, Gal 3:10). A person who thinks they can fulfill all 613 commandments and does not need Jesus is deceived. Jesus came to live on our behalf and offer His righteousness to us because ours was not good enough.

Faith to faith refers to how we receive this righteousness and how we maintain it. Faith is a lifestyle for a believer not a vacation. By faith we believe Jesus came to live as a man born under the law, fulfilled it perfectly, rose from the dead then offers His righteousness in place of ours. Faith pleases God and is how we come to salvation and must continue to receive all the other benefits by faith as well (Col 2:6).

**Romans 1:18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,***

In the first chapter of Romans, Paul discusses the Gentile or non-religious person need for righteousness. He states here that every person is born knowing right from wrong. Many churches today believe we must be persistent in telling people their sin. This chapter reveals that people know they are not living right.

Believers should attend church on Sunday to hear the good news. Sadly, many are going to church and getting doses of condemnation and we wonder why church attendance is low.

**Romans 1:19 *because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.***

The word manifest in Greek is phaneros and means apparent. It is apparent in every person that there is a God.

Paul is saying everyone has an intuitive knowledge placed on the inside of them. Even someone who has not heard the gospel preached to them knows there is a God and understands right from wrong, so all are without excuse.

**Romans 1:20 *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:***

The Greek word for excuse is anapologētos and means that which cannot be defended. No one will be able to stand before God and say God was unjust in judging them.

The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world (Ps 19:1-3).

**Romans 1:21** *because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

There are four components listed here pertaining to what the non-religious person does and it states they do not glorify God, they were not thankful, their thoughts became vain, and their hearts were darkened.

This was the same process the enemy took Adam and Eve through. God told Adam to not eat from the tree. The first step in distancing ourselves from God is to exalt self and what we think is best. God said not to eat from the tree, Adam should have said He is God and I am not and that is final. Anytime we exalt what anyone has to say contrary to God, we are no longer glorifying Him. If the doctor says you are going to die but the Word says you will not die but live and we exalt the doctor's words, we stop esteeming Him as God. Daniel, Noah, Mary, Esther, David, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego all esteemed God over their own life.

Secondly, Adam and Eve also were not thankful. God had given them identity, relationship, purpose, and an entire garden to tend to. If they can think there is more and remove themselves from the perfection they were in, we too can easily fall into this trap.

Next, they saw the tree of knowledge of good and evil and became vain in their thinking. One of the primary ways the enemy takes us captive is through a way of thinking (Col 2:8). 2 Corinthians 10:5 speaks of how someone gets to a place of having strong holds and it starts with a thought. The word vain in Greek *mataioō* is and means to make empty. A believer should not try to erase bad thoughts but replace them with God's word and His truth.

Lastly, their hearts became darkened, and the final step was doing what God told them not to do. All of these are progressive steps but if we start with glorifying God, we will naturally become thankful for all He has done and our thought life will not become vain but will be focused on whatever is lovely or true (Phil 4:8). This all will keep our hearts becoming darkened and separated from the life of God (Eph 4:18).

**Romans 1:22** *Professing to be wise, they became fools,*

Anyone who tries to exalt themselves above God's knowledge is a fool. They have their own philosophy and way of living but in the end, it leads to destruction (Proverb 16:25).

**Romans 1:23** *and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.*

The Gentile group was caught up in all kinds of idolatry. Ephesus was known for its wild and reckless living and its worship of idols.

**Romans 1:24** *Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,*

This is the first time Paul says God gave them up. Why would God do that? The previous verses say we have an intuitive knowledge on the inside of us where we know right from wrong. We can even see God's glory through creation but we still have a choice and if we keep going away from God, He will not force us to stay.

Love never forces. God is not willing that anyone should perish (2 Pet 3:9) but there are many people who do not receive salvation. He will never violate our own free will.

**Romans 1:25** *who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

In order to step into idolatry and lust we must replace the truth with a lie.

**Romans 1:26** *For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.*

Because these people exchanged the truth for a lie, God gave them up to the lust of their flesh. This verse is speaking of homosexuality. It is not natural for a woman to have sexual relations with another woman. God made the male body to fit the female body and anything else is unnatural.

**Romans 1:27** *Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.*

Again, this verse is speaking of homosexuality. This verse is not saying God's judgement fell on them but that the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23) and out of the flesh reaps destruction (Gal 6:8). This sin causes many consequences that result in suicide, depression, and abuse that they bring on themselves.

**Rom 1:28** *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;*

A debased mind is having known the truth and gone back on that truth.

This is the third time Paul says in this chapter that God gave them over to a debased or reprobate mind. There is still a conviction there, but God has removed Himself from convicting this person, and they still know they are living wrong and do not care. It is possible to push ourselves to a point of where God is no longer convicting us.

Can a person born again be reprobate? Anyone who is reprobate does not care if they have turned from God so if you care that you have fallen short it is a good sign you are not reprobate because the Holy Spirit is still dealing with you.



**Romans 1:29 *being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,***

The Greek word for covetousness is pleonexia and means greedy or a desire to have more. Anytime we do not have our satisfaction fully in Jesus we are in a dangerous place. The woman that Jesus encountered at the well in John chapter four was searching for fulfillment independent of Jesus. Jesus told her she had five husbands, the sixth one that she was with was not her husband but once she encountered the seventh Man Jesus, she found all she was searching for. The number seven in the Bible means complete or fullness.

In this chapter Paul is describing the non-religious person or the person who is not seeking God and their need for righteousness. In the next three verses he describes the lifestyle or characteristics of those who have separated themselves from truth.

**Romans 1:30 *backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,***

The word backbiter in Greek is katalalos and means evil speaker. It is interesting that Paul couples being disobedient to parents in the same verse as God haters. Many people today do not place a high value on honoring their parents but this verse inserts the two in the same scripture.

All of these characteristics emphasize someone that has turned from God.

**Romans 1:31 *undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;***

These are all qualities of fallen man apart from God.

**Rom 1:32 *who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.***

The activity listed in verses 30-32 are describing someone who participates in an active lifestyle of these things. Not only do they participate in them, but they support and approve other people who do them as well. This sounds much like the gay pride parades taking place. They know there is a God and that what they are doing is wrong and that is why they need a parade so others can support them so they can feel good about themselves.