



Romans – an Introduction



Romans 1:1-7

- Message from Paul (v. 1)
- Written in 57 AD
- From Corinth, Greece near the end of his third missionary journey
- Host is Gaius (16:23), baptized by Paul (1 Cor. 1:14)
- To the saints in Rome (v. 7)

Paul describes himself:

Bondservant

- Greek *doulos* = servant, in bondage, slave, one who belongs to another, is in service to another; could not resign
- Paul is in service to Messiah Jesus
 - *Gives up his own interests to give himself to the concerns of his master*



Paul describes himself:

Apostle

- Greek *apostolos* = messenger, one sent on a mission, one sent forth with orders, envoy, delegate
- Witness of Jesus' resurrection
- Signs, wonders, mighty deeds
- “Called” (Acts 9:1-19)

We often think of the Twelve Apostles when we hear the word “apostle.” In the gospels, Jesus chooses the Twelve, names them to be apostles, and does send them out with a particular mission during his three years of ministry (see Mark 6:7-12, 30; Luke 6:13-16) as well as commissioning them to carry the message of the Kingdom after he leaves earth.

Characteristics of an apostle:

- Sent forth with orders
- Acts 1:21-22 -> witness of Jesus' resurrection
- 2 Corinthians 12:12 -> “signs of an apostle accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.”



Paul describes himself:

Paul meets the requirements of an apostle:

- Experienced/saw Jesus after his resurrection (Acts 9:3-5; 1 Corinthians 9:1)
- Sent on a mission (Acts 9:15-16)
- Performs mighty deeds (conversions, miracles; 1 Corinthians 9:1; Acts 20:7-12)

Paul is a witness of Jesus' resurrection through his experience on the road to Damascus:

Acts 9:3-5 ³As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. ⁴Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

⁵And he said, "Who are You, Lord?"

Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It *is* hard for you to kick against the goads."

1 Corinthians 9:1 " Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? ²If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord."

Paul is sent by Jesus with a specific mission:

Acts 9:15-16 [message of Jesus to Ananias regarding Saul/Paul] ¹⁵But the Lord said to him [Ananias], "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children^[c] of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how many

things he must suffer for My name's sake.””

Paul's work on behalf of the Lord results in conversions to truth as well as miracles:

Acts 20:7-12 regarding Eutychus falling from a window, dead, but alive after Paul's ministrations

Other verses: 1 Timothy 2:5-7 ⁵For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, ⁷ for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ *and* not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

1 Corinthians 15:8-9 ⁸Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

2 Corinthians 11:5-6 ⁵For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles. ⁶Even though *I am* untrained in speech, yet *I am* not in knowledge. But we have been thoroughly manifested among you in all things.



Paul describes himself:

- “separated”
- To the Gospel of God
- From: see Philippians 3:4-8

Greek *aphorizó* = to mark off from others by a boundary, to separate, to appoint, to set apart for some purpose

Paul was set apart for the purposes of the good news God has presented
Paul was set apart from:

Philippians 3:4-8: “⁴ though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ”

Paul describes himself:

“separated”

- To the Gospel of God
- From:
 - *Jewish traditions*
 - *Zeal that denied the Messiah/Christ*
 - *Anything that would keep him from knowledge of Christ Jesus his Lord*
 - *Anything that would keep him from gaining Christ*
 - *His own righteousness from the law*

Paul was separated from the Jewish traditions that led to persecution of the church and zeal for the law that blinded him to the truths about the Messiah. He was separated from anything that kept him from knowing Jesus, from gaining Jesus, including the righteousness that he had formerly gained by keeping the law of Moses. He now embraced the perfect righteousness gained through faith in Christ, which is part of the gospel message.



Gospel (Good news) of God

- Promised by God
- Given through prophets
- Found in the Holy Scriptures (Old Testament)
- Concerning God’s Son = Jesus = Christ (Messiah) = our Lord

Gospel is from the Greek *euaggelion* meaning “good news”

The Holy Scriptures Paul would be referring to is what we call the Old Testament, the Jewish Scriptures. Paul says the gospel of God is found in the prophetic messages recorded in the Old Testament.

What did God promise in the Old Testament? A king, a kingdom, peace, prosperity, justice



Gospel (Good news) of God

Twofold aspect to message about Messiah/Christ:

1. According to flesh – descendant of David
2. According to holy Spirit – Son of God with power

These promises of God, this good news, gospel, is encapsulated in the messages about the Christ or Messiah.

“Spirit of holiness” is the Hebrew idiom of Holy Spirit (F.F. Bruce, Romans, p. 69).

Jesus’ birth fulfills prophecy of the descendant of David to be the king whose throne God will establish forever (2 Samuel 7:12-16). And while he has a human lineage, he is also the Son of God. Although Jesus is called the Son of God because the power of God through holy Spirit made Mary conceive, and he is descended from the greatest King of Israel, his lifetime before his resurrection is marked by poverty and humility among mankind – not what one would expect of a king’s descendant, and especially not of the only begotten son of the one true living God. Yet prophecy said we could expect the suffering and death of Messiah for sin:

Isaiah 53:4-6 ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But He *was* wounded for our transgressions,

*He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.*
⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Jesus' resurrection marks the next stage or role of Messiah. No longer is he weak and subject to man's authority. Instead, Jesus said "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). This was the declaration of his power as Son of God.

Both of these aspects are found in Old Testament prophecy:

- The suffering servant who (because he is flesh/human) is crucified for sin
- The king, the glorious ruler of justice and peace through holy Spirit on God's behalf (because he is glorified through resurrection)

And Paul repeats this truth in Philippians 2:8-9 – "⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. ⁹Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name"



Paul separated to the gospel of God

- Received grace
- Received apostleship

We know Paul, before his conversion, was persecuting the church/the believers in Jesus as Messiah. He could have lived his entire life fighting against Jesus Christ, but he recognizes here that by the grace of God, he was shown the truth.

Paul also states he received a apostleship – a commission.

Paul also talks of this in Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-7:

²if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, ³how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already . . . ⁵which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: ⁶that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, ⁷of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul states that the grace he received is for the purpose of bringing the good news to Gentiles. The purpose of the grace and apostleship he received is to bring the “nations” or “Gentiles/heathens” to faith in the gospel of God and to live in obedience to that faith.

In essence, Paul is saying that his calling to apostleship and the grace God extended to him is to share the gospel with the nations.




Paul separated to the gospel of God

- Received grace
- Received apostleship
- To bring gospel of God to the nations

In essence, Paul is saying that his calling to apostleship and the grace God extended to him to show him the truth about Messiah is to share the gospel with the nations.

Among those nations are the members of the church in Rome who are “called of Jesus Christ.”

“Called”

- 
- Greek *klétos*
 - Called, invited, called to some office (divinely selected and appointed)

Being a believer and identified by the name of Christ is a calling.

A calling is a summons, a mission. This is not a casual experience or relationship. It is a pursuit that relates to one's purpose and function in life. And when we know that it is from God and for His purposes, we see this calling to faith and obedience is precious, significant, serious, and not to be taken lightly.

Source: Strong's Concordance

“Called”

- Greek *klétos*
- Called, invited, called to some office (divinely selected and appointed)
- Beloved of God
- To be saints (*hagios* = sacred, holy, set apart by and for God)

Paul says the believers are: beloved of God and their calling is to be saints.

Beloved is from the Greek *agapétos* meaning “beloved, esteemed, very dear;”
“personally experiencing God’s ‘agape-love’”

Saints is from the Greek *hagios* meaning “sacred, holy, set apart by and for God”

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/greek/nas/agapetos.html>

HELPS Word-studies <<https://biblehub.com/greek/27.htm>>



Blessing

- Grace – Greek *charis* = good will, loving kindness, favor
- Free love, unmerited favor

Paul uses this blessing in all 13 of his letters compiled in the New Testament (1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus add “mercy”).

Grace – free love and unmerited favor of God. Consider that you could very easily have been one of the billions of people who do not know God, the good news of His kingdom to come, and how to have sin covered so you can have eternal life. There is NOTHING you did that made you more worthy of receiving the truth. To merit something means one is good or worthy and deserving of reward. You and I are not more good or more worthy than any other person. So any favor we receive from God is “unmerited” – due to the grace or goodwill of God.

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/greek/kjv/charis.html>



Blessing

- Grace – Greek *charis* = good will, loving kindness, favor
- Free love, unmerited favor
- Peace – Greek *eiréné* = peace, quietness, rest

Peace is the Greek *eiréné* meaning peace, quietness, rest

There are two aspects to the peace that comes from God and the Lord Jesus Christ:

- 1) There is peace in our relationship with God through Jesus
- 2) We experience inner peace that results from a sense of well-being as we recognize God's love and grace toward us

Source: <https://biblehub.com/greek/1515.htm>



Life Action

- Recognize and acknowledge your calling
 - Matthew 20:16 “many are called, few chosen”
 - Romans 8:28 “called according to God’s purpose”
 - Ephesians 4:1 “walk worthy of your calling”
- Recognize and acknowledge God’s grace
- Live in the peace that God gives

Calling:

Matthew 20:16 - “For many are called, but few chosen.”

Romans 8:28 – “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.”

Ephesians 4:1 – “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called”

Grace:

That salvation is offered to you as a free gift, an offering from God, but not because of anything you have done to deserve it. This grace is precious, to be treasured and respected, acknowledged with thanksgiving.

****Why have you been offered such grace? What does God want your life to be in light of this precious gift?**

Peace:

This peace comes from knowing that, due to Jesus’ healing the breach between God

and man from sin, we can have relationship with God, and we know God's great love for us will keep us through anything we experience in life. When we are not experiencing peace, that is a point at which we need to examine where our faith is at in that situation. Since all that God allows in our lives comes from His love for us and the great purpose of bringing us into His eternal kingdom along with others whose lives we also influence to faith, a lack of peace may indicate an area where we are not trusting God. Watch for those times and bring them to God in trust and faith to restore peace to your hearts and minds.

****What is your relationship with God like? What does it need to grow stronger and deeper and closer?**

****When do you not experience peace? What are you not trusting to God?**

"Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" be with you.