

INTRODUCTION:

1. GOD MANIFESTED HIS SOVEREIGN GRACE IN PAUL'S CONVERSION AND APOSTLESHIP (1:15-16a,b).

a. Consider God's rule over time.

b. Consider God's rule over Paul's birth.

c. Consider God's rule over Paul's conversion and apostleship.

(1) *God called Paul by grace.*

(2) *God revealed Christ in him.*

(3) *God sent him to preach the gospel to the Gentiles.*

2. PAUL DECLARES HIS INDEPENDENCE OF HUMAN AUTHORITY (1:16c-17).

a. He was independent of human authority in general.

b. He was independent of the Jerusalem apostles.

c. He was independent in his journeys to Arabia and Damascus.

3. APPLICATIONS: *Salvation is by God's sovereign grace alone*

CONCLUSION: