

# JOURNEY THROUGH ROMANS

## ROMANS 1: 1-7

### INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER

Peter wrote, (2 Peter 3:16) "As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction." During our study, we will talk about the hard to understand things and try not to be unlearned or unstable; and we will study them in context and not twist them to our own destruction as the Apostle Peter says that some do.

Rome was the capital city of the Roman Empire which ruled the world at the time this letter was written. The church at Rome was a very prominent church.

This Epistle is the great doctrinal book of the New Testament. All the major doctrines are covered that have to do with salvation: Justification, Sanctification, Glorification, Sin, Atonement. We find all these in Romans.

**(Romans 1:1) "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,"**

1. Paul – Persecutor of the Church who became the thundering voice of the New Testament
  - a. (Acts 9:4) "And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"
  - b. (Galatians 1:13) "For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:"
2. Servant of Jesus Christ
  - a. Servant = Bond-slave, *doulos* (*Grk*) means a *slave*, "one who gives himself up to another's will." (Outline of Biblical Usage)
  - b. Nothing but the grace of God could turn a man who "persecuted the church of God, and wasted it" into a bond-slave of Jesus Christ!
3. Apostle
  - a. (Ephesians 4:11-12) "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"
  - b. Apostle has two meanings:
    - i. Work of an Apostle: The word means "a delegate; specially, an ambassador of the Gospel" (Strong's) In this sense, missionaries do the work of an apostle today.
    - ii. Office of an Apostle: There were 12 Apostles who held that official office. Judas betrayed Christ and was replaced by Matthias. (Acts 1:26) "And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven

apostles." Matthias is not mentioned again in the New Testament. Paul was the true 12<sup>th</sup> Apostle.

- c. Requirements for an Apostle
  - i. Must be Called by Christ (Galatians 1:1) "Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)"
  - ii. Must Have Seen Christ (1 Corinthians 9:1) "Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?"
  - iii. Must Have Been Taught by Christ (Galatians 1:11-12) "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." Paul did not even meet Peter until three years after his conversion. (Galatians 1:18)
  - iv. Ministry Accompanied by Signs (2 Corinthians 12:12) "Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds."
4. Separated unto the Gospel of God
  - a. As a Pharisee, Paul had been separated from the world. The word *Pharisee* means, *to separate*.
  - b. Now, he was separated unto the Gospel of God.
    - i. The word Gospel, means *good news*.
    - ii. Often, our separation is seen as bad news: You can't smoke. You can't drink. You can't party. You can't watch certain television programs.
    - iii. The Pharisees were like that: very strict. Strict requirements about washing hands and tithing and so on.
    - iv. We should separate from sin, but more importantly, separation is unto the Gospel of God – The good news of God!

**(Romans 1:2) "(Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)"**

1. This good news of Jesus Christ had been prophesied in the Old Testament. It had been promised by God. For instance:
  - a. His virgin birth: (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."
  - b. His crucifixion: (Psalm 22:16) "For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet."
  - c. His suffering for our sins: (Isaiah 53:5) "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."
  - d. His resurrection from the dead: (Psalm 16:10) "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."

**(Romans 1:3) "Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;"**

**(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:"**

1. Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord – This good news concerns Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
2. Made (vs. 3) and Declared (vs. 4)
  - a. Jesus Christ could not be *made* the Son of God. The Son has always existed.
    - i. (John 1:1) "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Word, *Logos* (Grk.) = Jesus Christ
    - ii. Old Testament - (Psalm 2:12) "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him." (Daniel 3:25) "He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."
  - b. Jesus could only be *declared to be the Son of God with power*.
  - c. Spirit of holiness (vs. 4) = the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ was declared to be the Son of God with power by the Holy Spirit's powerful work in raising Him from the dead!
    - i. (Romans 8:11) "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."
3. "Made of the seed of David according to the flesh" (vs. 3)
  - a. Jesus has always been God, but He was not always man. He was made into flesh or made human at His incarnation.
    - i. (John 1:14) "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."
  - b. Made of the seed of David – God had promised David that his descendant would sit on his throne to rule Israel forever.
    - i. (Psalm 132:11) "The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne."
    - ii. (2 Samuel 7:13) "He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever."
    - iii. Mary was a descendent of David.
    - iv. Joseph was also a descendent of David.
    - v. Physically, Jesus was a descendent of David through Mary.
    - vi. Legally, He was a son of David through Joseph. Joseph, of course was not Jesus' father (God was) but he was Jesus' father by law.

**(Romans 1:5-6) "By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:"**

1. By Jesus Christ, Paul says that "we have received grace and apostleship" – the grace, obviously is for everybody. The apostleship is for Paul and the other Apostles.
  - a. Grace = God's unearned, undeserved favor towards hell-deserving sinners.

- b. Grace and Mercy are different: Grace is when we get what we don't deserve. Mercy is when we do not get what we do deserved.
- 2. Purpose of grace and apostleship = obedience to the faith among all nations for his name.
  - a. Obedience to the faith = believing the Gospel.
    - i. (John 6:28-29) "Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."
  - b. Among all nations = world evangelism.
  - c. For his name = The purpose of world evangelism is to bring glory to the name of Jesus Christ.
- 3. "Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ." – The Romans were part of this group of people who were obedient to the faith through the preaching of the Gospel. They were saved to bring glory to the name of Jesus Christ. God is calling people to himself around the world for His glory!