

# Romans: The Power of God

## The Gospel, Does It Mean Anything to You?

Romans 1:1-7

Introduction to Romans

**Romans 16:25**, *“Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began.”*

The word “gospel” means “good news, glad tidings.”

What is the gospel?

**1 Corinthians 15:1-3**

Penned by the Apostle Paul to the believers at Rome. From the city of Corinth on his third missionary journey, the second visit there. This area is referred to as Greece.

**Acts 20:1-3**, *“And after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto him the disciples, and embraced them, and departed for to go into Macedonia. And when he had gone over those parts, and had given them much exhortation, he came into Greece. And there abode three months. And when the Jews laid wait for him, as he was about to sail into Syria, he purposed to return through Macedonia.”*

No other book of the Bible expounds the Gospel more logically and dynamically as the apostle Paul in this book of Romans.

This book has been called “The Gospel According to Paul.”

## I. The Testimony of Paul

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

### A. His Salvation

**Romans 1:1**, *“Paul...”*

His life completely changed - he used to be Paul of Tarsus.

**Acts 26:9-18**

## **B. His Service**

**Romans 1:1**, *“...a servant of Jesus Christ...”*

The word used for “*servant*” means “*a bondslave.*”

The example of a bondslave is found in **Exodus 21:1-6**. A Hebrew servant was to serve his master for six years, and then he would be able to go free. However, at the completion of the six years of service, the servant would be given a choice to either go free and live independent of his Master, or he could choose to stay if he loved his Master.

If the servant chose to freely continue to serve his Master, he would be pierced in his ear to show everyone that he had made the decision to remain under his Master because of his love for him.

**Galatians 6:17**, *“...for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.”*

Paul said that because of his choice to be a bondslave of Jesus Christ, there were identifying marks that revealed his love for the Lord.

## **C. His Selection**

**Romans 1:1**, *“...called to be an apostle...”*

The word “*apostle*” simply means “*sent one, one who is sent.*”

## **D. His Separation**

**Romans 1:1**, *“...separated unto the gospel of God,”*

**Illustration of Separation:**

Soon after the Spanish venturers of Cortez landed on the shores of Mexico their forceful captain ordered their boats to be burned on the beach. From then on it was victory or death.

**John Murray**, *“Separated means that all interests and attachments that are alien to the promotion of the gospel have been separated from his life.”*

### **He Was Separated Before His Conversion**

**Galatians 1:5**, *“But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood.”*

### **He Was Separated At His Conversion**

**Acts 9:15**, *“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...”*

### **He 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.”*

## **II. The Test of Its Promise**

**Romans 1:2-4**, *“...Which we had promised afore...”*

### **A. The Scriptural Test**

**Romans 1:2**, *“...by his prophets in the holy scriptures.”*

### **B. The Seed Test**

**Romans 1:3**, *“Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh.”*

The New Testament begins and ends with a reference to Jesus as the son of David.

**Matthew 1:1**, *“The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”*

**Revelation 22:16**, *“I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.”*

The lineage of Christ is investigated by the Jewish leadership of Christ’s day would have proved that Christ was indeed the Messiah.”

### **C. The Supernatural Test**

**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.”*

#### **We See His Power Over Sin**

This expression “*according to the spirit of holiness*” points to the life that Jesus Christ lives. He lived in victory over the power of sin. His life was completely holy and without blame!

During His time on earth He lived approximately 12,000 days, and everyone of those days were a display of holiness.

**Hebrews 7:26**, *“For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens.”*

#### **We See His Power Over Death**

“*Death*” is the penalty of sin.

#### **Illustration:**

During the time of the French Revolution, M. Lepeau complained to Tallyrand that this new religion of his, one he considered a great improvement over Christianity, had failed to catch on with the people. He asked Tallyrand for some suggestions. Tallyrand dryly said, “M. Lepeau, to

insure success for your new religion, all you need to do is have yourself crucified and then rise from the dead on the third day!”

**John 10:18**, *“I have power to lay down my life, and I have power to take it again.”*

### **III. The Trust of Its Propagation**

**Romans 1:5-7**, *“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: To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

#### **A. A Common Responsibility**

*“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.”*

The Apostle Paul turned the attention upon all believer by including himself and them in this verse, *“By whom we have received grace and apostleship.”*

**Note:** “*grace*” comes before “*apostleship*”

The word “*apostleship*” means “*one who is commissioned.*”

What is our Commission?

*“Obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name.”*

This calling is not just the responsibility of the Apostle Paul, but the responsibility of every believer!

#### **B. A Common Relationship**

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

### **God's Care for Them**

The word "*beloved*" speaks of God's affection towards them.

### **God's Call upon Them**

The word "*church*" that our Lord uses is the Greek word 'ecclesia' which means "*a called our assembly.*"

The word "*saint*" is used to describe all believers in the church. It gives us the picture that every believer is "*set apart for God.*"

What does the Gospel mean to you?

What has the Gospel done in your life?

Do we understand our responsibility in knowing the Gospel?