

THE BOOK OF ROMANS
THE GOSPEL IS OUR CONFIDENCE-PT 4
ROMANS 1:5-6

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INTRODUCTION

One of PAUL'S purposes in writing was to affirm the GOSPEL of JESUS CHRIST and his CONFIDENCE in the GOSPEL of JESUS CHRIST!

Last time we began looking at how PAUL'S CONFIDENCE WAS MADE REAL BY THE PERFORMANCE OF THE GOSPEL— That is, by WHAT THE GOSPEL DID IN HIS LIFE AND DOES IN OTHERS' LIVES INCLUDING OURS! (Vs 5-6)

- I. THE GOSPEL IS THE BASIS OF OUR CONVERSION!
(Vs 5-6; Cf. 1 Corinthians 15:1-3; Galatians 1:1-12)
 - A. THE GOSPEL Was The Basis Of PAUL'S CONVERSION!
He was confronted personally by the risen LORD!
 - B. THE GOSPEL Was The Basis Of The Roman Believers' CONVERSION!
 - C. THE GOSPEL Is The Basis Of Every CONVERSION!
- II. THE GOSPEL IS THE BASIS OF OUR CALLING! (Vs 5)
 - A. It Was The Basis Of PAUL'S SPECIFIC CALLING As An APOSTLE!
Understand that we have more SCRIPTURAL information on PAUL than any other person in SCRIPTURE other than the LORD JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF!

No person, apart from JESUS HIMSELF, shaped the history of CHRISTIANITY like the APOSTLE PAUL did!

Even before he was a BELIEVER, his actions were significant! His persecution of CHRISTIANS following STEPHEN'S death got the CHURCH started in obeying the GREAT COMMISSION.

PAUL'S personal encounter with JESUS on the DAMASCUS road changed his life tremendously.

I described it as “*doing a one-eighty*,” but PAUL never lost his fierce intensity. He put at least as much energy, if not more, working for the cause of CHRIST as he did against the cause of CHRIST before he was saved.

There were many who questioned whether the APOSTLE PAUL was truly an APOSTLE in the same sense that the other APOSTLES were who were CHRIST'S DISCIPLES when HE went to the CROSS.

There are two different senses of the word APOSTLE just as there are two different senses of the word DEACON.

The word translated DEACON simply means “*servant*.” The word translated APOSTLE simply means “*sent one*.” So, in the simplest sense of these words, ALL BELIEVERS are APOSTLES and DEACONS! (We are sent by CHRIST and we are to be servants!)

But that doesn't mean that we are called to be in or hold the OFFICE of either an APOSTLE or a DEACON.

APOSTLE in the strictest sense of the word means that one that received a SPECIFIC CALLING to hold or be in the OFFICE of an APOSTLE in the same manner as the eleven remaining DISCIPLES of CHRIST had a SPECIFIC CALLING!

Since the APOSTLE PAUL was not a part of the twelve, many questioned his CALLING and right to claim the OFFICE. Therefore, the APOSTLE PAUL found it necessary to defend his APOSTLESHIP at times.

Look at GALATIANS 1:1-2

Here we see PAUL identified himself as “*an APOSTLE*.”

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Understand that he is identifying himself here as an **APOSTLE** in that strictest sense of having been **CALLED** to the **OFFICE** of an **APOSTLE**.

The word "**APOSTLE**" (in the way **PAUL** is speaking) referred to a person called to the **OFFICE** and sent forth on a very special commission, in whom **GOD** authenticated **HIS** message through the **SIGN GIFTS**.

Hebrews 2:3-4 – "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?"

This makes a difference because when one who was in the **OFFICE** of an **APOSTLE** spoke, it was just like getting a **WORD** straight from **GOD**!

If the **APOSTLE PAUL** was not in the **OFFICE** of an **APOSTLE**, then his **WRITINGS** were just his **WRITINGS** and did not have the force of the **WORD OF GOD**!
(That would affect 14 BOOK of the NEW TESTAMENT if we attribute the book of HEBREWS to him!)

Now, understand that men today cannot be **APOSTLES** in this strictest sense of being in the **OFFICE** of one for two reasons:

- 1) An **APOSTLE** had to be specifically selected and called by **JESUS, WHO** gave him his authority.
- 2) An **APOSTLE** had to literally see the risen **CHRIST**, who authenticated his unique role.

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Though **GOD** still calls men into the **MINISTRY** today, there are no more **APOSTLES** in the sense of an **APOSTLE** in the early **CHURCH** and no more **SIGN GIFTS** are needed, because we have as our **AUTHORITY** the completed **WORD OF GOD**! There is **NO** CONTINUING **REVELATION**!

The need for and purpose of the **OFFICE** of an **APOSTLE** has ended! (*Ephesians 2:18-22*)

Now, **TRUE MINISTRY** is still of **GOD**! Therefore a **CALL** to the **MINISTRY** must come from **GOD**. **GOD** alone can give a true **CALL** and **COMMISSION** to the **MINISTRY**!

Note that **PAUL** did not argue with his critics: he just **DECLARED** that **GOD** had **CALLED** and **APPOINTED** him to the **MINISTRY** and **OFFICE** as an **APOSTLE**!

1. **PAUL'S DECLARES** that his **CALL** and **MINISTRY** were "*not of men, neither by man.*" (*Galatians 1:1; 15-19*)
 - a. "*not of men*": men were not the source of his **CALL** and **MINISTRY**! His **CALL** had not come from man!
 - b. "*neither by man*": no man had qualified or made him fit for the **MINISTRY**! He was not made a **MINISTER** by man!
2. **PAUL'S DECLARES** that his **CALL** and **MINISTRY** were by **JESUS CHRIST** and **GOD THE FATHER**! There is no higher **AUTHORITY**!

PAUL'S AUTHORITY, although called into question by the **JUDAIZERS**, was recognized by the **BRETHREN** who were with him. (*Galatians 1:2*)

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- 3. PAUL'S GOSPEL that he preached, which is the GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST (HIS DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION), was received by the REVELATION of JESUS CHRIST!
(Galatians 1:11-12)**
- 4. Look at what else PAUL said about his and our CALLING in THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST JESUS!
(2 Timothy 1:7-12)**

*THE GOSPEL IS THE BASIS OF OUR CALLING! (Vs 5)
It Was The Basis Of PAUL'S Calling As An Apostle!*

- B. It Is The Basis Of The CALLING Of ALL BELIEVERS including those in the ROMAN CHURCH And Us! (6-7a)**

In fact, all that PAUL shares with them in this EPISTLE about their CALLING finds its basis in the GOSPEL!

Yes, we are CALLED to SALVATION in the GOSPEL!

But, we are also CALLED to a RELATIONSHIP IN CHRIST and WITH CHRIST by the GOSPEL!

**We are CALLED TO BE SAINTS (i.e. HOLY!)! (Vs 7a)
That call is two-fold!**

One CALL is POSITIONAL—When we came to CHRIST we were made HOLY in and through THE GOSPEL!

The other CALL is PRACTICAL—We are called to live what we are! We are called to live HOLY by the power of THE GOSPEL! (1 Peter 1:15-16)

**And we are CALLED according to HIS PURPOSE!
(Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 5: 14-15; 18-20)**