

Romans 1:1-15

Verse 1:

--This is Paul's largest opening greeting. Between **Paul** and **To all who are in Rome** is an amazing introduction that reflects the active mind and incredible spirit of the man.

--Here is a little insight into how Paul views his life and ministry. He was a personal bondservant of the person Jesus Christ.

***Acts 9:6: So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"**

--On his knees before Christ, Paul was nothing but a slave. He had been bought by the Redeemer and was now to be used at His pleasure. *Ever wonder why you were not saved earlier? Paul, no doubt, did at times but this was his answer (think of his unique influences: Greek, Roman, Jewish)!*

--He was also called of Christ and set apart for the ministry of the gospel. *Jacob, Samson, Samuel, Jeremiah, John the Baptist all called at birth*

Galatians 1:15-16: But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through his grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles...

Acts 9:15-16: But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

--**the gospel of God** is the good news of the Father **concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord** and that is why it is also called **the gospel of His Son (9)**.

Verses 2-4:

--Here Paul explains the work of Christ as seen in the Scriptures. ***2 Timothy 3:14-16***

--These are the **Holy Scriptures**. The Scriptures differ incredibly from the writings of the world.

Govett (On Romans): "Why do men prefer a newspaper to the Scriptures? Because men's news are full of the spirit of the world; tidings of a fallen and condemned race. And men are interested in the things of men; but only God's people in the things of God."

--By mentioning the gospel of God with promises, the prophets, the Holy Scriptures, and the seed of David, Paul is reinforcing the idea that his gospel is not something new and strange but a continuation of the True God's prophesied work from the very beginning.

--Not only that, but we see the emphasis of Jesus' humility and exaltation. He was the humble Son of Man in the flesh but also the revealed Son of God in power.

--The word for **declared** is the same as is used in **Acts 10:42 & 17:31**—both pointing to the risen Jesus Christ as Lord and Judge of all men!

****Acts 10:42-43: And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.****

****Acts 17:30-31: Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He have given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.****

--Jesus, did not emphasize His Davidic fulfillment while on earth but He will soon!

****Revelation 22:16: I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.****

--This through ***power according to the Spirit of holiness.***

****Hebrews 9:14: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the Eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?****

--There was no real resurrection from the dead until Christ was risen. Those previously raised from the dead were only given prolonged life but died again. Christ is the firstfruits of those truly risen from the dead—risen never to return!

Verses 5-7:

--Paul was an apostle through and for Jesus' sake—primarily through His grace.

****1 Corinthians 15:9-10: For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain...****

****1 Timothy 1:16: However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those how are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.****

--It was God's grace that saved Paul, made him an apostle, and allowed him to participate in the great commission: seeing people saved—***faith (1:8)***—and helping them to grow as disciples in Christ's commands—***obedience (16:19)***.

--Obedience and faith are the two great aspects of the Christian life Vs. Religious commands and ceremonies. The end of all this is personal faith and obedience to Christ!

****Romans 16:25-26: Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith...****

--The roman believers were called and beloved of God just as Paul. The unsaved are never called ***beloved***. *You can love your neighbor but your wife and kids are truly beloved.*

Verses 8-12:

--Paul was thankful for the grace of God that he found in any saint. Paul was never afraid to recognize or call out faults, but he also saw and called out God's grace in people. He rejoiced in God's grace wherever he found it.

--It is amazing to see his thankfulness and prayer for believers outside of his normal circle—as if Paul didn't have enough churches and individual people to pray for! *Notice the prayer given here is for those that are doing well with the Lord—not just the prodigals or unsaved.*

--Paul is calling on God as a heart-witness to the sincerity of his ceaseless prayers. You really cannot get more sincere than that. What a challenge!

--Paul's arrival would bring spiritual gifts (Salvation, Prayer, Word, Holy Spirit, etc... Vs. only material gifts) + Encouragement (Paul was not beyond the need for mutual encouragement).

Is this the outcome of our arrival in people's lives?

Verses 13-15:

--**Brethren**—see how Paul owns all believers as his very family.

--It seems Paul had previously made serious attempts to go through Rome but they had been changed. Even as an apostle, his plans were submitted to God and could change but his purpose was unchanged.

--Paul was not intending to come to Rome as a celebrity to be taken care of. He didn't need a prearranged contract for snacks in his dressing room. He was coming as a Christian brother to give and to receive—most directly—spiritual blessings and spiritual fruit!

--Paul had no intention of “planting” in Rome per se, but he had to preach the gospel there anyway—the one and same message for Greek or barbarian/wise or unwise.

--I like that bit. He could not help but tell someone about Jesus! Why? He tells us in the next section.