

The Book of Romans

Lesson 1B – The Gospel of God

return pages 5 & 6 only

Romans 1:1: "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the Gospel of God." The true meaning of this opening phrase of verse 1, is literally "Paul the bondsman - or the bond-servant." or "the bond-slave" of Jesus Christ. You see, Paul had known what it was to be a slave to sin, and of course he had been a slave to Judaism, the religion of his fathers, and he had fought desperately in the defense of Judaism until he met Jesus on the road to Damascus.

Being a Roman, Paul knew much about slavery; and now, he has met One he loves so much, Jesus Christ and that it is a joy to become His slave. He becomes the slave, servant, of the Christ Who delivered him from the bondage of corruption and brought to his heart the glorious liberty of the Spirit. He therefore opens his letter to the Romans by announcing that he is a servant, a slave, a bond-servant, of the Lord Jesus; and not only is he a servant, but also an apostle. Paul, at the writing, was an apostle a dedicated apostle, a surrendered bond-slave, of Jesus Christ. He was not called "to be" one he was **already** one at the writing of the epistle. He was also separated unto the Gospel of God.

When Paul met Jesus (of course, at that time he was Saul of Tarsus) on the Damascus road just outside the Damascus gate, he fell to the earth and cried out to the Lord Jesus, asking Him who He was. He then said, "What wilt thou have me do?" And from that moment until his dying day, his whole soul's desire was to serve Jesus with a fervent spirit, an unselfish heart, and with a body completely dedicated to God a living sacrifice! He was a servant; he was an apostle; and he was a specific and peculiar vessel, separated unto the Gospel of God.

His message was singular: The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and only according to the scriptures (I Cor. 15:1-4).

Paul, who had known the bondage of sin, now was enjoying being a slave to a Master Whom he loved more than his own life. He was wearing a yoke that was easy, and was carrying a burden that was unbelievably light (Matt. 11:28,29).

All of the other apostles received their education at the feet of Jesus. They followed Jesus but Paul, before he became a believer, was a persecutor. Suddenly he became an apostle by special calling, and when he began teaching and preaching, he conferred not with flesh and blood. He did not go down to Jerusalem to meet with the religious dignitaries, to beg their

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good graces and favors upon his ministry. He knew the Lord Jesus he had met Him face to face. He had heard His command; he obeyed with all of his heart. He was a special and a peculiar apostle. He had an experience such as no man before or since had or ever will have. He was called, ordained, and sent by God a minister to the Gentiles.

The word "apostle" means "a sent one." In the New Testament the word "apostle" stands for "one sent by God and clothed by God with full and complete authority." The New Testament apostle delivered God's message, fresh from God's heart.

He knew he was a chosen vessel, he knew he was dedicated to a peculiar ministry (Acts 9:15). This ministry was blueprinted and outlined from the very day he was born (Gal. 1:15). Paul, like many of us, was a long time finding his place in life, and in the New Testament church; but thank God, when he met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he lost his life that he might find it in Christ. I believe that he preached every sermon he was supposed to preach. I believe he conducted every campaign that God intended for him to conduct. I believe his ministry was as nearly perfect as that of any human who ever lived and ministered on this earth, if not a little more so. I base that statement on the following words:

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing" (II Tim. 4:6-8). Note these words: **I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith**, that is the perfect testimony. He was a good soldier, he fought every battle and fought it well. He did not deviate from the faith one bit from the day he met Jesus on the Damascus road until the day he closed his eyes during a martyr's death!

Just what does Paul mean by "The Gospel of God"? The Gospel of God is the widest possible designation of the whole body of redemption truth concerning the Grace that Jesus brought through His sacrificial death, burial and resurrection for all, because He is no respecter of persons (Rom. 2:11). He is not the God of the Jews only (Rom. 3:29), but He is the God of the Gentiles also. No longer is there a middle wall or partition, He removed that barrier; and now it is "whosoever will." That is the Gospel of God is redemption for all who will come by Christ.

Redemption from all sin through His shed blood. Redemption only on the grounds of faith, faith such as even a little child can exercise. The Gospel of God reveals the doctrine of Grace as having to do with our salvation from sin, and the Gospel of God reveals the great promises that God makes to us after we are saved by Grace. The Gospel of God reveals to us our position in

the wealth of God, in the Church of the living God, of which Jesus is the Head and the foundation; we are members of His body, bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. The Gospel of God clearly sets forth that we, the Bride, are not a continuation of the Kingdom for Israel, but are distinctly a new body. The Gospel of God assures us that God has not forgotten Abraham or Israel, nor has God robbed them of their Covenant promises; but God will fulfill every promise in every detail. To sum it up **The Gospel of God is the widest possible designation of the whole body of redemption truth.**

Verse 2: "(Which He had promised afore by His prophets in the holy scriptures,)" (Rom. 1:2). The main point in the statement made in verse 2 is that the Gospel was revealed in fulfillment of the promises that God had made in the Old Testament era, and also in the beginning of the New Testament era. I Peter 1:10-12 tells us: *"Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the Grace that should come unto you: searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the Gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven; which things the angels desire to look into."*

Verse 3: *"Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh"* (Rom. 1:3).

The Person (Christ) is the center, the heart, the very substance of the Gospel of God. Jesus, according to the flesh, (as the prophets had prophesied) came through the seed of David; He was a descendant of David. And according to the Spirit of holiness He was proven to be the Son of God, with power, and this proof came by His resurrection from the dead and not only through HIS resurrection, but the fact that He had the power to resurrect others.

The subject of this Gospel, the Gospel of God is the only begotten Son has accomplished a work; however, it is not the work, but Himself, Who is the true SUBJECT of the Gospel. Jesus is the heart, the soul, and the essence of the Gospel. In Romans we have Him presented in a two-fold aspect:

1. First, He is the object of the promises; Son of David according to the flesh.
2. Second, He is the Son of God in power; and as the Son of God in power, even though in the midst of sin. He walked by the Spirit in divine and absolute holiness apart from sin in thought, word, or deed. He was the "Sin-less One." Not only was He the son of David according to the flesh, He was the Son of God, yea, God in flesh. He proved this by His victorious resurrection from the dead. His resurrection was a public manifestation that He was God's only begotten Son.

What a marvelous demonstration of Grace! To see the whole power of evil, all the forces of hell; the dreadful door of death which closed upon sinful

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men, leaving them in the darkness of death to be judged by God's holiness, and then see Jesus step into this gloomy chamber to conquer hell, death and the grave, and walk out with the keys, victorious over all the power of darkness and hell. Jesus came into this world on a singular mission, to "taste death for every man" (Heb. 2:9). Jesus personally attacked death; stepped into the very darkness of death, and in His own power conquered death, and walked out of the grave victorious. The Son of God took upon Himself the seed of David after the flesh, and in a body did what the Law had never done nor, could ever have done. Jesus proved that He was God in flesh by His resurrection from the dead.

Notes

The Book of Romans

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1. What was Saul's first question during his Damascus road experience?
2. What is the Gospel of God? explain!
3. What was Paul's singular message?
4. What act signified Jesus Christ as the greatest of all the great teachers ever known?
5. What is the Gospel?
6. Why did Jesus come into the world?
7. Paul considered himself a _____ of Jesus Christ.
8. Why could Paul say "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course?"
9. Who delivered Saul from the bondage of corruption?
10. What does the word Apostle mean?
11. Explain Romans 2:11
12. What are the grounds of Redemption?
13. Jesus is presented in a two-fold aspect in the book of Romans, list and explain each.

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a.

b.

14. Explain Hebrews 2:9

True/false

- Jesus Christ went to hell.
- He tasted death for all of us.
- HE rose victoriously and conquered death proving he was GOD in human flesh.



Scripture memorization Hebrews 2:9; I Cor. 15:1-4;
Romans 2:11(write out these verses on the back of this page) must be in KJV

Any Questions?