

# The Gospel and God's Righteousness

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(4)

[Romans 1:1-17](#)

## A. Paul's Credentials: Enslavement to Christ, [Romans 1:1-7](#)

[Romans 1:1-7 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

<sup>2</sup> which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,

<sup>3</sup> concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh,

<sup>4</sup> who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

<sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,

<sup>6</sup> among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

<sup>7</sup> to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called *as* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

[\(Romans 1:1-7\) Introduction:](#) no person is a true follower of Jesus Christ unless he is *enslaved by Christ*. In fact, it is *impossible* for a person to belong to Christ unless he is *enslaved by Christ*. This is the shocking message Paul wants to get across to the believers at Rome.

1. He was a slave of Christ (v.1).
2. He was an apostle of God (v.1).
3. He was set apart to the gospel of God (v.1-4).
4. He had received God's grace and God's mission (v.5).
5. He acknowledged the enslavement of others (v.6-7).

## 2. [\(Romans 1:1\) Apostle— Paul, Call of: Paul was an apostle of God.](#)

[Romans 1:1 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>1</sup>“Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God.”

The word “**apostle**” (*apostolos*) means either a person who is sent out or a person who is sent forth. An apostle is a representative, an ambassador, a person who is sent out into one country to represent another country.

In the New Testament, it primarily refers to the 12 men Christ chose to accompany Him ([Mark 3:13–19](#)) and **Matthaias**, whom the other apostles chose to replace Judas ([Acts 1:15–26](#)).

**Mark 3:13-19 (NASB)**

<sup>13</sup> **And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him.**

<sup>14</sup> **And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach,**

<sup>15</sup> **and to have authority to cast out the demons.**

<sup>16</sup> **And He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter),**

<sup>17</sup> **and James, the *son* of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, "Sons of Thunder");**

<sup>18</sup> **and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot;**

<sup>19</sup> **and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him.**

**Acts 1:14-16 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup> **At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said,**

<sup>16</sup> **Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.**

Christ gave them power to confirm their apostleship with miracles ([Matthew 10:1](#); [2 Corinthians 12:12](#)), and authority to speak as His proxies—every New Testament book was written either by an apostle or under his auspices (cf. [John 14:26](#)).

**Matthew 10:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> **Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.**

**2 Corinthians 12:12 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> **The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.**

**John 14:26 (NASB)**

<sup>26</sup> **But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.**

Their teaching is the foundation of the church ([Ephesians 2:20](#)).

**Ephesians 2:20 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup> **Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,**

Christ Himself selected Paul for this position ([Acts 9:15](#); [Acts 22:14](#); [Acts 26:16](#); cf. [Galatians 1:1](#)) and trained him to fulfill this ministry ([Galatians 1:12](#), [Galatians 1:16](#)).

**Acts 9:15 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

**Acts 22:14 (NASB)**

<sup>14</sup> And he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth.

**Acts 26:16 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup> 'But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I [the Lord] have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you;

**Galatians 1:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle (not *sent* from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead),

**Galatians 1:12 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

**Galatians 1:16 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup> to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood,

**Three things are true of the apostle:**

- (1) he belongs to the One who has sent him out;
- (2) he is commissioned to be sent out; and
- (3) he possesses all the authority and power of the One who sends him out.

**Note three forceful lessons.**

1. Paul said he was "**called**" to be an apostle. He was not in the ministry because he.....

1. chose to be.
2. had the ability.
3. had been encouraged by others to choose the *ministerial profession*.
4. enjoyed working with people.

He was an **apostle, a minister** of the gospel for one reason only: **God had called him.**

**Acts 9:15 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

**Acts 22:14 (NASB)**

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<sup>16</sup> to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood,

**1 Timothy 1:12 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service,

**Genesis 12:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you;

**Exodus 3:10 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.

**Judges 6:14 (NASB)**

<sup>14</sup> The Lord looked at him and said, Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?

**Isaiah 6:8 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup> Then I [Isaiah] heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

2. Paul had heard and answered God's call. God did not override Paul's will—He wanted Paul in the ministry, so He called Paul. **But note: it was up to Paul to hear and respond.**

3. Paul was called to be an apostle, that is, to be a minister. **He was not called to occupy a position of authority or to be honored by men.**

**Thought 1.** Every servant of God is called for two primary purposes:

1) To serve and minister.

**Matthew 20:27-28 (NASB)**

<sup>27</sup> and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;

<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

**Luke 10:36-37 (NASB)**

<sup>36</sup> “Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers’ *hands*?”

<sup>37</sup> And he said, “The one who showed mercy toward him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do the same.”

**John 13:14 (NASB)**

<sup>14</sup> If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.

**Galatians 6:2 (NASB)**

<sup>2</sup> Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

**Galatians 6:10 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup> So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

2) To go forth and bear fruit.

**Matthew 3:8 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup> Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

**John 15:16 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup> You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

**Romans 7:4 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup> Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

**Philippians 1:11 (NASB)**

<sup>11</sup> Having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which *comes* through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

**Colossians 1:10 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup> So that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

**Psalms 1:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup> He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

**Psalms 92:13 (NASB)**

<sup>13</sup> Planted in the house of the Lord, They will flourish in the courts of our God.