

The Gospel and God's Righteousness

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(9)

[Romans 1:1-17](#)

(Continuation from 08/23/15)

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

[\(Romans 1:1-7\)](#) **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).

4. [\(Romans 1:5\)](#) [Grace—Mission: Paul had received God's grace and God's mission.](#)

[Romans 1:5 \(NASB\)](#)

⁵“Through whom **we** have received **grace** and apostleship to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake.”

[Romans 1:5-7 \(NASB\)](#)

⁵“Through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,
⁶among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;
⁷to 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.”

The story is told of a very wealthy man who had many valuable art treasures. His only son was quite ordinary but was dearly loved. When the son died unexpectedly as a young man, the father was so deeply grieved that he died a few months later. The father's will stipulated that, at his death, all his art works were to be publicly auctioned and that a painting of his son was to be auctioned first.

On the day of the auction the specified painting was displayed and the bidding was opened. Because neither the boy nor the artist were well known, a long time passed without a bid being offered. Finally, a long-time servant of the father and friend of the boy timidly bid seventy-five cents, all the money he had. When there were no other bids, the painting was given to the servant.

08-30-15

Series: [The Book of Romans](#)

At that point the sale was stopped and an official read the remainder of the will, which specified that whoever cared enough for his son to buy the painting of him would receive all the rest of the estate.

That touching story illustrates God's provision for fallen mankind. Anyone who loves and receives His Son, Jesus Christ, will inherit the heavenly Father's estate, as it were. The good news of God is that everyone who receives His Son by faith is blessed **"with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ"** ([Ephesians 1:3](#)).

[Ephesians 1:3 \(NASB\)](#)

³**"Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ."**

That is why Paul could exult,

[2 Corinthians 8:9 \(NASB\)](#)

⁹**"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich."**

Quoting Isaiah, the apostle declared that the Christian's riches include **"things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him"** ([1 Cor. 2:9](#); cf. [Isaiah 64:4](#); [Isaiah 65:17](#)).

[1 Corinthians 2:9 \(NASB\)](#)

⁹**"But just as it is written, 'THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.'"**

[Isaiah 64:4 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴**"For from days of old they have not heard or perceived by ear, Nor has the eye seen a God besides You, Who acts in behalf of the one who waits for Him."**

[Isaiah 65:17 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁷**"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind."**

In Christ, the believer has riches beyond any imagination.

1) The Christian has life that will never end ([John 3:16](#)),

[John 3:16 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁶**"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."**

2) a spring of spiritual water that will never dry up ([John 4:14](#)),

[John 4:14 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁴**"But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."**

- 3) a gift that will never be lost ([John 6:37, 39](#)),
John 6:37 (NASB)
³⁷“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.”
John 6:39 (NASB)
³⁹“This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.”
- 4) a love from which he can never be separated ([Romans 8:39](#)),
Romans 8:39 (NASB)
³⁹“Nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- 5) a calling that will never be revoked ([Romans 11:29](#)),
Romans 11:29 (NASB)
²⁹“For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”
- 6) a foundation that will never be destroyed ([2 Timothy 2:19](#)), and
2 Timothy 2:19 (NASB)
¹⁹“Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, ‘The Lord knows those who are His,’ and, ‘Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.’”
- 7) an inheritance that will never diminish ([1 Peter 1:4-5](#)).
1 Peter 1:4-5 (NASB)
⁴“To *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

In [Romans 1:5-7](#) Paul continues to summarize that good news, describing its **provision** ([v. 5a](#)), **its proclamation and purpose** ([vv. 5b-6](#)), and **its privileges** ([v. 7](#)).

Romans 1:5 (NASB)

⁵“Through whom **we** have received **grace** and apostleship to bring about *the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name’s sake.*”

Note the word “we.” Paul now speaks of all believers, not only of himself.

1. We have received God’s glorious grace: His favor, His mercy, His love, His salvation. Grace includes all that God has done for us and all the wonderful blessings He showers upon us.

Very simply, God’s grace includes.....

a. His love for us from all eternity past.

Ephesians 1:3-4 (NASB)

³“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,
⁴just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love.”

2 Timothy 1:9 (NASB)

⁹“Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity [before the world began].”

Titus 1:2 (NASB)

²“In the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago [before the world began].”

b. His saving us freely, without any cost whatsoever.

Acts 15:11 (NASB)

¹¹“But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.”

Romans 3:24 (NASB)

²⁴“Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)

⁸“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God.

⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Titus 2:11 (NASB)

¹¹“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men.”

c. His care and looking after us day by day.

Philippians 4:19 (NASB)

¹⁹“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

1 Timothy 1:14 (NASB)

¹⁴“And the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are *found* in Christ Jesus.”

d. His glorious promise of eternal redemption: of our being transformed and being made perfect, and being given the glorious privilege of living with Him forever in worship and service.

Ephesians 1:7 (NASB)

⁷“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.”

08-30-15

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Ephesians 2:7 (NASB)

⁷“So that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

Titus 3:7 (NASB)

⁷“So that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.”