

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE
A Study in the Book of Romans

Introduction to Romans Romans 1:1-17
"...the gospel...regarding his Son..." Romans 1:2-3

Read Romans 1:1-17.

1. Of all the things he might have said, how does Paul describe himself in the opening six words? Honestly reflect on your own view of yourself. If pressed to summarize it in a phrase, what would you say?
2. The word "servant" translates the Greek "*doulos*" and connotes "slave." Why does Paul call himself Jesus' slave? (1 Cor. 6:19b-20)

What are the benefits of being a "slave" of Jesus? (Rom. 6:22)

3. According to verse 1, what is Paul set apart for?

How does your call affect the way you live every day?
4. Count how many times the word "gospel" (good news) is mentioned just in the first 17 verses of this long letter to the Romans. What do you suspect will be the theme of the whole letter?

Read Romans 1:2-7.

5. In what ways was the gospel "promised beforehand through the prophets" (v. 2)? (Jer. 31:31-34; Isa. 42:1-9)

Can you think of other examples?

6. What is Paul trying to establish about Jesus in verses 3 and 4?

How does our salvation depend on his being true man and True God?

7. How is Christ's divine nature certified? (v. 4)
8. *Through whom, for whose sake, and for what purpose* does Paul receive any grace he has? (v. 5)

Is this true for you, too, even though you are not an "apostle" in the same technical sense as Paul?

9. What is the wonderful mystery, the new development in salvation history, that is fully revealed in New Testament times, particularly through Paul's ministry? (v. 5; Eph. 3:6)

10. What is the relationship of obedience to faith for a Christian? (v. 5b; James 2:18-19)

11. Meditate on the truth that you "belong to Jesus" (v. 6). How is this a great comfort and joy to you?

Read Romans 1:8–15.

12. What kind of thing gives Paul joy and moves him to pray? (v. 8)

13. In what attitude and to what extent does Paul serve God? (v. 9-10)

How does this encourage you in your own prayer life?

14. According to verses 11 and 12, what is the benefit we derive from getting together with other believers? Share some examples of how this has been true for you.

Read Romans 1:16–17.

15. Why are we sometimes "ashamed" (v. 16) or embarrassed to share the gospel with people?

Why is Paul not ashamed of the gospel? (v. 16)

What does he know about its power?

How have you seen that power?

16. What is the revelation in the gospel that is so different from what the law taught? (v. 17)

17. If you became a Christian and follower of Jesus by an act of faith in him, how do you suppose you are to live from here on out? (v. 17)