

"The Greeting"

Part 2

Romans 1:1-7

Introduction: Tonight in our study of Romans we will step back into the opening verses of chapter 1 but before we do there is something which I need to correct from last week. In our study last week we started to look at the two titles which Paul attached to himself in Romans 1:1. The first title was "SERVANT" which means "BOND SLAVE" and the idea here comes from the Old Testament. There were two passages of Scripture which I used. One was from Leviticus and the other from Exodus.

Leviticus 25:39-40

³⁹ *And if thy brother that dwelleth by thee be waxen poor, and be sold unto thee; thou shalt not compel him to serve as a bondservant:*

⁴⁰ *But as an hired servant, and as a sojourner, he shall be with thee, and shall serve thee unto the year of jubile.*

Exodus 21:2-6

² *If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing.*

³ *If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself: if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him.*

⁴ *If his master have given him a wife, and she have born him sons or daughters; the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself.*

⁵ *And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free:*

⁶ *Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever.*

I misinformed you by telling you the Year of Jubilee was every 7th year and that wasn't correct. The Year of Jubilee was every 50 years and in the Year of Jubilee the slaves were set free but they were also set free every 7 years. So if you sold yourself into

slavery and 3 years later was the Year of Jubilee then you were free to go. If the Year of Jubilee was not close then you were free after 6 years.

In either of these cases the slave could chose to stay and if he did then he was considered a BOND SLAVE. He was marked with a hole in his ear showing that he WILLINGLY made the choice to be his master's servant for life and that he loved his master. This is exactly the choice which Paul had made. He was a BOND SLAVE. He loved the Lord and he knew that in Christ there was TRUE freedom.

I. The Greeting - Romans 1:1-7

Part 2

B. Paul was an Apostle

Notice Romans 1:1

The second title which Paul attaches to himself is APOSTLE. Now there was one main qualification for a man to be an Apostle. **He had to be an eyewitness of the resurrected Christ.**

We see this in Acts 1 when the Apostles were seeking someone who would replace Judas.

Acts 1:23-26

²¹ *Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,*

²² *Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.*

Now the word "APOSTLE" means "ONE SENT FORTH WITH ORDERS". There is something in the order of these two titles which Paul attaches to himself here in verse 1 that is very significant.

The order of these two titles explains why Paul was such a great Apostle. He was a BOND SLAVE **before** he was an Apostle/a man sent with orders. Paul was surrendered FIRST before he was sent out to the Gentiles. When I worked in the construction field there were many men out there who were miserable as bricklayers. They complained and grumbled day after day because of the work we were given to do. It was the man who was surrendered to the trade and who accepted his orders who was a pleasure to work and who stood out in the trade. It is the very same way in the ministry and Paul was a man who was fully surrendered and he was a man who considered himself to be under the orders of

Jesus Christ. It all started on the Damascus Road when Paul came face to face with Jesus Christ.

Acts 9:3-6

³ *And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:*

⁴ *And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?*

⁵ *And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.*

⁶ *And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.*

What a turnaround in Paul's life!!! Here was a man who was focused upon the destruction of those who were followers of Jesus Christ; he was literally what we would call a "terrorist". He hunted Christians down and dragged them from their homes.

Acts 9:1

And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

Later in the book of Acts we get more details about the word "slaughter" mentioned here.

Acts 22:4

⁴ *And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.*

Acts 26:9-11

⁹ *I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.*

¹⁰ *Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them.*

¹¹ And **I punished them oft** in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.

When Jesus Christ met him on the Damascus Road his life was forever changed. This was all because of GRACE. When this happened Paul was able to grasp the AMAZING GRACE of God. If God's grace could save him then Paul realized God's grace could reach anyone. This revelation caused Paul to submit to the orders given to him by Jesus Christ. Now instead of having a RELIGION that was focused upon one nation Paul now had SALVATION that needed to be proclaimed to the entire world.

Application:

Herein lies a great lesson for each of our lives. If we desire to be used of God we too must understand and see that God's GRACE reaches down to the extreme depths of sin. We must understand that it reaches to the ends of the world and it is available to ALL sinners. We must understand there is no one beyond the reach of the GRACE of God. We can then take our orders, which are to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature, and live our lives fully surrendered to our Lord.

So the two titles which Paul gives to himself here in this verse are SERVANT and APOSTLE, but there is more.

1. He was also CALLED.

Notice Romans 1:1 again.

Paul was not an Apostle because he chose to be but he was an Apostle because God had CALLED him to be an Apostle. This also helps us to understand why he was a BOND SLAVE.

"When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."

— **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

God's call was on the heart of Paul and for that reason he was surrendered. He had died to his own desires of the flesh and now his entire life could be given to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Let me show you something which Paul had recorded.

1 Corinthians 15:31b

... I die daily.

Now let me get your mind back to the calling from God. The office of Apostle was the path which God had ordained for Paul. God called him and He equipped him for the ministry

which He called him into. Paul saw himself as a man who was completely inadequate for the position.

1 Corinthians 15:9

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

God had CALLED him and equipped him and placed within his heart a burden for people.

1 Corinthians 9:16

⁶ For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

Application:

When someone is called of God to the ministry God places within them a burden which words can never describe. The ministry to them is not a job, it is not a means of income, and the burden is not something which can be turned on and off. There are many people in the ministry who are in for the wrong reasons. God had given a warning to His people through Jeremiah concerning the prophets who were not CALLED.

Jeremiah 23:16-21

¹⁶ Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD.

¹⁷ They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace: and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you.

¹⁸ For who hath stood in the counsel of the LORD, and hath perceived and heard his word? who hath marked his word, and heard it?

¹⁹ Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked.

²⁰ The anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly.

²¹ *I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.*

Paul was not of this group for he had been CALLED of God.

Application:

There is a lesson here which is very encouraging for all of God's people today. If God can call a man such as Paul and equip him and use him in a way to reach who knows how many people with the Gospel then God can truly use us if we are willing to surrender. If you see yourself as inadequate then you are exactly the person God is looking for. You see when we see ourselves as inadequate we then must trust in the Lord in order to be used by Him.

Jeremiah 1:4-9

⁴ *Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,*

⁵ *Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*

⁶ *Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.*

⁷ *But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.*

⁸ *Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.*

⁹ *Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.*

Jeremiah saw himself as inadequate but God told him He would give him the words to speak.

2. Paul was Separated

Notice Romans 1:1 again.

Paul tells us he was separated unto the Gospel of God. Let me first of all define the Gospel.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand:

² *By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.*

³ *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

⁴ *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

This was the message which Paul was separated unto.

Conclusion:

There is much more to see in Paul's separation and we shall pick it up right here next week but I want to give you something to think about until next week. I find it very interesting in this verse that we are NOT told that Paul was separated from the world, though it is true that he was.

Much preaching today is focused upon separation from the world and that is Biblical but we can be separated from things of the world and still not be separated unto Christ. The body of Christ needs to be taught how to be SEPARATED UNTO CHRIST for when that TRUTH is grasp we can be sure we will be separated from the world. We shall learn in the study of Romans how to be SEPARATED UNTO CHRIST.