

**"The Greeting"**

**Part 3**

**Romans 1:1-7**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Romans we stopped in Romans 1:1 as we were looking at the word "separated". Tonight we are going to continue our look at this word and also a look at what it is to be "separated unto Christ".

**I. Paul was SEPARATED**

**Notice Romans 1:1**

In this verse Paul tells us that he was separated unto the Gospel of God. Before Paul was saved he was a Pharisee.

**Philippians 3:4-6**

*<sup>4</sup> Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:*

*<sup>5</sup> Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;*

*<sup>6</sup> Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*

A Pharisee was someone who was SEPARATED unto the Law. The root word from which the word "Pharisee" comes from actually means "to be separated". Paul had been separated unto the Law as a Pharisee but now, as a believer, he was separated unto Christ. We are not told that Paul was "separated" from the world but we are told he was separated unto the Gospel of God which means he was separated unto Christ and to proclaiming the message of the Gospel.

**Application:**

This is the separation which God desires for each and every one of His children. There are many believers who are separated from the world and much of what is in the world but they are NOT separated unto Jesus Christ. Separation from the world without being separated unto Christ is legalism.

When we are separated unto Christ then we will naturally be separated from the world. But if we are not careful we can separate from the world and begin to look down upon others who are not living as we are living. When this path is taken then we can fall into the practice of announcing to those around us what it is that we have separated from. It may sound something like this, "I don't drink or smoke. I will never allow my hair to grow long. I would never go 'there' and I would never wear 'that'." This person's life becomes consumed with all that they have "given up" and all they have removed from their lives. But while they have separated from these things they still are not separated unto Jesus Christ. Let me show you something which Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount.

**Matthew 5:13**

*<sup>13</sup> **Ye are the salt of the earth**: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*

Jesus told His disciples they were the SALT of the earth and so are we. Now salt has several purposes. It is a preservative for one thing. But I read something that a young lady said one time about the fact that we are the salt of the earth. She said, "Salt makes you thirsty."

As believers this is one of the effects which we are to have upon the people around us. We are to live our lives in a way that, as others see us living our lives and facing our problems, it should make them THIRSTY for what we have, namely Jesus Christ. If we become a person who separates from the world but NOT unto Jesus Christ and then we begin to broadcast what we DO NOT DO then we will not makes others THIRSTY but it will actually rub people the wrong way. When we are separated unto Christ then there will be a sweetness which comes from our lives that will cause a THIRST to be stirred up in those around us.

**Illustration:**

I was reading a book recently in which the author, Jim Berg, was giving an illustration about us as believers being under the control of the Holy Spirit. He said if we place a tea bag in a cup and we pour in hot water and we let it set. Then we pick up the cup and we sip the tea and it is bitter and not to our liking, it is NOT the fault of the hot water. The hot water only revealed what was inside the tea bag. If we do not like the tea because it is bitter then we must NOT blame the hot water but we must change the ingredients in the tea bag. Now here is the application; as we go through life God allows "HOT WATER"

experiences to come into our lives. It may be a sickness, job loss, rebellious child, pressure at work or many other things. As the "HOT WATER" is poured into our lives it then reveals what is in our hearts. If there is a bitterness that comes out of us it is NOT the fault of the "HOT WATER" but it is the manifestation of what is in our heart. It shows that we are controlled by the flesh and not by the Spirit.

**Luke 6:45**

*<sup>45</sup> A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.*

Just like the tea bag needs to be changed so the same is true of our hearts. When bitterness comes out then we can be sure we are not under the control of the Holy Spirit. When we are separated unto Jesus Christ then we can be sure that when the "HOT WATER" times come that from our lives there will be a sweet aroma of Christ within us and others around us will then desire what we have within our hearts.

Let me get back to the subject of being SEPARATED UNTO CHRIST again. We will learn much more about this as we go through this letter and study the Doctrine of Sanctification but there is much to be said now too and so I want to take the time to address this subject deeper.

Many believers spend their lives living in the power of the flesh trying with all they have to abandon the things of the old life. Now God desires that we separate from the practices and the sins of the old life but this is not done in the power of the flesh. The flesh has NO power to live in a way that is pleasing to God. The flesh despises that which is spiritual. Those who attempt this way of life live lives that are very discouraging. They will abandon a sin for a while only to turn around and fall back into it again. They struggle to walk away from the old life and they live defeated lives. This process goes on and on because there is no power in the flesh to get free from the old life.

**Romans 7:18-21**

*<sup>18</sup> For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

*<sup>19</sup> For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.*

*<sup>20</sup> Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.*

<sup>21</sup> *I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.*

God's way for us to separate from the old life is not through the power of the flesh but through the POWER of the **NEW LIFE IN CHRIST**. You see after we are saved it is so important that we GROW IN CHRIST. I read an illustration that helps us to see this Truth in practice.

**Illustration:**

There is a tree that holds its leaves through the winter. It is a pin oak tree. It is only the NEW GROWTH in the spring that will push the dry dead leaves off of the limbs. When the sap begins to flow and the NEW GROWTH begins to come out the old starts to FALL AWAY and the NEW LIFE becomes visible. This is exactly the way the believer "sheds" the old life.

**John 15:1-5**

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*

<sup>2</sup> *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

<sup>3</sup> *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

<sup>4</sup> *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

<sup>5</sup> *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

Here in these verses we can see two points:

1. Christ is the Vine from which the SAP flows through the believer.
2. The NEW GROWTH pushes the old away and if we are not SEPARATED unto Christ we can do nothing to produce the NEW LIFE.

As we sit under the Truth of the Word and we take what we learn and apply it to our lives while walking in fellowship with our Lord then the NEW LIFE will be manifest in us and the "things" of the old life will disappear. It is not so much that we GIVE UP the things of the old life but as we grow they GIVE US UP or we simply OUTGROW them.

**1 Corinthians 13:11**

*11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*

Just as we outgrow certain things which we did as children the same will also happens as we grow spiritually.

Now let's bring all of this into our own personal lives. We are to be separated unto Christ wherever God has placed us. It may be at home as a mom, it may be in the office behind a desk, it may be flat on your back in the hospital, it may be on the construction site, it may be confined to your house, no matter where we are we are to be separated unto Christ. When we are separated unto Jesus then whatever the "HOT WATER" is that comes into our lives there will be the sweet aroma of our Savior which will flow from our lives because we are controlled by the Spirit. We will be living Paul words in 2 Corinthians 5.

### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

*17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: **old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.***

The phrase "ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW" literally means "ALL THINGS ARE BECOMING NEW". In other words this is an ongoing process. The more the New Life flows through us the more the old life gets pushed out of our lives. This is progressive sanctification and there is not one of us who have arrived at perfection yet.

### **Philippians 3:8-13**

*<sup>8</sup> Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*

*<sup>9</sup> And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*

*<sup>10</sup> That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

*<sup>11</sup> If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.*

*<sup>12</sup> Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.*

<sup>13</sup> Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

## II. The Gospel of God

### Notice Romans 1:1-2

There are several points to see concerning the Gospel here in these two verses. Let me first of all give you a Biblical definition of 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;*

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

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

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

This is the definition of the Gospel. Now let us consider the first point.

#### 1. It is the Gospel of God.

The word "GOSPEL" means "GOOD NEWS" and the good news is that Jesus died for the sins of everyone, He was buried, and He was resurrected on the third day and therefore salvation is available to every person who will repent and accept Him as their Savior (whosoever will may come).

This is all from God. From before the creation of the world God determined that His Son would die to pay for the sins of the world.

### Revelation 13:8

<sup>8</sup> *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

God knew before He ever created man that man would sin against Him and that man would need a Savior. God knew from before the foundation of the world that his Son would die on

the cross as the payment for the sins of the world. Before the creation God knew all of this and yet He still created man. There are two questions which come into my mind here;

**a. Why did God create man knowing that he would sin?**

Man was created to have fellowship with God. God desires that we would walk in fellowship with Him.

**John 17:3**

<sup>3</sup> *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

**b. Why did God not stop man from sinning?**

God is all powerful and sovereign over His creation so therefore He could have stopped sin which would have prevented His Son from going to the cross but He didn't. One of the reasons why God did not stop man from sinning is because we would never had known the depth of the love which God has for each and every one of us if it were not for our sin and the cross. We would never have known the longsuffering of God if it were not for the fall of man.

Before the world was created God knew man would fall and would be forever lost without a Savior. Therefore God determined in eternity past that HE would take upon a human body and HE would die so that we could be saved from the power, penalty and the presence of sin.

Therefore the Gospel is the GOSPEL OF GOD. It all came from Him and it all came out of the depths of His love for each of us. This was Paul's motivation to be separated unto Jesus Christ.

**Application/conclusion:**

If anything should motivate us to be SEPARATED UNTO JESUS CHRIST it should be the Gospel of God in which we see the LOVE and the LONGSUFFERING of God toward each and every one of us. In John 17 Jesus said something very interesting about the LOVE which God has for us.

**John 17:23**

<sup>23</sup> *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*