

**"The Greeting"**

**Part 7**

**Romans 1:1-7**

**Introduction:** In our study of Romans we have been looking at the greeting which Paul penned as he opened this letter. In this greeting Paul's focus was upon Jesus Christ and the Gospel. Let us remember that as he wrote this letter he was preparing them for his visit. Some of them may have never met Paul or possibly none of them had ever met him. So, in the greeting of this letter he gives to them a brief introduction of himself in verse one and tells them he is a bond slave, Apostle, and he is separated unto the Gospel of God. He then goes on in verses 1-5 and he points to Jesus Christ. He speaks of His humanity and His deity. Paul goes on and he tells of how he was given grace and apostleship for obedience so that he could magnify the name of Jesus Christ.

**Notice Romans 1:1-5**

Now, let us keep in mind this church at Rome was a young church. There were many things they did not know and understand. They had no New Testament Bible to read. They did not have the book of Romans because Paul was just sitting down to write it. So, in the next two verses Paul points out a few of the blessings which they possessed in Jesus Christ.

**Application:**

It is also true that there are many believers today who are "babes" in Christ and do not know or understand the blessings which they have in Christ. They know that Christ died for them and they know their sins have been forgiven but they know very little beyond that. The next two verses which we are going to step into tonight contain a wealth of spiritual Truth which we can see when we slow down and look closely at what is said.

**I. The Blessings in Christ**

**1. They were THE CALLED of Jesus Christ.**

**Notice Romans 1:6**

Here we see that Paul tells them they also were the CALLED OF JESUS CHRIST. When I read this verse I must ask, "What does Paul mean when he tells them they were the called of Jesus Christ?"

My first response to this statement would be, "Is not everyone called?" The answer to that would be, "YES!" There are many who are called and invited to come to Jesus Christ but not everyone answers that call or accepts that invitation.

Jesus Christ died for the sins of every individual.

### 1 John 2:1-2

*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

*<sup>2</sup> And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

Now since Jesus died for the sins of every single individual salvation is offered to everyone. The Bible tells us that "*whosoever will may come*".

### Revelation 22:17

*<sup>17</sup> And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

### John 3:14-17

*<sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:*

*<sup>15</sup> That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

*<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

*<sup>17</sup> For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

Now let us get back to "THE CALLED". This title is ONLY given and applied to the church in the New Testament. It is a title that is given to those who are a part of the body of Jesus Christ. It DOES NOT refer to a special calling that God gives ONLY to those whom He chose to be saved. It is His will that every person would repent of their sins and accept Jesus Christ as Savior.

### 2 Peter 3:9

<sup>9</sup> *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

Let me show you something deeper in Romans that we will study in detail when we get there. For now we will just touch on it because it will help me to communicate the thought.

### **Romans 8:28-29**

<sup>28</sup> *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

<sup>29</sup> *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

The "CALLED" in verse 28 are those whom God did PREDESTINATE to be conformed to the image of His Son. The word "predestinate" confuses and frightens so many people but when it is understood it has a beautiful meaning for all who are believers.

God DID NOT predestinate/predetermine that certain people would be saved and certain people would be damned to hell for that would be against His own will. God predestinated/predetermined that there would be a Bride for His Son Jesus Christ. Before the foundation of the world God determined that His Son would have a Bride and the Bride of Christ is the CHURCH. So, as He predestinated that there would be a Bride He now sends out the invitation that WHOSOEVER WILL may come and be a part of the Bride. When we accept the invitation, we are then baptized into the body of Jesus Christ.

### **1 Corinthians 12:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> *For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.*

<sup>13</sup> *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

<sup>14</sup> *For the body is not one member, but many.*

It is the BODY of Jesus Christ that is PREDESTINATED to be conformed into the image of Christ. So, when we accept Jesus Christ then we become a member of the BODY which has been predestinated to be conformed into the image of Christ.

Now let me get you back to the "CALLED" again. When we accepted Christ as Savior then we also became the CALLED OF JESUS CHRIST.

**Notice Romans 1:6**

The word "of" speaks of "possession". If someone refers to the house OF Keith Showalter you automatically know it is MY house. I possess the house. It is the same thought here, we are THE CALLED OF JESUS CHRIST. The point is we belong to Jesus Christ because we are His BODY.

Now I believe we can stretch this out and consider some very interesting thoughts here. As THE CALLED of Jesus Christ we are:

- a. **Called to be separated from the world.**

**1 John 2:15**

*<sup>15</sup> Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

- b. **Called to abstain from unequal yokes.**

**2 Corinthians 6:14**

*<sup>14</sup> Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

- c. **Called to pray for one another.**

**James 5:16**

*<sup>16</sup> Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

- d. **Called to be a living sacrifice and to be transformed by the Spirit.**

**Romans 12:1-2**

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

*<sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

e. Called to live a life of holiness.

**1 Thessalonians 4:7**

*<sup>7</sup> For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.*

f. Called to preach the Word.

**2 Timothy 4:2**

*<sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.*

g. Called to be humble.

**1 Peter 5:6**

*<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

h. Called into fellowship with God.

**1 Corinthians 1:9**

*<sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*

i. Called to be salt and to be a light in the midst of the darkness to glorify God.

**Matthew 5:13-16**

*<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.*

*<sup>14</sup> Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

*<sup>15</sup> Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.*

*<sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

This list could go on and on but there is ONE more.

j. Someday we shall be CALLED out of this world.

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

<sup>17</sup> *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

2. They were BELOVED of God.

**Notice Romans 1:7a**

The Bible tells us that God loves all those who are in the world.

**John 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

<sup>17</sup> *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

God loves all who are in the world so much that He gave His Son Jesus Christ as the sacrifice for the sins of the world. But when we accept Jesus Christ as Savior we then experience a different love of God. We become the BELOVED of God. This love is far more intimate. I have a love for people and even unsaved people but that is not the same love by which I love my 2 daughters. The love I have for them is a different love. I love others but my daughters are BELOVED of their father.

As believers we are now His children. We have been born again into the family of God. We are loved with an intimate love. Let me show you what the Father said concerning Jesus.

**Matthew 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> *And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:*

<sup>17</sup> *And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

Jesus Christ is the BELOVED Son of God. The believers at Rome were also BELOVED OF GOD. Does this mean God loved them as He loved His Son? YES!!!

**John 17:20-23**

*<sup>20</sup> Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;*

*<sup>21</sup> That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

*<sup>22</sup> And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:*

*<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.*

As children of God we are the BELOVED of God which means we are loved with an intimate love that only God's children experience.

**3. They were called SAINTS.**

**Notice Romans 1:7**

The words "to be" are in italics which means they have been [placed there by the translators. When they are removed we can see that Paul is referring to their POSITION in Christ. The word does not describe their PRACTICE but it describes their POSITION. Let me support this with another verse.

**1 Corinthians 1:2**

*<sup>2</sup> Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:*

The words "TO BE" here are also added by the translators. The believers at Corinth were called SAINTS. Now we know what their practice was like so it had to be a reference to their POSITION.

When we came to Christ many things took place. Let me explain a few of them.

- a. Our sins were all paid for and we were perfected FOREVER. - **Hebrews 10:14**
- b. We were given the righteousness of Christ. - **Romans 3:22**

- c. We were baptized/placed into the body of Christ. - **1 Corinthians 12:13**
- d. We were made complete in Him. - **Colossians 2:10**
- e. We were accepted in Him. - **Ephesians 1:6**

So, IN HIM (which is our position) we are SAINTS.

**Conclusion:**

These are 3 blessings we have as believers:

1. We are the CALLED of Christ. We belong to Him and are CALLED into a life that glorifies Him.
2. We are BELOVED of God.
3. We are SAINTS in our position in Christ.