

"The Greeting"

Part 6

Romans 1:1-7

Introduction: In the book of Hebrews the writer recorded the Words of Jesus Christ concerning the Central Theme of the Bible.

Hebrews 10:9

⁷ Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

Jesus made the statement that in the VOLUME OF THE BOOK it was written of Him to do the Father's will and so this tells us Jesus is the Central Focus of the Bible. It is all about Him. As we read the Bible we are to look for our Lord within the precepts and the principles recorded within the verses. To learn only the precepts and the principles gives us Biblical knowledge but it leaves us with cold hearts. Let me show you a picture of what our hearts should be like. We are going to step into a conversation between Jesus and the two Emmaus disciples after Jesus' resurrection.

Luke 24:25-32

²⁵ Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

²⁶ Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸ And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

²⁹ But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

³⁰ And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.

³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

³² *And they said one to another, Did not our heart **burn** within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?*

As Jesus opened the Scriptures and they began to see Jesus within the Scriptures then their hearts began to BURN. This is exactly what happens when we see Jesus within the Scriptures as we read. Our hearts begin to grow warmer and eventually BURN as we learn more of our Lord. The Bible is about our Lord and as we read it and we see Him within the pages we are then taken deeper into our relationship with Him. Let us notice the Words of Jesus in His High Priestly prayer in John 17.

John 17:3

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

Here in this verse is the definition of eternal life and it is FELLOWSHIP with the Father and the Son.

Now, there are places in the Bible where Jesus is seen clearly and there are others where He is seen in types. The section before us tonight is a section where Jesus is set directly before us and can clearly be seen. In Romans 1:1-7 Paul's pen is focused directly upon our Lord Jesus.

1. Paul was a BOND SLAVE of Jesus Christ.
2. Paul was SEPARATED unto the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. The prophets WROTE about Jesus Christ.
4. The Gospel CONCERNS Jesus Christ.
5. Jesus was MADE of the seed of David according to the flesh.
6. Jesus was DECLARED to be the Son of God by the resurrection.
7. Combining Romans 1:3-4, Jesus was BORN of a virgin.

This now brings us to where we are tonight in our study of the Greeting which Paul recorded here in Romans 1.

I. Equipped for the New Life in Christ

There are many believers who walk this earth thinking salvation is only for escaping the fires of eternal damnation. They have accepted Jesus Christ and their lives have been changed but they are not growing. They attend church and may even hold an office but they are careful to keep their schedule open so they can do what THEY want to do when THEY want to do it. They are never satisfied with anything that they get involved in which pertains to the world. They may have very BUSY schedules and BUSY lives but they are missing something very important and that is the blessings of their NEW LIFE in CHRIST. They are EMPTY and they are attempting to fill the void with what the world has to offer. They are what the Bible calls DOUBLE MINDED. Let me show you a verse from the Sermon on the Mount that will bring this into focus.

Matthew 5:8

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

The phrase "pure in heart" does not mean the absence of sin although that is a part of the meaning. The idea which Jesus is stating here is we are to have pure "UNDIVIDED" hearts. In other words, our hearts are to be FREE from CONFLICTING priorities. Our hearts are to be focused upon our relationship with our Lord. Let us now get to our study for tonight.

Notice Romans 1:5a

Paul is still focused upon Jesus Christ and this verse contains more reasons why Paul was separated unto the Jesus Christ.

Paul had been given GRACE and APOSTLESHIP. The definition of "Apostleship" here is "one who has been sent". The office of Apostle no longer exists today. The Apostles had a very important purpose during the days of the early church. Their purpose was to lead the church in the Truth. When the church began on the Day of Pentecost, those who were saved became the New Testament Church but they did not have a New Testament Bible. Therefore, God gave the Apostles to the early church to lead them in the Truth.

Acts 2:41-43

⁴¹ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

⁴² And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

⁴³ *And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.*

God gave to the Apostles the Doctrines to lead the church and He gave to the Apostles the gifts of miracles/Apostolic gifts so that the church would be able to distinguish between the TRUE Apostles and the false apostles.

Notice what Paul wrote to the Corinthians when defending his Apostleship.

2 Corinthians 12:12

¹² *Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.*

The life of an Apostle was very difficult.

1 Corinthians 4:9-13

⁹ *For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.*

¹⁰ *We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised.*

¹¹ *Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;*

¹² *And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:*

¹³ *Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.*

Notice Romans 1:5a again.

Paul lets his readers know that GRACE came before Apostleship. Amid all he had to face it was God's grace that sustained him.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

⁷ *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

⁸ *For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.*

⁹ *And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee:** for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

Now let us see why the GRACE was given.

Notice Romans 1:5

There are two reasons listed here for Jesus giving GRACE to Paul.

1. For obedience to the faith among all nations.

The idea here is that Paul, as well as the other Apostles were given grace in so they could endure the path which God had ordained for them as they walked that path and preached the Gospel. Let me show you what God had said to Ananias when he was sent to Paul after Paul's conversion.

Acts 9:13-16

¹³ *Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:*

¹⁴ *And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.*

¹⁵ *But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:*

¹⁶ **For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.**

Paul was appointed to a path of suffering and therefore he needed the grace of God to sustain him on that very path. He had been called to preach the Gospel and as he preached he would encounter great opposition but the grace of God would be greater than the opposition which the enemy would throw at him. Notice what Paul wrote to the Corinthians concerning the grace given to him.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

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.*

¹⁰ *But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*

Now let us notice the ultimate reason for the grace.

2. **To magnify the name of Christ.**

Paul understood that his ultimate purpose was to glorify the Lord with his life. On the path which Paul was given to walk he was given grace to exercise his gifts so that through EVERYTHING he encountered he would make Jesus Christ known.

Philippians 1:12-14

¹² *But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;*

¹³ *So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;*

¹⁴ *And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.*

Application:

We need to pull all of this together and bring it into our own personal lives. We are NOT Apostles but we are believers who have been SENT out into the world by our Lord. We have all been given at least one spiritual gift and with that gift we have been given grace.

Ephesians 4:7

⁷ *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*

2 Corinthians 9:8

⁸ *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

Jesus tells us in the Sermon on the Mount that we are the light of the world.

Matthew 5:14-16

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

¹⁵ 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.

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

Because we are God's lights He can place us where ever He desires. It is NOT our responsibility to question God's ways but it is our responsibility to SHINE in the darkness. He will give to us the grace that is needed in the circumstances in order for us to be obedient so as to make known the name and the love of Jesus Christ to those around us.

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

This is where the believer finds fulfillment for his or her life.

Conclusion:

I will stop tonight with a look at the "Feeding of the 5000".

John 6:5-11

⁵ When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

⁶ And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

⁷ Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,

⁹ There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

¹⁰ And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

¹¹ And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

There are four very important lessons here:

1. **Jesus often tests the faith of His disciples.**
2. **Jesus cares about those who are in need.**
3. **Jesus uses us to meet the needs of others.**
4. **Jesus will provide what we need as we reach out to those who are in need.**