

**The Epistle to the Romans
(Special English Edition)**

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For Rogma International, Inc.

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Paul's Authority, Greeting, Prayer, and Purpose

Reading assignment: Romans 1

Introduction

We have divided the book of Romans into several short sections. We must understand the book of Romans one short passage at a time.

In Lessons 1 and 2 we studied who the author of the book is. We also studied the time in which Paul wrote the book. We learned to what people Paul wrote the book. We saw the keys that helped us to understand it and some outlines that gave us an overview of the whole book.

In this lesson you will begin to study the text verse by verse. We cover Chapter 1, verses 1 through 13 in this lesson. You must come to this lesson with joy in your heart. You must expect that the Holy Spirit will teach you. You must pray much while you study this book and ask the Holy Spirit to give you complete understanding.

Importance of this Lesson

- Always keep in mind, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..." (2 Timothy 3:16). Every verse before you is part of God's complete revelation to man.
- Romans 1:1-13 teaches us that Paul was a true apostle and that he had the power of an apostle. These verses present a clear statement about the meaning of the gospel. These verses reveal the absolute deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. They show us the heart of Paul in the prayer he offers on behalf of the believers at Rome.

THE LESSON

I. AN OVERVIEW

Keep the suggested outline before you and notice that verses 1-13 are a part of the INTRODUCTION.

This introduction will actually continue through verse 17 in lesson 4.

In this lesson, we have:

- A. Paul the Apostle – Romans 1:1
- B. Paul's Gospel and Greeting – Romans 1:1-7
- C. Paul's Prayer and Purpose for writing the book – Romans 1:8-13

II. A VERSE BY VERSE EXPLANATION

A. Chapter 1, Verse 1 – *Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ*

- 1. The word translated "servant" comes from the Greek word that means "slave." This means a slave who becomes the permanent servant of his master by his own free will. Paul was a faithful servant of Jesus Christ by his own free will. He was always ready to do the work Christ wanted him to do.
- 2. All believers should be like Paul (1 Corinthians 7:22; Romans 6:17-18).

B. *Called (to be) an apostle*

- 1. The word "called" describes what kind of an apostle Paul was. Paul was a "called" apostle.
- 2. Some people in Rome did not think that God had called Paul to be an apostle. They did not think Paul had the power to speak as an apostle. They did not think God chose him. Here Paul states that he is an apostle. He defends the position God gave him.

3. Read and study the following:
 - a. 1 Corinthians 9:1 – “Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are not ye my work in the Lord?”
 - b. Also read Galatians 1:15-16 and Acts 9:15, 26:14-19. Paul was enthusiastic about his work as an apostle. Paul guarded his position as an apostle and he never hesitated to state it and to defend it. He preached and taught with the authority of an apostle.
- C. *separated unto the gospel of God*
 1. Galatians 1:15 – *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by His grace.* God called and separated Paul for the purpose of preaching the gospel to the Gentile nations.
 2. *Separated unto* – Here is positive separation. It is good to keep in mind that God calls every believer to live a life that is separated *from* sin but *unto* God. This is the way the believer must serve God. (Read Hebrews 13:13-15; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.)
 3. *The gospel of God*
 - a. Here we have the broadest possible statement of what the gospel is.
 - b. Gospel means “good news,” and in Romans Paul explains the “good news” from God Almighty concerning our salvation.
 - c. We call your attention to Paul's other statements about the gospel:
 - 1) Romans 1:9 – *the gospel of His Son*
 - 2) Romans 1:16 – *the gospel of Christ*
 - 3) Romans 2:16 – *my gospel*
- D. Verse 2 – In verses 2 through 6 Paul talked about the gospel. In verse 7, Paul picked up his message to the Romans again that he talked about in verse 1.
 1. *Which he had promised afore* – In the Old Testament God prophesied concerning Jesus Christ. We find such passages as Genesis 3:15 – “...It (the seed of a woman) shall bruise thy (Satan's) head...”
 2. Genesis 12:3 – This verse tells us how God will bless all the nations through Abraham – “...in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”
 3. Psalm 22, 23, 24 – In this wonderful set of three psalms, we see Christ, the Good Shepherd who gives His life for the sheep; Christ the Great Shepherd who takes care of His sheep and the Chief Shepherd who comes to get His sheep.
 4. Isaiah 53 – This chapter clearly reveals Christ suffered for our sins and carried them away.
 5. *In the Holy Scripture* – In the Greek language the word *hagios* means *holy*. Holy here means that God *set apart* His Word as the Word of God. This word has power and it is inspired.
 - a. 2 Peter 1:21 – “...holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”
 - b. 2 Timothy 3:16 – “All scripture is given by inspiration of God...”
- E. Verse 3 – The Greek word “peri” is translated *concerning*. It is used in English in such words as perimeter and means a line around a certain area.
 1. Christ, therefore, is the very center of the gospel. The gospel is about Him. God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, IS the gospel!
 2. *Which was made of the seed of David* – This phrase introduces Christ as the Messiah who God promised to the Jews. This Messiah will sit on David's throne forever.
 - a. Matthew 1:1-17 traces Christ's family from David to Mary. He truly was “of the seed of David.”
 - b. In Luke 1:32, an angel announces about Christ: “He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.”
- F. In verses 3 and 4, we see the whole gospel in 7 statements.
 1. *His Son* – An everlasting Father must have an everlasting Son. Here we see that Christ is God. In Mark 14:62 Christ said that He was God. Because of this people accused him, they beat him and spit on him.
 2. *Jesus Christ* – Here is His name and title. All Old Testament prophecies have their fulfillment in the One who has this title.

3. *Our Lord* – "...he is Lord of all" (Acts 10:36).
4. *Which was made* – The Greek word here is *ginoma*. Paul also uses this word in Galatians 4:4-5, where it says Christ was "made of a woman." This is a definite reference to His virgin birth. "of the seed of David" – compare Matthew 1:1 and Revelation 22:16. You will note that the New Testament opens and closes with this statement. This means that God kept His promise to David (2 Samuel 7:11-16) and that Christ will still reign from David's throne in Jerusalem (Luke 1:32).
5. *Declared to be the Son of God* – the phrases "son of David" and "Son of God" show us that Christ was human and God at the same time.
6. *With Power* – The resurrection did not make Christ the Son of God, it showed he was truly God's Son! The power of God was the cause of the resurrection. The result of the resurrection also showed the power of God. (Read Matthew 28:18; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20.)
1. *According to the Spirit of holiness* – Or, Holy Spirit. Note the Three-in-One God working together in verses 1-4.
2. *By the Resurrection from the dead* – Here is the most important part of the gospel! The birth and resurrection of Christ are both in these verses. The resurrection of Christ makes Christianity different from all other religions.
- G. Verse 5 – *By Whom* – That is, by God and His Son, Jesus Christ. God and his Son, Jesus Christ, gave Paul the power to be an apostle. (Note 1 Corinthians 1:1.)
 1. *We have received grace and apostleship* – Grace for salvation, apostleship for service.
 - a. *Grace* – God's free favor in Christ that we do not deserve.
 - b. *Apostleship* – This is an office that God gives to a person. God sent that person out after He Himself chose him (Matthew 10:1-4). God gave that person power to do miracles (Matthew 10:1) and the person had seen Christ with his own eyes after the resurrection (1 Corinthians 9:1).
 2. *For obedience to the faith* – the Greek word "eis" is translated "for" and means "unto." The same phrase is found in Romans 16:26. Paul reminds us at the beginning and end of the epistle that true faith involves obedience.
 3. *The faith* – This refers to all the great doctrines concerning the wonderful salvation we have in Christ (Jude 3).
 4. *Among all nations* – Note that the gospel is for all nations in the world.
 5. *For his name* – We must do all preaching and all Christian living for the glory of His name (Colossians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 10:31).
- H. Verse 6 – *the called of Jesus Christ* – This does not mean that we are only invited. This means every person who is really saved, who heard God call and obeyed (Romans 8:28, 30).

THIS IS THE END OF PAUL'S STATEMENT ABOUT THE GOSPEL

III. THE GREETING CONTINUED

A. Verse 7 – Paul continued his greeting

To all...Rome – all the true believers in the church in Rome.

1. *Called saints* – As in verse 1, "called" describes the believer or saint. "To be" (found in the King James Version) should be omitted.
- ◆ *All believers are holy persons because God called them and gave them a position in Christ. This does not mean that Paul is speaking about only some special people.*
2. *Beloved of God* – Note 1 John 4:10. A wonderful resting-place! This is a great reason for joy!
3. *Grace and Peace* – This Paul's great set of words that he never turns around. The Greek word *chavis*, is translated Grace. This is a word the Gentiles used. *Shalom* is a Jewish word, which means peace. This shows us that the gospel is for both Jews and Gentiles.
4. Someone made an excellent definition out of both words. Each word of the definition starts with a letter of the words Grace and Peace:
GRACE – God's Riches at Christ's Expense
PEACE – Perfect Enrichment at Christ's Expense
Grace always precedes peace, for without grace there could be no peace.

B. A comparison of these two words: **Grace / Peace (Learn the ways these are contrasted.)**

GRACE

1. Is the source of salvation
2. God giving
3. God at work for man
4. God supplying
5. God enriching
6. Is what God is

PEACE

1. Is the result of salvation
2. Man receiving
3. Man resting in that work
4. Man fully supplied
5. Man enriched
6. Is what man has

IV. THE CONCLUSION OF PAUL'S GREETING

◆ *In Romans 1:8-13 we see Paul's Prayer and His Purpose for Writing the Book*

A. Verse 8

1. *I* – He shows that he is a personal friend of the Romans and for that reason he no longer uses the word “we” as he did in verse 5.
2. *God through Jesus Christ* – This is the proper order for prayer. (Note John 16:23.)
3. *For your faith* – Here it is not “the faith” as in verse 5, but it stands for what they believed and for the widest faith they practiced.
4. *Spoken of throughout the whole world* – People talked about the faith throughout the whole Roman Empire with Rome as the capita. This was the whole world as people knew it at that time.. Colossians 1:23 states ...*which was preached to every creature which is under heaven...*

B. Verses 9-10 read together. Paul wrote the book 20 years after God saved him. Many questioned his honesty for not visiting their city.

1. *God is my witness* – Paul often asked God to be a witness to the honesty of his life and ministry. Oh, that all of us could do the same!
2. *Whom I serve* – Serve as a slave the master set free, but who served him out of love.
3. *With (in) my spirit* – God uses the spirit of man to tell a message to others or get the work done. We should try to keep our spirits on fire for the Lord and pure (John 4:24).
4. *In the gospel of his Son* – It is always the same gospel. This is another term Paul used to describe the gospel (Romans 1:16 and 2:16).
5. *Without ceasing* – In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Paul wrote that we all must pray without ceasing. We should all try to stay in touch with God and talk to Him or listen to Him at all times.
6. *Making request* – Paul had actually been wishing and praying for the opportunity to come to Rome.
7. *By the will of God* – It had not been easy. His difficulties in getting there had taught him to wait on the will of God. We can all learn this lesson.

C. Verse 11 – *I long* – People accused Paul that he did not care about him, but that was not true.

1. *that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift* – The word for “impart” in this verse means “to share.” Paul was bursting with desire to share with others that which God had given him concerning wisdom and knowledge of the truth. We all should have that same desire to share whatever we have of spiritual gifts.
2. *Ye may be established* – This is one of the reasons for all preaching and teaching. This is one of the reasons Paul had for wanting to visit Rome.

D. Verse 12 – *...that I may be comforted...with you by the mutual faith...* – Here we see Paul's humility. He had no desire to be a boss over these people to tell them what they must do. He hoped that they also had spiritual gifts to share with him so that God would bless him in the same way God had blessed them. Note that every Christian has some gift from God (Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11).

- E. Verse 13 – *Now...ignorant, brethren* – This is a phrase that no other writer of the New Testament uses. (See 1 Corinthians 10:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:13; Romans 11:25.) Paul wants the Romans, and us, to know that He wanted to produce fruit wherever he visited.
1. *Brethren* – This is a term which includes both men and women.
 2. *Often times I purposed* – Many times Paul desired in his heart to come to Rome. Our plans are not always God's plans! Paul realized that the city of Rome was the most important city in the empire.
 3. *That I might have some fruit* – Fruit is not always only the salvation of souls. The reason for preaching and teaching is more than winning souls. (Note Romans 6:22 and Galatians 5:22.)
 4. *Among you...as among other Gentiles* – Here we see that the church at Rome was a Gentile church for the most part. Paul also made a statement here that God chose him as an apostle to the Gentiles. Paul's ministry had resulted in much fruit in other Gentile churches and he was sure this would happen in Rome also.

THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS
EXAM - LESSON 3

Name _____

Address _____

1. In Romans 1:1, the meaning of the word “servant” is: (Value 5 points)
 - a. a hired worker.
 - b. a bond slave.
 - c. an assistant.
2. The word that shows that Paul’s apostolic authority came from God is: (Value 5 points)
 - a. “called,” as adjective indicating that God chose Paul.
 - b. “Paul,” meaning “one in authority.”
 - c. “apostle,” all that is needed to indicate Paul’s apostolic authority.
3. The phrase “separated unto” mean means that: (Value 5 points)
 - a. Paul was separated from sin and unto God.
 - b. Paul was separated unto God.
 - c. Paul was separated from sin.
4. The meaning of the word “Gospel” is: (Value 5 points)
 - a. a drama written in modern times.
 - b. “good news” about salvation.
 - c. the New Testament.
5. Paul’s reference to “Holy Scriptures” in Romans 1:2 meant: (Value 5 points)
 - a. the Bible.
 - b. the New Testament.
 - c. the Old Testament.
6. The phrase “of the seed of David” is significant in that it shows: (Value 5 points)
 - a. Christ is truly the Son of God.
 - b. Christ is the Messiah who will someday sit on David’s throne.
 - c. Christ is part of David’s family.
7. The great event that differentiates Christianity from all other religions is: (Value 5 points)
 - a. Christ’s Resurrection.
 - b. Christ’s Ascension.
 - c. Christ’s Birth of Christ.
8. The requirements of a genuine, authoritative apostle are. (**Mark three**) (Value 15 points)
 - a. He had to be directly chosen by the Lord.
 - b. He had to have performed miracles.
 - c. He had to have walked with Christ on earth.
 - d. He had to have written at least one book of the Bible.
 - e. He had to have been a witness of the Christ’s resurrection.
 - f. He had to have been baptized in water by Christ.

9. The meaning of “the faith” in Romans 1:5 is: (Open Bible) (Value 5 points)
- the Christian way of life.
 - the truths and doctrines concerning salvation in Christ.
 - their belief that everything in life would turn out OK.
10. The request of God that Paul made in Romans 1:10 was that: (Open Bible) (Value 5 points)
- the church at Rome would receive him graciously.
 - the church at Rome would listen to him.
 - God would make it possible for him to visit the believers in Rome.
11. The lesson about prayer every Christian can learn from Romans 1:10 is that: (Open Bible) (Value 5 points)
- we should pray for other believers.
 - we should wait for the will of God.
 - we should always bring all requests to God.
12. In Romans 1:11 Paul says, “I long to see you.” This tell us that Paul: (Value 5 points)
- was concerned for the believers in Rome.
 - wanted to see Peter in Rome.
 - wanted the believers in Rome to see his miracles, too.
13. True faith involves: (Value 5 points)
- humility.
 - obedience.
 - perseverance.
14. Paul often uses the phrase “Grace and Peace.” Fill in the contrast on the following phrases:
(Value 15 points)
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| a. Grace is the source of salvation | a. Peace _____ |
| b. Grace is God giving | b. Peace _____ |
| c. Grace is God at work for man | c. Peace _____ |
15. What phrase in Romans 1:13 shows us that the church of Rome was made up of mostly gentiles?
(Open Bible) (Value 5 points)
-
16. The phrase in Romans 1:13 that shows us that our plans are not always God’s plans is:
(Open Bible) (Value 5 points)
-