

Gospel Centered Living: A Study of the Book of Romans
God's Purpose for Us Romans 1:1-7
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The apostle Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile," Romans 1:16.

As we trust Jesus Christ for our salvation, we recognize that there is tremendous power in centering our lives in His gospel which is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Romans will teach us our need for this transforming power and how to access it by grace for the challenges that we face. This study will show us how to be right with God, ourselves, and others. The great reformer, Martin Luther shares: "Romans is a feast for one's soul." Jack Kuhatschek adds, "If a person understands it, he has a sure road opened for him to the understanding of the whole Scripture." We are going to have some sweet Bible times at church and at our small groups this season. But watch out! Those who study Romans are rarely the same afterward. As you study Paul's letter, may you be challenged by the new life and the new lifestyle we have in Christ! Come join us! Enjoying the Journey, Pastor John

FOUNDATIONAL BACKGROUNDS

The book of Romans was written by the Apostle Paul. He used Tertius as his scribe. (See Romans 16:22) Most commentators believe that he wrote Romans from Corinth. Most commentators place the writing of Romans at the end of Paul's third missionary journey. This would put it roughly at the end of 56/57AD.

1. To create an interest & support for the **Spanish Mission**.
(See Acts 19:21, Romans 15:23-24, 28, 32)
2. He is seeking to **Bring Unity** within the church! (See Romans 1:16, 1:18 –3:20; 4:1-25, 9:1 –11:36, 14:1 – 15:13)
3. To show the universal need of all mankind for **Righteousness** by **Faith** to deliver from wrath (both present and future) and the power of sin and suffering. (Romans 1:16 – 8:39).

The Passage:

Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God-- 2 the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures 3 regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, 4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. 5 Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. 6 And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. 7 To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Big Idea: God's purpose is for His children to serve Jesus by being set apart to both receive and share the Gospel through faith and obedience.

God's Purposes are for:

- I. His children to be _____ servants of Jesus Christ.

(Memory Verse) Romans 1:1 Paul, a *servant* of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God--

Acts 13:2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Galatians 1:15 But when God, who *set me apart* from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased 16 to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles,

1Corinthians 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to *preach the gospel*-- not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Growth Groups: How does Paul exemplify this identity of a servant? Study Romans 1:5&10, 1:14, 12:3: I Cor. 15:9 &10. Look at Jesus words of Matt.20:28. In what ways is God showing you to apply this identity to your daily life?

Real servants commit to their Master.

II. His children to be _____ for the Gospel.

Romans 1:1 and set apart for the *gospel* of God-- 2 the *gospel* he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures

Isaiah 48:5 Therefore I told you these things long ago; before they happened I announced them to you so that you could not say, 'My idols did them; my wooden image and metal god ordained them.'

Galatians 3:8 The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the *gospel* in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." (I Cor. 1:24)

Romans 1:3 regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, 4 and who through the Spirit of holiness

was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

GG. The importance of knowing your calling cannot be overestimated. Study the following verses and notice what Paul tells us about our calling. Romans 1:1, 6, 7, 8:28, 11:29, I Corinthians 1:2, 1:24, 1:26; along with Ephesians 4:1. What does Ephesians 4:1 look like today? Consider that Paul was called, 1:1. And the Roman church was called 1:6, 7. Are you?

Receiving Jesus brings a call to share His Gospel.

III. His children are called to an _____ faith.

Romans 1:5 Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. 6 And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

Acts 6:7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Romans 1:7 To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

GG: Three locations are mentioned in Romans. Find out what Paul wanted to do in each place. (Rome, Romans 1:11 –12, 15:23; Jerusalem, 15:19, 25, 26, 31: & Spain 15:24, 28). Why do you think Paul was so focused on his mission? Why are faith and obedience so necessary to share in God's mission? Acts 26:19

***Obedience always involves faith,
and faith always involves obedience.***

