

Romans – Chapter 1:1-7

GCF Hardcore Bible Study

September 10, 2003

1 Theme

Romans is an epistle (written communication), and Paul begins by introducing himself to the Roman Christians

2 Observations about Paul

- Paul calls himself a servant/slave (does so in Romans, Titus, Philippians)
- Paul also calls himself an apostle (does so in every epistle except Philippians, 1 and 2 Thesalonians, and Philemon)
- APOSTLE – has a salvative/historical role as the foundation of the Christian church (i.e. Paul's role was to start and supervise churches, and disciple them). His (Paul's) words carry the authority of God
- Other definitions for apostle include messenger, missionary, and one who has witnessed the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- Paul received his apostleship so that he would lead
 - all Gentiles
 - to Obedience that comes from Faith (post-conversion commitment)
 - for His name's sake
- Who is “we” that have received grace and apostleship in v. 5? All Christians (i.e. all his readers)? Most likely, no. Paul sometimes uses the collective “we” to refer to himself. However, we (Christians) are called to be saints.

3 Observations about Jesus

Human	Divine
who has come	who was appointed
from the seed of David	Son of God in power
according to the flesh	according to the Spirit of Holiness
	from the resurrection of the dead

Discussion question: Why did Jesus need to be declared with power? Who did the declaring? Was Jesus the Son only after the Resurrection?

Discussion points: God did the declaring. Jesus was fully human and divine while on Earth, but gave up some of his authority pre-Resurrection. He endured the tests and trials of the earthly life, and was obedient even unto death. The declaration signified a change in His status and function to that of a powerful, reigning Lord.

4 Observations about the Gospel

- Originated from God
- Salvation was promised through the words of the prophets