

**The Book Of Romans  
The Good News Of God Part 3b  
& True Spiritual Leadership 1**

**Romans 1:5-15 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup> *through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,*

<sup>6</sup> *among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;*

<sup>7</sup> *to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>8</sup> *First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.*

<sup>9</sup> *For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you,*

<sup>10</sup> *always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.*

<sup>11</sup> *For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;*

<sup>12</sup> *that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.*

<sup>13</sup> *I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.*

<sup>14</sup> *I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.*

<sup>15</sup> *So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.*

In our last study Paul described the Good News in its;

Provision (v5a),

Proclamation (v5b),

Purpose (v6),

Privileges (v7).

We already talked about the provision, and the proclamation and tonight we want to look at the purpose and the privilege.

**THE PURPOSE OF THE GOOD NEWS**

**Romans 1:5C-6 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup> *for His name's sake,*

<sup>6</sup> *among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;*

Although God gave His own Son to save the world (*John 3:16*) and does not wish for any person too perish (*Pet 3:9*), it must be recognized that the primary purpose of the gospel is not for man's sake but God's, "for His name sake."

Man's salvation is simply a by-product of God's grace; its main focus is to display God's glory.

The preacher (v1), the promise (v2), the Person (vv3-4), the provision (v5a), the proclamation (vv5b-6), and the privileges (v7), of the good news of God are all given for the express purpose of glorifying God.

All redemptive history focuses on the glory of God, and throughout eternity the accomplishments of His redemption will continue to be a memorial to His majesty, grace, and love.

Because of His gracious love for fallen and helpless mankind, salvation is of importance to God for man's sake, but because of His own perfection it is infinitely more important to Him for His own sake.

God is ultimately and totally committed to the exaltation of His own glory.

Now that truth has always been anathema to the natural man, and in our day of rampant selfism even within the church, it is also a stumbling block to many Christians.

But man's depraved perspective and standards notwithstanding, the main issue of salvation is God's glory, because He is perfectly worthy and it is that perfect worthiness to which sin is such an affront.

Paul declares that one day, ***"at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father."*** (Phil 2:10-11).

Even the divine truths and blessings that are given for His children's own sake are first of all given, ***"that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God"***(2Cor 4:15)

When a person believes in Christ, he is saved: but more important than that, God is glorified, because the gift of salvation is entirely by His sovereign will and power.

For the same reason, God is glorified when His people love His Son, when they acknowledge His assessment of their sin and their need for cleansing, when their plans become His plans, and when their thoughts become His thoughts.

Believers live and exist for the glory of God.

The believers in Rome to whom Paul was writing were **among** those who had been brought to the ***"obedience of faith"*** (v5) and therefore were also **called of Jesus Christ**.

And as we have already learned, and have emphasized, **the called of Jesus Christ**, those who are true believers, are **called** not only to salvation but to obedience.

And to be obedient to Christ includes bringing other to Him in faith and obedience.

Thus we have the purpose of the good news.

#### THE PRIVILEGES OF THE GOOD NEWS

***Romans 1:7 (NASB)***

***<sup>7</sup> to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.***

Among the countless, gracious privileges of the good news of God are those of our being His beloved, our being His called ones, and our being His saints.

Paul here address' all his fellow believers in **Rome** as the **beloved of God**.

One of the most repeated and emphasized truths of Scripture is that of God's gracious love for those who belong to Him.

Listen to David as he prays;

***Psalms 25:6 (NASB)***

***<sup>6</sup> Remember, O LORD, Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses, For they have been from of old.***

**Psalm 26:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup> *For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, And I have walked in Your truth.*

And again;

**Psalm 36:7 (NASB)**

<sup>7</sup> *How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.*

Isaiah said;

**Isaiah 63:7 (NASB)**

<sup>7</sup> *I shall make mention of the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, According to all that the LORD has granted us, And the great goodness toward the house of Israel, Which He has granted them according to His compassion And according to the abundance of His lovingkindnesses.*

And through Jeremiah the Lord told His people;

**Jeremiah 31:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup> *"I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.*

Paul declares:

**Ephesians 2:4-5 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup> *But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,*

<sup>5</sup> *even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*

And John writes;

**1 John 3:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> *See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are.*

Every believer has been made acceptable to God through Christ;

**Ephesians 1:6 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup> *to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*

Every believer is a child of God and is loved for the sake of God's beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

Paul says that:

**Romans 5:5b (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup> *the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

Later in the epistle he assures us that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ;

**Romans 8:35-39 (NASB)**

<sup>35</sup> *Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

<sup>36</sup> *Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."*

<sup>37</sup> *But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.*

<sup>38</sup> *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come,*

*nor powers,*

<sup>39</sup> *nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Secondly, those who have come to Christ by the obedience of faith are also called of God. Paul is not referring to God's general call for mankind to believe.

Here in Romans 7 Paul is referring to the specific way in which those who have responded to that invitation have been sovereignly and effectually called by to God Himself in salvation.

Called is here a synonym for the terms, "elect" and "predestined"

Listen to Paul here in chapter 8;

***Romans 8:30 (NASB)***

<sup>30</sup> *and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*

From our limited human viewpoint, it may seem that we first came to God through an act of our will, but we know from His Word that we could not have sought Him by faith unless He had already chosen us by the gracious act of His sovereign will.

The references to being Called to salvation are always in the epistles of the New Testament, efficacious calls that save, never general invitations.

Thus calling is the effecting of the plan of elections.

The doctrine of elections is clearly taught throughout the New Testament (*Matt. 20:15-16; John 15:16; 17:9; Acts 13:48; Romans 9:14-15; 11:5; 1Cor 1:9; Eph 2:8-10; Col. 1:3-5; 1Thess 1:4-5; 2Thess 2:13; 2Tim 1:9; 2:10; 1Pet 1:1-2; Rev 13:8; 17:8,14*).

Thirdly, believers are God's saints.

Saints is from *hagios*, which has the basic meaning of being set apart.

In the Old Testament such things as the Tabernacle and its furnishings, including the ark and the priests were all set apart to Him. The whole tribe of Levi was set apart to Him.

But in the New Testament all of those things have been done away with and God's only truly Holy things on earth today is His people. Those who have been called, through Jesus Christ. They are the new temple of God, they are the new priesthood.

***1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (NASB)***

<sup>16</sup> *Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

<sup>17</sup> *If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.*

***1 Peter 2:5 (NASB)***

<sup>5</sup> *you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

**1 Peter 2:9 (NASB)**

***<sup>9</sup> But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;***

Now in a beautiful benediction to his introductory remarks, Paul says,

**Romans 1:7 (NASB)**

***<sup>7</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.***

The only people who can receive the marvelous blessings of **grace** and **peace** are those who are the beloved, the called, and the holy ones of God.

Only they can truly call **God** their **Father**, because only they have been adopted into His divine family through His true Son, the **Lord Jesus Christ**.

### TRUE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

**Romans 1:8-15 (NASB)**

***<sup>8</sup> First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.***

***<sup>9</sup> For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you,***

***<sup>10</sup> always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.***

***<sup>11</sup> For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;***

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***<sup>13</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.***

***<sup>14</sup> I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.***

***<sup>15</sup> So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.***

When I was away preparing for the ministry, I learned a great deal from the books I read, the lectures I heard, and the papers I wrote.

But I learned most from the attitudes and actions of the godly men, and women under whom I studied.

While I was around them, I discovered their true priorities, their true convictions and their true devotion to the Lord.

Paul in the opening verses of his letter to the Romans, also set himself forth for his readers to see before he attempted to teach them some deeper truths of the gospel.

He opened his heart and said in effect, "before I show you my theology, I am going to show you myself."

People serve the Lord from many motives.

Some serve out of legalistic effort, as a means of earning salvation and God's favor.

Some serve the Lord for fear that, if they do not, they will incur His disfavor and perhaps even lose their salvation.

Some serve because of the prestige and esteem that leadership often brings.

Some serve in order to gain preeminent ecclesiastical positions and the power to lord it over those under their care.

Some serve for appearance sake, in order to be considered righteous by fellow church members and by the world.

Some serve because of peer pressure to conform to certain human standards of religious and moral behavior.

Children are often forced into religious activities by their parents, and they sometimes continue those activities into adult life only because of parental intimidation or perhaps from mere habit.

Some people are even zealous in Christian work because of the financial gain it can produce.

But those motives for service are merely external, and no matter how orthodox or helpful to other people the service might be, unless it is done out of a sincere desire to please and glorify God, it is not spiritual nor acceptable to Him.

We are told;

**1 Corinthians 10:31 (NASB)**

**<sup>31</sup> Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.**