

Blessed Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday School
26 August 2018

^{KJV} **Romans 1:1** Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, ² (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) ³ Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; ⁴ And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: ⁵ By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: ⁶ Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ: ⁷ To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. ⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers; ¹⁰ Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you. ¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; ¹² That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. ¹³ Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles. ¹⁴ I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. ¹⁵ So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. (Rom. 1:1-17 KJV)

The Spirit of Holiness

OUTLINE

- (1) Greetings (v1-7)**
- (2) Thanksgivings (v8-15)**
- (3) Theme (v16-17)**

(1) The Spirit of Holiness

Romans 1:1-4 *Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, 2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) 3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:*

Jesus is born the seed of David according to the flesh and He is the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness. Paul tells us that Jesus is both fully man and fully God. He is the God-Man. As Man, He was a descendant of David. As God, Jesus is the exact representation of God (Hebrews 1:3). He is divinely God characterised by holiness. In Him, there is no sin. He was conceived of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 1:20), the seed of the woman. The seed of man was tainted with sin as a result of man's fall in the Garden of Eden but the seed of the woman is unheard of. Mary was a virgin when she conceived the holy child, Jesus.

Jesus was the unblemished Lamb of God that will take away the sin of the world (John 1:29). His divine nature was manifested with great power while He was on earth. And the fullness of that power was demonstrated by His resurrection from the dead conquering sin and death. When we become a child of God, the Holy Spirit indwells us, we have the ability to say "no" to sin, to live a holy life. May we live this new week in holiness to His honour and glory!

(2) Share Your Faith With Others

Romans 1:1-5 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, **2** (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) **3** Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; **4** And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: **5** By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

After his conversion, Paul became an ardent witness for God. His life was devoted to honour his Lord and Master. This was the record of the transformation that took place in Paul's life.

Acts 9:17-20 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. **18** And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. **19** And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. **20** And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

The born-again Christian is characterised by an ardent love to share his faith with others. He is so excited and thrilled by God's blessing in his life that he fervently testifies of God's goodness with the view that others too may share that blessing.

*The Lord is good
Tell it wherever you go,
The Lord is good
Tell it that others may know;
Tell of His blessings and tell of His love,
Tell how He's coming from heaven above:
The Lord is good
Tell it wherever you go!*

May God use you mightily to be His witness in this new week.

(3) Call for Witnesses

Romans 1:1-6 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, **2** (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) **3** Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; **4** And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: **5** By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: **6** Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

Paul exhorts the believers in Rome to be witnesses for Christ for they too are "the called of Jesus Christ". They too, like Paul, are called to faith and obedience. He reminded them of their common mission to reach out to the nations with the gospel beginning in their home city of Rome and extending their outreach beyond to the uttermost part of the Roman Empire.

The gospel work is not the exclusive responsibility of full time ministers of the gospel but the responsibility of all believers. We are to jolt the people in our sphere of influence to the blessings of life with God. By the way we live out our faith and our obedience to God's Word, we become light and salt to the world. It is a glorious calling. We are the only privileged people with the message of salvation that "Only Jesus Saves". If we will not tell it, who will? But if our lives are not lived in faith and obedience, we become a

stumbling block to the gospel. God forbid that we bring shame to His name. Rather, may God help us to be a shining witness for Him.

Jesus bids us shine, with a clear, pure light,
Like a little candle burning in the night;
In the world of darkness we must shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.

Indeed, individually, our influence may be small. But do not despise the one good thing that you can do for Jesus each new day. It is precious in His sight.

Hebrews 6:10 *For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

Mark 9:41 *For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.*

May the Lord encourage your heart to be a blessing for someone this new week!

(4) Biblical Greetings!

Romans 1:1-7 *Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, 2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) 3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: 5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: 6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ: 7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

With an endearing salutation, Paul greets the believers in Rome. He addressed them as “beloved of God”. A most encouraging and comforting term to remind them that they are precious in God’s sight. A good reminder to you as you begin this new week. May your daily morning prayer be as the psalmist’s, “Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings.” (Psalm 17:8)

Believers are called “saints” or “holy ones”, made holy by God through Jesus Christ and kept holy by His resurrection power.

The duo blessing of grace and peace is the distinctive greeting among God’s people. The grace of God is His unmerited inexhaustible favour to bless our lives. The peace of God is the state of completeness or fullness by being in a restored relationship with God. This is the peace of sins forgiven, reconciliation with God when we come in humble repentance confessing our sins. Being himself reconciled to God, the Christian is the channel through which the good news of salvation is brought to the lost, separated from God as a result of sin!

These first seven verses is one complete complex sentence beginning with the author Paul introducing himself (v1), the content of his letter (v2-6) and the recipient (v7a) and greeting (v7b). We are now ready to launch into the letter proper!