

Introducing Paul, Introducing Christ

A Study on Romans One Verse 1

• Romans 1:1

Paul:

Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

Warnings regarding Paul's writings:

2Peter 3:16 As also in all his [Paul's] epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, [pervert] as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

Apparently it is salvational to understand Paul's writings lest we pervert them because we are ignorant and vacillating regarding spiritual things. How are we to gain the understanding we need. James tells us how.

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6) But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

Another way to understand Paul is to allow him to interpret his own language, which can be an exhaustive search since he wrote much of the New Testament.

Introducing Paul:

If we are to understand Paul, first we need to know who he is as well as who he was before he met Jesus Christ. Secondly, we need to know the spiritual condition of those to whom he writes. What was his burden for them? Did it have anything to do with his own personal experience?

Paul gives a testimony of his life as he was known as Saul before he met Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: 5) Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6) Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7) But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8) Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

Concerning zeal:

Paul recognizes in his brethren their spiritual condition as it was the same spiritual condition he had before he met Christ.

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. 2) For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to

knowledge. 3) For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

It is an incorrect knowledge of God that brings destruction as we read in Hosea.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

What knowledge were God's people lacking?

Hosea 4:1 Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

John gives us the remedy for escaping destruction.

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Persecuting the church:

The consequences of misapprehending God's character leads to persecuting one another.

Acts 9:1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, 2) And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. 3) And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: 4) And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

John 16:1 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. 2) They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. 3) And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

When we persecute others for exercising their free will to believe what they will, we are persecuting Christ who gave them that free will. When Saul received a revelation of Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus, he had a change of spirit and from then on was called Paul. Now instead of persecuting the church, he taught liberty of conscience.

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

This is an important lesson to learn and remember when the time comes again when the saints are persecuted for exercising their liberty of conscience to worship whom they will. We must remember that no person, no church, no state, no country, no One World Order has the right to force who, what, when, where and how to worship.

A servant of Jesus Christ:

As Paul learned how Christ dealt with His enemies, he purposed only to live and preach the love of God.

1Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

Called to be an apostle:

G652 a delegate; specially, an ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ ("apostle") (with miraculous powers): — apostle, messenger, he that is sent.

Separated unto the gospel of God:

Paul thought it important to testify and confirm that the gospel he preached came to him by Christ and not by any man.

Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead;)

Galatians 1:11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12) For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. 13) For ye have heard of my conversation [behavior] in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: 14) And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

Once Paul understood better the liberty which Christ gave, his desire was to reveal this character.

Galatians 1:15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by His grace, 16) To reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: 17) Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. 18) Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.

Paul understood why the gospel was misunderstood and pointed us to look to Christ if we are to know His Father's character and have the promised life eternal (John 17:3).

2Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4) In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 5) For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 6) For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory [character] of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7) But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

We too are ambassadors of Christ to give the true gospel if we are to hasten the coming of the Lord. In order to fulfill the commission and privilege we have, we also must awaken with Paul to a new knowledge of Christ's character and allow His character to be revealed in us.

2Peter 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12) Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Matthew 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

The gospel of God is the grace of God:

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7) Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8) But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. [anathema] 9) As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Grace is unmerited favor:

2Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

2Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6) Which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7) That being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The gospel of Christ is the revelation of the righteousness of the Father:

Romans 1:16 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.

2Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4) In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 5) For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 6) For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7) But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

The grace of God is the power to save from sin:

Romans 1:16 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.

Acts 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

2Corinthians 12:9 And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Ephesians 3:7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of His power.

Romans 1:5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for His name:

Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

1 Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9) Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Christ was manifested to take away sin:

Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.

Galatians 1:4 Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

Romans 11:27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Hebrews 9:26 For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. 5) And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin.

John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 Peter 2: 21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: 22) Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth:

Prepared by Cindy Robinson

Email: propheciesoflove777@gmail.com

YouTube Channel: Prophecies of Love

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