

THE BOOK ROMANS

“Grace & Peace to You”

Voice of China and Asia

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ROMANS- Lesson 5: SET APART FOR THE GOSPEL

The opening “*sentence*” of **ROMANS** makes up the first 7 verses. It is a masterpiece of writing that was common in all **PAUL’S LETTERS**. The best way to see the relationship of each phrase is to build an outline.

THE GOSPEL OF GOD

Paul, [verse 1]
a servant of CHRIST JESUS,
called to be an Apostle,
set apart for the GOSPEL OF GOD,
which he promised beforehand [verse 2]
through his prophets
in the HOLY SCRIPTURES,
concerning his SON, [verse 3]
who was descended from David,
according to the flesh
and was declared to be the SON OF GOD in power [verse 4]
according to the SPIRIT of holiness
by his resurrection from the dead,
JESUS CHRIST our LORD...

In Paul’s introduction of his Letter to the Saints in Rome, he presented his credentials and his reason for the Letter. BUT the REAL emphasis was about Paul, it was about the GOSPEL. This Gospel is NOT new... it was NOT created by him, or by the “Church” following Pentecost. It is solidly grounded in the Holy Scriptures – the Old Testament as it was known to Jesus, the Apostles and of course Paul.

Because of the unique structure of this Letter, we will thoroughly analyze this opening passage, phrase by phrase.

SET APART:

ROMANS 1:1-4 *Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord...*

- **set apart** -

To mark-off for possession or purpose – to be chosen for a function that fulfills purpose someone else has for you – Paul was “set apart” not by HIS choice but by GOD’S – NOT for his own purposes (no matter how good they may be) but to accomplish the desire of GOD...

- **By God** – **BEFORE** his Conversion -

GAL 1:15 But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace,¹⁶ was pleased to reveal his SON to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles...

- *EPH 3:7-10 “Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power.⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things,¹⁰ so that through the Church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.”*

- **By JESUS CHRIST** – **AT** his Conversion -

- *ACTS 9:15 “But the Lord said to [Ananias], “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.”*
- *ACTS 22:14-15 And [Ananias] said, The GOD of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth;¹⁵ for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.*
- *ACTS 26:16-18 “But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you,¹⁷ delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you¹⁸ to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”*

- **By the HOLY SPIRIT** – **AFTER** his Conversion -

- *ACTS 13:2 “While they were worshipping the LORD and fasting, the HOLY SPIRIT said, Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”*

- **What about US?**

EPH 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

ROM 12:3-6 -

1 PET 4: 10-11 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.