
THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS (2)

COMMENTS AND NOTES ON ROM. 1:1-15¹

I. PAUL'S INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER: 1:1-15

A. Paul (a special messenger of God) addresses himself to God's beloved in Rome. He had been "set apart" by God for the purpose of making known the Gospel. His message centered in Jesus Christ, Who according to the flesh was descended from David but by His resurrection from the dead was proved to be the Son of God. (1-7)

Vs. 1:

1. Paul's self-identification: *servant of Jesus Christ – called to be an apostle.*
 - a. What makes a person a 'servant of Jesus Christ?'

 - b. What made a person an apostle?

2. Paul was 'separated – set apart' unto the Gospel of God'. What is the Gospel of God?
 - a. what does the Gospel mean to you personally?

Vs. 2-4:

3. Paul defined the Gospel by three major truths: what are they and why is each so important?

Vs. 5:

4. Paul reminds them what makes him what he is!

5. Paul defines the Biblical purpose of preaching: *to bring men (all nations) to the obedience of faith.* Read the following quotes and make them a matter of your personal prayer.

- Hendrickson: *Faith and obedience are so closely linked that they may be compared to inseparable identical twins: when you see the one, you see the other; a person cannot have genuine faith without having obedience, nor vice versa.*

- Cotton Mather: *The great design and intention of the office of a Christian preacher is to restore the throne and dominion of God in the souls of men.*

¹ The comments and notes are largely taken over from a study book titled, "*Romans, an interpretive outline*," by D. Steele and C. Thomas. In subsequent lessons this remains the fact though I will not refer to this again.

- James Stewart on aims of all genuine preaching: *to quicken the conscience by holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God.*

Vs. 6-7

6. What does 'called' mean?

7. What can we learn about the Church from these two verses? How does this relate to our church?

8. Why do we begin each church service with the words like vs. 7b?

B. Paul expresses his thankfulness to God for them and reveals his desire to see them and to preach the Gospel at Rome. He acknowledges his obligation and his eagerness to make known this good news to all men. (1:18-15)

Vs. 8

9. If you compare all the beginnings of Paul's epistles, you notice that he always begins with thanksgiving. Why did the apostle do that? How does that compare to our prayers, also those about our congregation?

vs. 9

10. Paul gave us a glimpse in his prayer-life: what convicts you in this glimpse?

11. Turn Paul's confession into a personal searching. *Am I serving God with my spirit in the Gospel of His Son?* (This question will not be discussed in our group but is for you personally.)

- a. Am I serving God?
- b. With my spirit?
- c. In the Gospel of His Son?
- d. Do I make mention always ... ?

vs. 10

12. Clearly God's providence was different than Paul's prayed. Does that mean he did not pray in faith (see also vs. 13)?

Vs. 11-12

13. What were his two main desires for coming to Rome? Were these desires driven by God's glory or his own personal ambition?

Vs. 13

14. Paul regularly addressed believers with 'brethren' (brothers/sisters). Is this a good practice for us?

Vs. 14

15. Paul felt himself a debtor (someone obligated to others): why?

16. Why these distinctions between 'Greek and barbarian?' (1 Cor. 14:11)

Vs. 15

1. How ready are we to share the Gospel with others we meet?