

“The Called”
Romans 1:5-7

Introduction:

1. Please Turn Back With Me In Your Bibles:
 - To Romans 1 - Where - Last Sunday:
 - We Began A New Series:
 - Through This Profound Letter:
 - Written By The Apostle Paul!
 - And - One Of The Things:
 - We Noticed From The Introduction:
 - Of This Letter - From Verses 1-7:
 - Is That - Paul Seems To:
 - Distill & Summarize For Us:
 - The **Essence** Of His Entire Letter!
2. And So - With That In Mind:
 - Let’s Begin By Reading Through The Introduction Once Again:
 - 1:1-7 - “Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, / (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) / Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; / And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: / By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: / Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ: / 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!”
3. Last Week - We Focused On:
 - The First 4 Verses - And We Learned About:
 - The **Essence** Of The Gospel! Which Is:
 - The Grace Of The Gospel - From 1:1!
 - The Ground Of The Gospel - From 1:2:
 - Which Is The Holy Scripture!
 - And - The Glory Of The Gospel - From 1:3-4:
 - Who Is None Other Than The Lord Jesus Christ!
4. This Morning - We Are Going To Focus On:
 - The Last 3 Verses Of This Introduction:
 - Where We Find - In 1:6 - A Very Special Description:
 - For Christians!
 - If You Believe In & Belong To Jesus Christ This Morning - You Are:
 - “The Called Of Jesus Christ!”
 - **IE:** Now I Know I Used Our Dog, Willow, As An Illustration In Last Week’s Message - Well - I’m Going To Use Her Again This Week As Well! Just Don’t Tell Her When You See Her! Well - Not Long After We Got Her - We **Tried** To Train Her! And - One Of The Things I Tried To Train Her To Do Was:
 - To Come When She Is Called! We’ve Had Mixed Success!
 - Sometimes She Will & Sometimes She Won’t!
 - We Still Have To Work On This - But At Times - It Can Be Very Frustrating:
 - Because There May Be A Time When She **Really Does** Need To Obey & Come When I Call Her!
 - Like - When She’s Playing In Or Near The Road:
 - And A Car Is Coming!
 - I **Call** Her - Because I **Care** For Her:
 - And I Don’t Want Her To Get Hurt!
 - And My Goal For Training Her:
 - Is So That She Will Keep Coming:
 - To My Call!
5. Now - I Know That You Are **Nothing** Like Dogs!
 - But - When Paul Says That You:
 - Along With Those Christians In Ancient Rome:
 - Are “The Called Of Jesus Christ” - I’m Sure:
 - He Has Another Animal In Mind:
 - Sheep!

- In John 10:27-28 - Jesus Himself Said:
 - “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me! / And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand!”
 - Jesus Describes You As:
 - His Sheep - And - Like The Good Shepherd He Is:
 - He Called You To Follow Him!
 - He **Called** You Because He **Cares** For You!
- And - When You Heard His Voice:
 - For The Very First Time - What Did You Do?
 - By Faith In Jesus:
 - You Came To His Call!
- 6. And Now - What The Lord Wants:
 - Is For You - Who Believe In Him & Belong To Him:
 - **To Keep Coming To Your Call!**
 - And - To Encourage You To Do So:
 - In 1:5 - He Wants You To Know That:
- 1. **There Is A Special Purpose For Your Call!**
 - A Special Purpose:
 - Just Like There Was For Paul!
 - Now - We Already Learned A Bit About Paul’s Call From The Lord:
 - In 1:1 - As Well As From Our Time:
 - In The Book Of Acts Last Year!
 - Well - In 1:5 - He Expands On His Call - When He Writes:
 - “By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name!”
 - “By Whom” Points Back To The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - Who Called Paul To Himself When He Was Traveling On That Old Road To Damascus!
 - And Now, Paul Wants To Reintroduce Himself:
 - To The Romans - To Show That:
 - Even Though He’s Never Met Them:
 - He Still Has An Interest In Them:
 - As Well As A Ministry To Them: - As The “Apostle Of The Gentiles!”
 - But - As He Further Describes:
 - His Own Call From Jesus:
 - I Think You Can See That:
 - You Have The Same Purpose For Your Calling As Well!
 - And That Is:
 - To Extend The Lord’s Grace!
 - When Paul Says - “We Have Received Grace And Apostleship” - Many Believe He Is Using A “Writers We” As Opposed To “I” - But The Main Point He Is Making Is That:
 - He Freely Received:
 - God’s Special Grace:
 - When He Was Converted - And:
 - He Freely Received:
 - God’s Special Gift:
 - When He Was Commissioned As An Apostle Of Jesus Christ!
 - And Now - Since He Had “Freely Received” - He Wants:
 - To “Freely Give” - As Jesus Himself Told His Disciples To Do In Matthew 10:8!
 - This Is Part Of The Purpose:
 - For Paul’s Call From God!
 - And - This Is Part Of The Purpose:
 - For Your Call From God To Be His Child!
 - To “Freely Give” And Extend:
 - The Grace & The Gifts You “Freely Received” From Him!
 - Is This Your Purpose Today?
 - But - It Is Also:
 - To Expand The Lord’s Gospel!

- Paul Further Explains In 1:5 - That The Reason He “Received [His] Grace & Apostleship” - Was:
 - “For Obedience To The Faith Among All Nations!”
 - Or - For The “Obedience Of Faith!”
 - This Was The Target Of His Life And Ministry!
 - **IE**: Like An Archer Taking Aim At The Same Target - Only Getting Further & Further Away!
- Paul Took Aim At The Target:
 - Of The Gentile World:
 - So That They Could Hear And Respond To The Gospel:
 - Through The “Obedience Of Faith!”
- This Is A Beautiful Phrase:
 - That Describes Your Own Response:
 - To God’s Call!
 - The “Obedience Of Faith!”
 - It Means That - When God Called You:
 - It Was So That, As One Of His Sheep:
 - You Would Hear His Voice & Come Willingly & With All Your Heart!
- So That:
 - Your Faith In Christ:
 - Would Be Counted As:
 - Obedience To His Call!
- And:
 - Your Obedience To Christ:
 - Would Flow From:
 - Your Faith In His Call!
- And Just As The Arrow Of God’s Call:
 - Stuck In The Target Of **Your** Heart:
 - Now - It Is Your Turn To Take Aim:
 - With The Arrow Of The Gospel:
 - At The Targets Of Other Peoples’ Hearts!
- So That - They Too:
 - Can - By God’s Grace - Respond:
 - Through The “Obedience Of Faith!”
 - This Is Still:
 - The Purpose Of Your Call!
- But Further - It Is Also:
 - To Exalt The Lord’s Glory!
 - Which Is What Paul Means:
 - When He Adds At The End Of 1:5:
 - “For His Name!”
 - For The Sake Of & The Glory Of The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - This Is Ultimately:
 - Why Paul Was Called!
 - To Exalt & Glorify The Lord!
 - And This - Ultimately:
 - Is Why You Were Called As Well!
 - Not Merely For Your Own Good!
 - Though - There Was Much Good:
 - When You Came To Your Call!
 - But - First & Foremost:
 - For The Glory Of Christ!
 - Isn’t It A Thing Of Wonder:
 - That - In Some Way:
 - Jesus Is Glorified:
 - In Your Call & In Your Salvation?
- So - Now - Even Though We Are Not:
 - “Apostles” - In The Same Way The Apostle Paul Was:
 - Yet - You Too “Received” God’s “Grace!”
 - And Since It Is An Amazing & An Abundant Grace:
 - Now - You Have The Same Purpose!

- To Extend His Grace!
 - To Expand The Gospel!
 - And To Exalt & Glorify The Name Of The Lord Jesus Christ!
- This Is What Your Life **Can** Be:
 - And **Should** Be All About!
 - “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God!” (1 Corinthians 10:31)
 - This Is Why You Were Called!
- But - You Can Also See That:

2. ***There Is A Special Plan For Your Call!***

- A Special Plan:
 - Which We Find In 1:6 & The First Part Of 1:7:
 - As Paul Now Turns His Attention To:
 - The Audience Of His Letter!
 - And - He Explains:
 - Just Who **They** - And Who **We** - Are:
 - **As** The “Called Of Jesus Christ!”
 - 1:6-7a - “Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ: / To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints!”
 - In 1:6 - When Paul Writes:
 - “Among Whom Are Ye Also The Called” - I Think He Wanted Those Roman Christians:
 - To Realize That They Too Were Included In God’s Plan & God’s Call!
 - They Might Have Started To Feel & To Think:
 - That - Since They Were “Among The Gentiles & Nations” - Far Removed:
 - From The Special Place & The Special People Of God:
 - That - They Must Also Be Far Removed From God’s Special Plan!
 - After All - No Apostle Had - As Yet:
 - Ever Visited Them!
 - Not Paul! Not Even Peter - In Spite Of What The Roman Catholics Claim!
 - Their Churches Had Been Established Only As Christians Came To Rome:
 - In The Normal Course Of Their Lives!
 - But - Paul Puts An End:
 - To That Kind Of Thinking!
 - For Them & For Us!
 - Because The Sound Of God’s Call Knows No Bounds!
 - **IE: Unlike** When I Call After My Dog - My Voice Can Only Go So Far! There Will Come A Point When Willow **Can’t** Hear Me & **Won’t** Respond & Come! **Not So** With The Lord!
 - “My Sheep **Hear** My Voice” - Jesus Said!
 - You Are “The Called Of Jesus Christ” Because:
- You Belong To The Lord!
 - You Are **His** People!
 - And The Sheep Of **His** Pasture! (Psalm 100:3)
 - What The Lord Said To His People In The Old Testament:
 - Applies To You Today!
 - Isaiah 43:1 - “But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine!”
 - Your Call To Christ:
 - Is One Of The Proofs & Evidence:
 - That You Belong To Him!
 - **IE:** Even As **My** Call To **My Dog By Name - To Come** - Shows The Entire Neighborhood - That She Belongs To me!
 - And - Since You Belong:
 - To The Lord - Keep Coming!
 - Keep Coming To Your Call!
 - You Were Also Called Because:
- You Are Beloved To The Lord!

- In 1:7 - Believers Are The:
 - “Beloved Of God!”
 - God’s Special Love For His People:
 - Is A Major Theme In The Book Of Romans! “Beloved” Is Used 7x!
- You Know - You Might Not:
 - “Feel Loved” By Others In This World:
 - Or Even - “Feel The Love” From Those Who Are Supposed To Love!
 - Family & Friends & Church!
- But - The Call Of God:
 - Reassures You:
 - That **He** Loves You!
 - You Are **His** “Beloved!”
 - You Are “Apple Of His Eye!” (Psalm 17:8)
 - And He Loves You:
 - With An Infinite & Inseparable:
 - Love!
- As The Lord Told Jeremiah:
 - In Jeremiah 31:3 - “Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee!”
- And - Of Course - Later In Romans:
 - Paul Will Beautifully Declare That:
 - Absolutely Nothing - “Shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!” (8:39)
 - The Lord **Called** You:
 - Because He **Cares** For You!
- And - Since You Are Beloved:
 - To The Lord - **In Love** - Keep Listening & Coming:
 - To Your Call!
 - And Even More - You Were Called Because:
- You Will Become Like The Lord!
 - You Were Also “Called To Be Saints!”
 - The Word Translated “Saint” Comes From The Word:
 - That Means “Holy!”
- So - You Were Called:
 - To Be One Of God’s “Holy Ones!”
 - Now - Even Though True Holiness:
 - Is Something That Awaits Your Heavenly Future:
- You Are Still:
 - His “Saint!” - For:
 - He Has Already:
 - Cleansed You:
 - With The Blood Of Christ!
 - He Has Already:
 - Consecrated You:
 - To Himself & His Service!
- So That Now:
 - You Can Commit Yourself:
 - To The Lord Daily!
 - To Please Him & To Serve Him!
- And This Has Been God’s Plan:
 - All Along:
 - When He Called You! So:
 - Keep Coming:
 - To Your Call!
 - And Then - Paul Ends His:
 - Introduction - With Some Familiar Words!
 - But - Even Though They Are Familiar:

3. ***There Is [Still] A Special Prayer For Your Call!***

- A Special Prayer - That Paul Utters:
 - In Every Single One Of His Letters - In One Form Or Another:
 - 1:7b - “Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ!”
 - Now - In The Times When Paul Wrote These Words:
 - It Was A Common Thing:
 - For A Jew To Greet Another Jew:
 - With The Hebrew Word:
 - “Shalom!” / Peace!
 - It Was Also A Common Thing:
 - For A Greek-Speaking Roman To Greet Someone:
 - With The Greek Word:
 - “Chairein!” / “Joy!”
 - And - It Seems - That Paul:
 - Takes These Two Common Greetings:
 - And Turns Them Into A Special:
 - **Christian** Greeting & Prayer!
 - Not Just To Say “Hi!”
 - But To Seek & Wish For Them:
 - **More** Of What They Already Have In Christ! And **More** Of What They Need Most!
 - “Grace And Peace!”
 - These Two Words Are So Rich In Meaning:
 - To Believers - Because:
 - As James Denney Once Said - They Are “The Sum Of All Evangelical Blessing!”
 - “Grace And Peace!”
 - And So - To Keep Coming:
 - To Your Call - From The Lord:
 - You Need More Of His “Grace & Peace!”
 - So - Like Paul - Keep Praying:
 - For The Great Gifts Of The Gospel!
 - The Gifts Of God’s:
 - Grace & Peace:
 - That Will Lead You To Have:
 - An Even Greater Assurance:
 - That **All Is Done:**
 - For You!
 - That Is What God’s Grace:
 - Is All About! **All Is Done!**
 - And Also:
 - That **All Is Well:**
 - With You!
 - This Is What God’s Peace:
 - Is All About! **All Is Well!**
 - This Prayer Is A Prayer:
 - For **All** Of God’s People:
 - That Will Meet **All** Of Your Needs!
 - So - Keep Praying & Keep Calling:
 - To The Great Giver Of The Gospel!
 - To - 1:7 - “God Our Father, And The Lord Jesus Christ!”
 - The False “Gods” That The Romans:
 - Were Familiar With Were Not Known For:
 - Their Grace & Peace!
 - And They Would Have Been Reminded:
 - Of Those “Gods” At Every Turn!
 - Because Their Temples Were All Over The City Of Rome!
 - Some Are Still Standing Today!
 - But The **True** God - Who Is Now **Their** God:

- And **Your** God - Is Your **Heavenly Father**:
 - Who Will **Provide** For You:
 - With His Grace & Peace!
 - Remember Matthew 7:7-11 - “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: / For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. / Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? / Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? / If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”
 - What Grace! What Peace! What A Father!
- And - Jesus Christ - As **Lord**:
 - Will Also **Protect** You:
 - Through His Grace & Peace!
- And God’s Answer:
 - To This Prayer:
 - Is What Will Enable You:
 - To Keep Coming:
 - To Your Call!
 - So - 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!”

Conclusion:

1. **IE:** Now - When I Call For Willow To Come - It Doesn’t Take Much To Distract Her & To Keep Her From Following My Voice! Just The Mail-Carrier Dropping Off Our Mail! **So It Is With Us!**
 - Because - Sometimes:
 - The Time & Distance Between:
 - You And The Lord:
 - May Seem So Long & Seem So Far!
 - And The Path On Which You Are Running - To Reach The One Who Called You:
 - Feels Too Rough And You Are All Too Easily Distracted!
2. By God’s Grace:
 - “Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us / **Looking unto Jesus** the author and finisher of our faith!” (Hebrews 12:1-2)
 - “**Looking Unto Jesus**” - The One:
 - Who **Called** You:
 - Because He **Cares** For You!
3. And - **Keep Coming To Your Call!**
 - As You Remember Today:
 - The Special Purpose:
 - The Special Plan:
 - And The Special Prayer:
 - God Had For You:
 - When He Called You!

- Keep Coming To Your Call!

- * Have You Responded To God’s Call Through “The Obedience Of Faith”?
- * Are You Living Your Life For The Sake Of & The Glory Of The Lord?
- * Are You Relying On The Grace & Peace Of The Lord In Your Life Today?

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