

Romans 1:1-7: Paul: A Slave of Christ for the Gospel

April 12, 2026 - Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church

Sermon Text Romans 1:1-7 (CSB)

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle¹ and set apart for the gospel of God—² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures—³ concerning his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was a descendant of David⁴ according to the flesh⁴ and was appointed to be the powerful Son of God according to the Spirit of holiness by the resurrection of the dead.⁵ Through him we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the Gentiles,⁶ including you who are also called by Jesus Christ.⁷ To all who are in Rome, loved by God, called as saints. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (CSB)

1. Read the text of Romans 1:1-7 as a group. Consider first reading silently alone. Then read it with the person next to you and lastly read it out loud as group with a designated reader. Consider praying through this passage of God's Word (ex. *Father we praise you for your glorious grace in Christ towards sinners like us...we thank you for your sovereign hand on the apostle Paul's life and this revelation, etc.*)
2. How does knowing vs. 1 "servant" literally means "slave" change the way you think of Paul? What does it mean to be a slave for Christ according to the bible?
3. How was the Apostle Paul's calling to be an apostle different from the other apostles? How was it the same? Why does it matter? How would you defend Paul's apostleship to someone who challenged Paul's claim to be legitimate?
4. What is the Gospel of God? How would you summarize it in sixty seconds or less? How is knowing that the Gospel is God's gospel message and not man's both humbling and emboldening? How is Jesus the heartbeat of the gospel and what does this mean for how you share the gospel? From Romans 1:1-7 summarize all the Apostle Paul says of the Son.
5. Look at how the Apostle Paul greets the Christians in Rome (vs. 5-7). What is the significance and meaning of each phrase or word? How are all of these descriptions true for single believer who trust in Christ today? How do you know?
6. Read Acts 9:10-19. How does Ananias describe Paul and what do you think as running through Ananias' heart and mind on his way to Saul/Paul?
7. What do you know from other verses in God's Holy Word about who Paul was before his encounter with the Lord Jesus? How does knowing who Paul was and how God used him encourage you? Whose salvation are you praying for who seems so hopeless right now? Who are you witnessing to/sharing God's gospel with? What challenges have you faced in this?
8. Pray for brothers and sisters in Christ suffering across the nations for the gospel. Pray the Lord is glorified in the efforts to bring about faithful obedience among the nations. Call upon the Lord together and plead for His grace in the lives of brothers and sisters in Nigeria and the middle east in Muslim dominated countries. Who else can you pray for who is laboring for the suffering for the gospel? Pray for the missionaries Cornerstone supports.