

Parson to Person

ROMANS 1 (PART 5)

“Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born 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.

Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; to all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers, making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you. For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles. I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith’ ” (Romans 1:1–17 NKJV).

Paul reminds the Romans that it was by grace that God called him (and the other apostles) into the specific ministry of His choosing, knowing this would cause Paul and the other apostles to rejoice and engage in active service. In like manner, once we come to recognize this grace and specific callings we have been given, we will (or should) do the same. It is noted that the giftings of the Lord will cause the believer to realize a motivation to serve in the area specific to God’s choosing. For, *“the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all”* (1 Corinthians 12:7 NKJV). This gifting and calling was manifested in the Romans.

It is of interest that inasmuch as the Romans had apparently not had earlier apostolic interaction, nonetheless their faith was spoken of throughout the whole world. This alone brings documentation of the fact that it is by grace that believers are granted specific callings and anointing to do/serve in the ways God intends—by His power.

The ministry gifts not only serve to bring glory to God, but are also intended to meet the needs of those who hear and respond to the gospel. Ministry gifts bring edification to other believers as we share in our specified enabling. For this reason Paul said, *“I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me”* (vs. 11–12).

Within the scope of Paul’s desire to visit the believers in Rome (for mutual edification), he intended to proclaim the Gospel to the unreached people groups in the region. This should always be kept in mind whatever our ministry calling or gifting, as we are all privileged with the blessing of sharing our faith with others. For me this has become a much needed reminder.

As a pastor, my primary calling and gifting is working with the saints. However, I am constantly being reminded that there are many in our community who have yet to hear the Gospel. It is our great privilege to share it with them.

Takeaways and things to remember:

1. Grace always precedes peace. This also means that grace always precedes salvation and that salvation brings genuine peace.
 2. Pray and look for ways to bring edification to the Body of Christ.
 3. Remember that the gifts and callings of the Lord are irrevocable, and moreover, specific to each individual. We need each other!
 4. "Neglect not the gift that is in you."
 5. Pray for and look for opportunities to share the Gospel with those who've yet to hear.
- I love you all, Pastor Paul