

PAUL'S CREDENTIALS: ENSLAVEMENT TO CHRIST

ROMANS 01:01–07

Introduction

No person is a true follower of Jesus Christ unless he is enslaved by Christ. In fact, it is *impossible* for a person to belong to Christ unless he is *enslaved by Christ*. This is the shocking message Paul wants to get across to the believers at Rome.

- I. He was a slave of Christ (v. 1).
- II. He was an apostle of God (v. 1).
- III. He was set apart to the gospel of God (vv. 1-4).
- IV. He had received God's grace and God's mission (v. 5).
- V. He acknowledged the enslavement of others (vv. 6-7).

ROMANS 01:01–07 GOSPEL – CHRISTIANITY

In these verses Paul gives the raw outline of the gospel he preached (vv. 1-4). It is a penetrating look at primitive Christianity. Note the gospel's close agreement with the Apostle's Creed.

1. Paul's view of the Old Testament.
 - a. It comes from God.
 - b. It is given "through His prophets."
 - c. It is "holy" Scripture.
2. Paul's view of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - a. He is God's Son: "regarding His Son."
 - b. He is the promised Saviour: "Christ," the Messiah.
 - c. He is Lord: "our Lord."
 - d. He is man: "as to his human nature was a descendant of David"
 - e. He is declared to be the very Son of God: "declared with power to be the Son of God."
 - f. He is divine or holy: "through the Spirit of holiness."
 - g. He is risen from the dead: "by his resurrection from the dead."
3. Paul's view of the gospel.
 - a. It is of God: "the Gospel of God" (see Rom. 1:1, 17; 3:21).
 - b. It was prophesied: "he promised..."
 - c. It agrees with the Old Testament: "promised before...in the Holy Scriptures."

- d. It concerns God's very own Son: "regarding His Son."
- e. It concerns the divine Saviour, Jesus Christ, our Lord, "who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead."
- f. It concerns the human Saviour: "A descendant of David."
- g. It concerns the risen Saviour: "his resurrection from the dead." □

I. *Romans 01:01 Paul, a Servant or Slave (Doulos)*

Paul was a "servant" or "slave" of Jesus Christ. The word "servant" or "slave" (doulos) means far more than just a servant. It means a slave totally possessed by the master. It is a *bond-servant* bound by law to a master.

A look at the slave market of Paul's day shows more clearly what Paul meant when he said he was a "slave of Jesus Christ."

1. The slave was owned by his master; he was totally possessed by his master. This is what Paul meant. Paul was purchased and possessed by Christ. Christ had looked upon him and had seen his degraded, and needful condition. And when Christ looked, the most wonderful thing happened: Christ loved him and bought him; therefore, he was now the possession of Christ.
2. The slave existed for his master and he had no other reason for existence. He had no personal rights whatsoever. The same was true with Paul: he existed only for Christ. His rights were the rights of Christ only.
3. The slave served his master and he existed only for the purpose of service. He was at the master's disposal any hour of the day or night. So it was with Paul: he lived only to serve Christ — hour by hour, day by day, and night by night.
4. The slave's will belonged to his master. He was allowed no will and no ambition other than the will and ambition of the master. He was completely subservient to the Master and owed total obedience to the will of the master. Paul belonged to Christ. In fact, he said that he fought and struggled to "take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." (2 Cor. 10:5).
5. There is a fifth and most precious thing that Paul meant by "a slave of Jesus Christ." He meant that he had the highest and most honoured and kingly profession in all the world. Men of God, the greatest men of history, have always been called "the servants of God." It was the highest title of honour. The believer's slavery to Jesus Christ is no cringing, cowardly or shameful subjection. It is the position of honour — the honour that bestows upon a man the privileges and responsibilities of serving the King of kings and Lord of lords.

- => Moses was the slave of God (Deu. 34:5; Psa. 105:26; Mal. 4:4).
- => Joshua was the slave of God (Josh. 24:29).
- => David was the slave of God (2 Sam. 3:18; Psa. 78:70).
- => Paul was the slave of Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Tit. 1:1).
- => James was the slave of God (Jas. 1:1).
- => Peter was the slave of Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 1:1).
- => Jude was the slave of God (Jude 1).
- => The prophets were the slaves of God (Amos 3:7; Jer. 7:25).
- => Christian believers are said to be the slaves of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:18; 1 Cor. 7:22; Eph. 6:6; Col. 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:24).

(This point is built upon what William Barclay says. *The Letter to the Romans*. "The Daily Study Bible." Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster Press, 1955, p. 2).

John 12:26 *"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me."* (see Rom. 12:1; Cor. 15:58)

Eph 6:6-7 *Obey them not only to win their favour when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men.*

Col 3:23-24 *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

Heb 12:28 *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.*

Exo 23:25 *Worship the Lord your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you.*

Deu 10:12 *And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

Psa 2:11 *Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling.*

Psa 100:2 *Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.*

II. **Romans 01:01 Call of Apostle Paul**

Paul was an apostle of God. The word "apostle" (apostolos) means either a person who is sent out or a person who is sent forth. An apostle is a representative, an ambassador, a person who is sent out into one country to represent another country. Three things are true of the apostle: (1) he belongs to the One who has sent him out; (2) he is commissioned to be sent out; and (3) he possesses all the authority and power of the One who sends him out.

Note three forceful lessons.

1. Paul said he was “called” to be an apostle. He was not in the ministry because he...
 - chose to be
 - had the ability
 - had been encouraged by others to choose the ministerial profession
 - enjoyed working with people

He was an apostle, a minister of the gospel for one reason only: God had called him.

Acts 26:16 ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you.’

1 Tim 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.

Gen 12:1 The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.”

Exo 3:10 “So now, go. I am sending you [Moses] to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

Judg 6:14 The Lord turned to him [Gideon] and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

Isa 6:8 Then I [Isaiah] heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

2. Paul had heard and answered God’s call. God did not override Paul’s will — He wanted Paul in the ministry, so He called Paul. But note: it was up to Paul to hear and respond.
3. Paul was called to be an apostle, that is, to be a minister. He was not called to occupy a position of authority or to be honoured by men.

Thought 1. Every servant of God is called for two primary purposes:

- 1) To serve and minister.

Mat 20:27-28 “And whoever wants to be first must be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Luke 10:36-37 “Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

John 13:14 “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.”

Gal 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Gal 6:2 *Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.*

2) To go out and bear fruit.

Mat 3:8 *"Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."*

John 15:16 *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name."*

Rom 7:4 *So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God.*

Phil 1:11 *Filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God.*

Col 1:10 *And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.*

Psa 92:13 *Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.*

Psa 1:3 *He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.*

III. **Romans 01:01–04 Meaning of the Gospel**

Paul was set apart to the gospel of God. This is the reason God called Paul: that Paul might be separated (aphorismenos) or marked and set apart to the gospel of God. The word "gospel" simply means the good news of God.

=> Paul did not say he was called and set apart to a man-made religion, denomination, or sect; nor was he called primarily to a gospel of social justice and welfare, as important as these calls are.

=> Paul said he was set apart to the gospel, the good news of God (see 1 Th. 2:2-13).

Note what the gospel is.

1. The gospel of the New Testament is the *same good news* of God which was promised in the Old Testament Scriptures. Jesus Christ is the Subject and the Author of the gospel, but the gospel *began long before* the birth of Jesus. The gospel began long, long ago in the *mind and plan* of God, and God foretold the coming of the gospel (His Son) through the prophets of old. Mark says what Paul was to later say: "The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" — "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" (Mk. 1:1-3). (See *Gospel*, Rom. 1:1-7.)

Jn 5:39 *"You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me."*

Acts 26:22 But I have had God's help to this very day, and so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen.

Heb 1:1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways.

1 Pet 1:10-11 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, Trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow .

2 Pet 1:20-21 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2. The gospel is the incarnation of "The Son of God..., Jesus Christ our Lord" (v. 4) (see *Gospel*, Rom. 1:1-7). Note how Paul takes the names and titles of Jesus Christ and stacks them one upon another.

=> The Son of God.

=> Jesus.

=> Christ.

=> Our Lord.

3. The gospel concerns "The Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord." He is both the *Subject* and the *Author* of the gospel. By Him and through Him the gospel is created and proclaimed. He brings the *good news* of God to man. He is the very embodiment of the good news of God Himself.

The gospel concerns two glorious truths.

- 1) The first glorious truth is that God's Son became a man. He was a descendant of David; that is, he was born as a man. David was the greatest ruler of Israel; he was one of the greatest ancestors of Jesus.

The point is this: God sent His Son into the world in human flesh. The word "was" (genomenou) means to become. God's Son became a man — flesh and blood — just like all other men. He had a human nature, and because He had a human nature...

- He suffered all the *trials of life* which we suffer.
- He is *able to help* us through all the trials of life.

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Heb 2:14-18 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the

devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

2) The second glorious truth is both profound and critical, for it proclaims the divine nature of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was the Son of God *before He came into the world*. However, since coming, He is declared to be the Son of God by two things.

- The Spirit of holiness that dwelt in Him declares Jesus to be the Son of God. He was the very embodiment of holiness, of purity and morality and justice. His life upon earth proves the fact. He lived as a man for thirty some years and *never sinned*.

2 Cor 5:21 *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Heb 4:15 *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin.*

Heb 7:26 *Such a high priest meets our need — one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.*

1 Pet 1:19 *But with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

1 Pet 2:22 *“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”* (see Isa. 53:9; Jn. 8:46.)

- The resurrection from the dead declares that Jesus is the Son of God. All other men are dead and gone. The proof is demonstrated by one simple question: “Where are they? Where are our mothers, our fathers, our sisters, our ancestors?” Once they have left this world, they are gone and the earth never sees them again. But not Christ. He died, but He arose and walked upon the earth again. And today Jesus Christ lives forever in the presence of God. Death could not hold Him because He was the Son of God and possessed the perfect spirit of holiness. (See *Resurrection of Jesus Christ*, Acts 02:24.)

Acts 2:24 *But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.*

Acts 2:36 *“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”*

Acts 5:30-31 *The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead — whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Saviour that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.*

Rom 1:4 *And who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Rom 14:9 *For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

Eph 1:20 *[God's power] which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.*

Phil 2:8-9 *And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.*

ACTS 02:24 RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. Acts 02:24

This is a great verse dealing with the resurrection of Christ. Note three points.

1. God raised up Christ. God knew that the very best way to save man from death was through the resurrection of His own Son from the dead.
2. The resurrection of Christ freed “him from the agony of death.” The word *agony* (*odinas*) means birth pangs. For the unbeliever, there is great pain in death, pain such as that experienced by a woman in giving birth. But man no longer has to suffer the pain of death nor fear suffering through it. Christ has conquered and abolished death, made it completely harmless. Death is actually the most glorious and joyful experience for the believer, an experience that simply explodes human imagination. (See Jn. 5:24; Heb. 2:14-15.)
3. It was impossible for death to hold Christ. Why? There are several significant reasons.
 - a. There was God's set purpose and foreknowledge. God knew that the way of the cross and resurrection was the very best way to save the world. Therefore, nothing could stop God from following through with the death and resurrection of His Son.
 - b. Jesus was approved by God. He had God's approval, sanction, accreditation, endorsement. Jesus Christ was perfectly acceptable to God.
 - c. Jesus' resurrection was foretold by Scripture, and Scripture must be fulfilled (see Mt. 17:23).
 - d. Jesus was *Life* itself. He possesses the very *being, essence, quality, substance* and *energy* of life. He is *The Life*, Life itself; therefore, He is the source of all life. All

life finds its source in the energy and being of Christ Himself. Therefore, being Life, death could not engulf Him any more than darkness can engulf light.

- e. Jesus was sinless. Death exists or happens because everything is short of perfection — short of what it should be — short of *God's glory*. This is true of man. Man dies because he falls “short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). Sin is...
- falling short
 - missing the mark
 - transgressing God's glory

And it is sin that causes death. Therefore Jesus Christ, being sinless, did not have to die. He died because He *willed* to die for man.

The point is this: Jesus was sinless and perfect and righteous (Jn. 8:46; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 7:26; 1 Pet. 1:9; 2:22). He was the Ideal Man, the Sinless Man, the Perfect Man — the Ideal Pattern for all other men. Therefore, when He died for men, He died as the Ideal Man or the Ideal Pattern. And death cannot hold the Ideal Man, for the Ideal Man came short in nothing. He was not short in life; therefore, He was destined to live forever. He was Perfect Life and Perfect Man. As the Scripture says, “It was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.” (See Rom. 1:4.) □

IV. *Romans 01:05 Grace and Mission*

Paul had received God's grace and God's mission. Note the word “we.” Paul now speaks of all believers, not only of himself.

1. We have received God's glorious grace: His favour, His mercy, His love, His salvation. Grace includes all that God has done for us and all the wonderful blessings He showers upon us. Very simply, God's grace includes...
 - a. His love for us from all eternity past.

Eph 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love.

2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and called us to a holy life — not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.

Titus 1:2 A faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time.

- b. His saving us freely, without any cost whatsoever.

Acts 15:11 “No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

Rom 3:24 *And are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

Eph 2:8-9 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Titus 2:11 *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.*

- c. His care and looking after us day by day.

Phil 4:19 *And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*

1 Tim 1:14 *The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.*

- d. His glorious promise of eternal redemption: of our being transformed and being made perfect, and being given the glorious privilege of living with Him forever in worship and service.

Eph 1:7 *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.*

Eph 2:7 *In order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*

Titus 3:7 *So that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

2. We have received apostleship, that is, God's mission. The idea is that we have received a special mission, God's very own special task in the world. What is that mission? Paul said it is "obedience that comes from faith" (see *Obedience*, Rom. 1:5).

ROMANS 01:05 OBEDIENCE

*Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. **Romans 01:05***

The Scripture clearly says that God saves us for two specific purposes...

- to obey Him.
- to lead other persons to obey Him — persons from all nations.

What God is after is for mankind to become His family: for men to freely choose to live together with Him and with all other believers in a perfect world. God wants mankind living together in perfect love, joy, peace, worship, praise and service as the family of God. He wants men living soberly, righteously and godly before Him. He wants men obeying Him as His dear children.

Therefore, when God saves us, He saves us primarily to obey Him and to carry the glorious message of obedience to a rebellious and corrupt world. God calls us to obey the faith and to proclaim obedience to all the nations.

Note several facts about obedience.

1. There is a massive difference between *forced obedience* and *free obedience*.

a. Forced obedience has no choice and reveals...

- fear of rebellion
- weakness of purpose
- low self-esteem
- lack of control
- selfishness and self-centredness
- no sense of godliness

b. Free obedience has a choice and can choose to obey or not to obey. Therefore, free obedience reveals...

- love and trust
- a sense of godliness
- strength of purpose and will
- interest and care
- a sense of brotherhood
- knowledge of self and confidence in self

2. Scripture says the following about obedience.

a. Obedience demonstrates several things.

=> Obedience demonstrates that a person is wise.

Mat 7:24 *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”*

=> Obedience demonstrates love.

John 14:21 *“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”*

=> Obedience demonstrates that God is worthy.

Acts 5:29 *Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men!”*

=> Obedience demonstrates that Christ is of God.

John 7:17 *“If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.”*

b. Obedience assures several things.

=> Obedience assures a prosperous life and success.

Josh 1:8 *Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

=> Obedience assures entrance into the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." (see Luke 8:21)

=> Obedience assures the mercy of God.

Exo 20:6 But showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

=> Obedience assures that a person is a member of God's family.

Mat 12:50 "For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." (see Mk.3:35)

=> Obedience assures being blessed.

Luke 11:28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (see Deu. 11:27)

=> Obedience assures that we know the truth.

John 7:17 "If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own."

=> Obedience assures the abiding presence of the Father and of Christ.

John 14:23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

=> Obedience assures deliverance from enemies.

Exo 23:22 If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you.

=> Obedience assures that God will be our God and that all things will work out for our good.

Jer 7:23 But I gave them this command: Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in all the ways I command you, that it may go well with you.

=> Obedience assures being loved by God and by Christ.

John 15:10 "If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love."

=> Obedience assures a good and a longer life.

Deu 4:40 Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the Lord your God gives you for all time.

=> Obedience assures being a friend of Christ.

John 15:14-15 *“You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”*

=> Obedience assures eating the best from the land.

Isa 1:19 *If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land.*

c. Obedience is better than sacrifice, even the sacrifice of all one has.

1 Sam 15:22 *But Samuel replied: “Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.”*

Heb 10:5-7 *Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, ‘Here I am — it is written about me in the scroll — I have come to do your will, O God.’”* □

V. **Romans 01:06–07 Believers**

Paul acknowledged the enslavement of others. He said four things about believers.

1. Believers are “called to belong to Jesus Christ,” called just as Paul was.

=> Believers are called to be saved, to “belong to Jesus Christ.”

1 Tim 2:4-6 *Who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men — the testimony given in its proper time.*

=> Believers are called to the mission and task of Jesus Christ.

John 20:21 *Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”*

Mat 20:28 *“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

2. Believers are “loved by God,” held ever so close to His heart, counted precious and dear to Him and deeply loved.

Jer 31:3 *The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.”*

John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

John 16:27 “No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.”

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Eph 2:4-5 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved.

1 John 3:1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

3. Believers are called to be “saints” (see 1 Pet. 1:15-16).
4. Believers are recipients of God’s grace and peace. (See note, *Grace*, Rom. 1:5.)

Titus 3:4-7 But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Eph 2:13-14 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

John 16:33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Psa 29:11 The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace. ■