

A Servant and an Apostle

Rom 1:1

Read introduction- Rom 1:1-15

Paul introduces himself and his purpose to the Romans

- I. The importance of the introductions in the New Testament epistles (which we often overlook)
 - A) “I’m Paul, and this is who and what I am,” “I am a divinely ordained apostle of the things prophesied in O/T”
- II. *Servant of Jesus Christ*- (“I am one of you”)
 - A) Paul’s first thought is always the Lord Jesus Christ and his relation to Him, a redeemed servant, bought and paid for by His blood
 - 1) This attitude ought always to be foremost in every Christian’s mind
 - B) This word is the word used for a slave
 - C) Paul uses the name of the Lord 5 times in this small introduction
 - 1) In first 14 verses of Ephesians he uses it 15 times
 - 2) Jesus- the son of man in the flesh
 - 3) Christ- the One anointed to perform the prophesied work of God
 - 4) Paul seems to not only be reminding the Romans of the duty of a Christian, but seems to be reminding himself before he even begins the epistle
 - i. Col 3:17-Do all to the glory of the Lord Jesus Christian
 - a) Is this our attitude?
 - b) One of the results of growing in Christ is that we should talk less and less about ourselves and our experiences, and simply talk of Him that owns us (like someone in love does)
 - D) “In Fact” a Servant- this word means a “bond slave” and applies to every Christian
 - 1) 1 Cor 6:19-20- Ye are bought with a price
 - 2) 1 Pet 1:18-19- Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb
 - 3) We are all born slaves to sin, and never have a single moment of freedom on either side
 - i. “Free will” is simply not true, we are either slaves to sin or to Christ, but we are under service always
 - ii. All slaves redeemed, our entire being belongs to the Lord, and thus every moment we spend in serving anyone or thing beside Him is both rebellion and stealing (purloining)
 - iii. The teaching that says you can be saved and then at a later point make Christ your Lord is false
 - E) “In spirit” a servant- Paul delighted in serving the Lord
 - 1) Rom 7:22- I delight in the Law of God

- 2) Gal 2:20- I am crucified in Christ, yet Christ liveth in me
- 3) 2 Cor 5:14- The love of Christ constraineth me
- 4) 1 Cor 9:16-17- Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel
- F) “In writing” a servant- Paul knew he was under the leadership and inspiration of the Spirit
 - 1) I am doing as I am commanded in writing you, I am THE apostle to the gentiles
- III. An apostle- (Paul might have suspected their minds had been prejudiced against him)
 - A) Notice the gradation of the terms: servant, apostle, separated to the gentiles
 - B) Paul was not only a servant in general, but a special kind of servant
 - 1) Apostle- general meaning is “sent one,” and is used of a messenger, a delegate, sometimes even as a person carrying a letter
 - i. In this way it is used of Barnabas, Apollos, Timothy and others
 - 2) Apostle as a specific office or a title
 - i. Matt 10:1-2- Apostles called out from disciples
 - ii. Mark 3:13-16- He ordained 12
 - iii. Luke 6:12-13- Of the disciples He chose 12
 - iv. When used of the office, it means “one chosen and sent with a special commission, and empowered to carry it out with purpose and authority by Christ Himself”
 - a) It was in this way that Paul means this, as he was aware that there may have been believers in Rome who were not ready to receive him as an apostle, as was happening at other places (especially Corinth and in Galatia)
 - (1) 1 Cor 9:1-2, 2 Cor 11:5, 12:12, Gal 1:12, 2:8
- C) The proof of apostleship is a very current and appropriate topic, with so many calling themselves that today
- D) Marks of an apostle
 - 1) They had to have seen the risen Lord personally as they were to be witnesses of the resurrection
 - i. Acts 1:21-22- Peter states this
 - ii. 1 Cor 9:1- “Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord?”
 - iii. 1 Cor 15:1-10- Paul details the appearances of the resurrected Lord, last of all to him
 - 2) They had to be called by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself
 - i. This excludes those like Timothy and Apollos and today
 - ii. Gal 1:1- Paul states exactly this about himself
 - 3) They had the signs/powers of an apostle
 - i. 2 Cor 12:12- The signs of an apostle

- a) The apostles could give the gift of the Holy Ghost as in Acts 8 and 19
- b) The apostles had authority to set order in the church and to discern matters (Matt 18:15-19)
- c) The apostles had special authority in both speaking and writing as Christ Himself
 - (1) 2 Pet 3:15-17- Peter verifies Paul's inspired authority
 - (a) When the church fathers came together to first assemble the New Testament, they rejected any writing (there were many) that could not be traced back directly to an apostle either personally or by association, as with Mark and Luke
 - (b) The authority for Paul as the writer of the Roman epistle goes all the way back to the 1st century and Clement of Rome (Phil 4:3) who also quotes it in his letters
- d) The apostles had power for edification of the church
 - (1) 2 Cor 10:8- Authority for building
 - (2) 1 Cor 3:9-11- Power given Paul as a master builder
 - (3) 2 Cor 13:10- Power unto edification
 - (a) This power could also be used in discipline and punishment, as with Ananias and Saphirra

IV. A "called" apostle

- A) Gal 1:1- Paul called not of man and not by man (as Matthias was)
 - 1) Many were setting themselves up as apostles then, as they have ever since
 - i. Rev 2:2- Thou hast tried them which say they are apostles
 - ii. 2 Cor 11:3- For such are false apostles
- B) The "calling" of the Lord was special and effectual
 - 1) Matt 4:18-20- Peter, Andrew, James and John abandon all and follow Him
 - 2) Matt 9:9- Matthew abandons all and follows Him
- C) But the "calling" of Paul was in many ways the Lord's supreme act of effectual calling and of grace and power
 - 1) Paul was not present during the Lord's earthly ministry, he didn't witness his miracles and was not there for His teachings
 - 2) Paul was a Pharisee and a blasphemer, and the main opposition to Christianity
 - 3) Paul was a murderer
 - 4) Paul was called out of due season (as an ectopic)
 - i. And yet in spite of this all, he was just as much an apostle as any of the others, and in fact was used more than they all
 - a) 1 Cor 15:10- "I labored more abundantly than they all"
 - ii. Gal 1:15- "Called me from my mother's womb"

V. Separated unto the gospel of God