

Romans Refresh

Renewing Gospel-Centrality

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¹Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

²which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, ⁴who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake, ⁶among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

⁷to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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⁸First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.

⁹For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the *preaching of the* gospel of His Son, is my witness *as to* how unceasingly I remember you

¹⁰always in my prayers; making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.

¹¹For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;

¹²that is, that I may be encouraged together with you *while* among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.

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¹³And I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented thus far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.

¹⁴I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

¹⁵Thus, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

(Romans 1:1-15)

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Romans Introduction

➤ Why this lengthy introduction?

- Paul did not establish the church at Rome and had never visited these believers
- Paul wants them to know who he is and what he is all about

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Romans Introduction

1. Paul's Unique Calling

- Paul was called as the "apostle of the Gentiles"
- Paul had a God-given mandate to establish Gentile believers in the gospel, including those at Rome (cf. Rom. 15:15-16)

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Romans Introduction

2. Paul's Gospel Focus

- the gospel is the fulfillment of what was previously promised in the Scriptures
- the gospel is fundamentally about God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ

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Romans Introduction

3. Paul's Expressed Purpose

- Paul desired to establish the Christians at Rome in his gospel
- Paul's letter is his fullest explanation of the gospel and its implications which he wrote in order to establish us

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Romans Introduction

➤ Implication

- Christians both need and need to be about the proclamation of the gospel continually

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What is our only hope in life and death?

That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and in death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ.

(New City Catechism; Question One)

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