

**ROMANS SERIES TWO**  
**BELOVED SAINTS**  
**Dr. Roger Barrier**  
**Romans 1:1-7**

*VIDEO: What baggage are you carrying?*

*Freedom in Christ: suitcase filled with burdens, tumbles to the bottom of the hill, snow comes out of the case. (younger will get the style and symbolism—let them enjoy it. [www.sermonspice.com](http://www.sermonspice.com))*

•**SLIDE #:** In the 1500's Martin Luther was absolutely terrified by the righteousness of God. He was bound for Hell and it terrified him. He became a monk to find peace with God. But didn't find peace. Was terrified. Knew that God was a righteous God who exacted justice upon unrighteousness. Very depressed. Sent on a journey to Rome. Stopped at a monastery on the way and saw great luxury and excess. Told never to tell what he saw there. Continued journey. Was overwhelmed by the debauchery and sex and sin in the church. One day crawling up the steps of St. Peter's Basilica in penance and a verse flashed in his mind:  
•**SLIDE #:** "The just shall live by faith". Had a revolutionary revelation. Justification comes by faith. Salvation by faith and not by penance or "hail Mary's or climbing church steps on knees. Snow: "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

Picture of stairs in Rome: I wanted to climb the stairs.

READ ROMANS 1:1-7

•**SLIDE #:** **Romans 1:1: Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God-**

Who is this man Paul? Glenn described him last week. Christ rejecting, Christ-killer who became a bond slave ("doulos" = bond slave.) of Christ. Christ is in the business of changing lives.

•**SLIDE #:** **Romans 1:2: the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures**

Most of us know that the word gospel (euangelion, Greek) means "good news".

Good news because both God and man have a desperate problem. God has a problem because He's too righteous for man. Man has a problem because he's not righteous enough for God!

I was a little shy when I was in high school, I didn't ask many girls out on dates. So my only blind date, friend said, "Hey, I know a great girl, I will line you up for Saturday night."  
"Who is it?" I asked. It turned out to be his cousin Doris.  
"No," I said. "I don't think that I want to try this."  
"Hey, go ahead, don't worry," my friend said. "Doris is a terrific girl, and trust me – she's a real good looker."  
"But if you don't believe me, I'll tell you how to get out of the date if you don't like the way she looks."

When she opens the front door check her out. If you like what you see, then great, take her out. But if you don't like what you see, fake as asthma attack. Go 'Aaaahhhggggg!' (*Hold your throat like you're having trouble breathing.*)

When Doris asks, 'What's wrong?' say, 'It's my asthma.' We have to call off the date. Just like that. No problem."

"Well, I don't know, but okay, it sounds easy enough. I'll try it," I said.

So I went to pick up Doris. I knocked on the door, and she came to the front door. I took a look at her, and to my surprise, my friend was right. She was beautiful! I stood there not knowing exactly what to say. She took one look at me and went, "Aaaahhhhhggggg!"

God can't take us to Heaven the way we are. We would wreck the place. It wouldn't be Heaven anymore. Sacrifice of God was a sanitary measure to keep Heaven from being defiled.

Accept Christ and God gives us His righteousness and we can enter Heaven without defilement.

•**SLIDE #: Romans 1:3: regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David,**

The Bible never hesitates to put the twin fruits of the humanity and the deity of Jesus Christ together into one verse.

Take the example of Christ and the storm.

Difficult day in His ministry. Day when He first pronounced woes on some cities – fought it out with Pharisees for the first time – family thought he has lost His mind. Day when He first spoke in parables so that the religious leaders wouldn't understand because He was tired of casting pearls before swine.

READ MARK 4:35-38a

Anything more human than the picture of Christ, tired, worn out and asleep in the back of the boat.

READ MARK 4:38b-41

Anything more divine than the picture of Christ standing up in the face of the storm and controlling the weather.

Jesus Christ is the God-Man.

Hypostatic Union: inscrutable

Why?

**OVERHEAD:** He was made of the seed of David – MAN – so He could die.

He was declared (manifested) to be God – so His death was worth something!

•**SLIDE #: Romans 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.**

STORY of missionary working with Japanese translator: "Nobody is going to believe this!"

Jesus (*ὁ ἰησοῦς*) and the resurrection (*ἡ ἀναστάσις*)

When you struggle with the truth of Christianity, must return to the resurrection. Was he in the tomb or not?

Arguments over creation and intelligent design: wrong issues.

- **SLIDE #:** 1 Corinthians 15:13-20: If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.... 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. 20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Resurrection is God's pledge and guarantee that we shall all one day be raised to be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **SLIDE #:** **Romans 1:5: 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.**

See grace operating in two realms – salvation and daily living.

\*Salvation – Because of God's grace that Christ came. Sin is forgiven and covered, received righteousness of God.

Jesus paid it all. We would have no gospel whatsoever if we were forced to sing, "Jesus, paid it 90%, only 10% I owe." No. Jesus paid it ALL. That's grace. We have received grace.

\*Daily living – God gives out His grace to us as we need it for victorious Christian living.

Cancer: God gives grace to handle it.

Divorce: God gives grace to handle it.

Lost Job: God gives grace to handle it.

God is the God of all grace – plenty of grace available.

Only gives us grace as we need it.

If we have to renounce the Christian faith or die – not sure I'll stay true for Christ. Takes martyr's grace to die for Christ. We don't need it now.

Secretaries don't get martyr's grace. Get secretaries' grace. If you are a secretary and you're called upon to die for Christ, then He will give you martyr's grace – and not before.

C.H. Spurgeon – If you were told tomorrow that at 12:00 noon you would hang for Christ on the village gallows, would you be ready? Not now, but tomorrow at noon on the village gallows I'd be ready.

“THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH”

Jesus was always presented as Lord. Humble as He was, He never left a shadow of doubt that He was the Lord.

Matthew was collecting taxes. Jesus didn't stand beside him waiting until Matthew looked His way so He could say, "Are you Mr. Matthew?" "Hello, I'm Jesus. It's awfully nice to meet you.

It's nice to meet you. I would like to say a few words to you, sir. Would you look at your calendar and when it is convenient for you, I would like to have an appointment."

That would leave Matthew a choice, and he would say, "Well, is it very important?"

"Well, that depends. I think it's very important, but perhaps you wouldn't agree."

"Well, let's see, hmmm, oh, it's all filled up. Next week, maybe."

"Well then, please keep on working. I know you are busy. I can wait."

No. Jesus never said that. Jesus said, "Matthew, follow me—now!" It was a commandment, not an invitation. Matthew had to obey or disobey. The kingdom of God is at hand: repent, and believe the gospel.

God commands all men to repent. If people don't repent they are disobedient to God. For this reason there is a punishment for people who don't repent. God wouldn't punish us if He had just invited us to

come. But He commanded us.

When did Matthew get saved? When he obeyed. Because obedience brings a person under the lordship of Jesus Christ. Not the acceptance of a philosophy, but the obedience to a commandment brings salvation.

•**SLIDE #:** **Romans 1:6: And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.**

God is calling everyone to come to Jesus Christ and to accept Him as Savior. Anyone who accepts that invitation is counted among the “called”. Anyone who rejects that invitation is not to be considered among the “called”.

•**SLIDE #:** **Romans 1:7: To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Call becomes more narrow as we progress in our faith.

“CALLED SAINTS”

This is the new name of the “redeemed”! Old name was “Sinners”. New name is “Saints”.  
Difference between a saint and a sinner is the Savior.

Great confusion in this matter by some, like the Roman Catholic Church, who say that saints are a select group of real good Christians who have been canonized.

But the way God makes saints and the way man makes saints are two entirely different matters!

Here’s now a man makes a saint.

•**SLIDE #:** Soul supposed to be in *purgatory* suffering for the sins of this life.

Church appoints a *committee* to bring charges against this person’s memory. Called *Devil’s advocate*.

Finds all the bad things and sins. Completes file.

Second *committee* is appointed to make a complete *defense* with witnesses and testimony to *prove saintliness*. Evidence of supposed healings and relics, etc.

*Trial. If innocent –*

Years later, a high *church authority* *beatifies the candidate*. Now supposed to be *released from Purgatory and can go up to Heaven*.

Then after a long wait, sometimes many years, go through another ceremony called *canonization and declared now to be a full-fledged saint!*

All of this is quite different from how God makes a saint:

When man repents of sin and accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior, God gives him righteousness and declares him to be a saint.

God almighty doesn’t make a saint by exalting an individual. He makes a saint by exalting the Lord Jesus Christ.

Why? Because of who we are? No. Because of who Jesus is and because of what He did for us.

•**SLIDE #:** (Romans 1:7: called to be saints)

Chinese wisdom literature:

Farmer carried the water in two large pots, each of which hung from opposite ends of a pole he carried across his neck. One pot was in perfect condition and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream. The other pot had a crack in it, though, and always arrived at the master's house half full.

The undamaged pot was proud of itself. It had been made to carry water without leaking, and it did the job perfectly. The cracked pot, on the other hand, felt ashamed. It was miserable knowing it was not able to accomplish that it had been made to do.

Finally the cracked pot spoke to the farmer. "I need to apologize to you," the pot said. "I only deliver half my load because this crack leaks out half the water on the way home from the stream. I am so sorry, and ashamed."

The farmer simply said, "On the way home, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path. On their way back to the house, the cracked pot saw the gorgeous wildflowers beside the path and was cheered a little by their beauty.

When they reached the house, the farmer said to the cracked pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path? I've always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path. Every day when we walked back from the stream, you watered them. For two years I've been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my home."

We are all cracked pots made into saints.

Saints are not perfect. They are separated (*ἀγιος*).

The true Christian never has to give up anything, but there are many things that will give him up.

I never had to give up playing marbles. Never had to say, "I'm a big boy now, and big boys don't play marbles." Didn't happen that way. One day playing marbles with small boys and older boys came by. "Hey, kid, can you field a ball? We're short one player." "Sure, I can." When game was over and we older boys walked past the little fellows who were still playing marbles, I never went back to marbles. I didn't really give them up. They just didn't matter anymore.

Over the years I have lost all my marbles and now I am a Christ Follower.

As we set our affections on Christ, we grow up in spiritual things, and the other things drop off and we never even miss them!

Saint is more seen in growing to be more like Christ—not in perfection of behavior.

"BELOVED OF GOD."

But He has some special ones whom he considers to be His special beloved.

God is the creator of all men, but He is the Father only of those who are born again through faith and who are beloved because of their relationship to Him in His own beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

I am enjoined by God to love all men, but the three girls in my household are my beloved.

Unsaved men are never called "beloved" by God. You read of the love of God, but if you want to be beloved, you must be accepted by God in Jesus Christ.

The way we know we are loved, is because He became man and put on flesh

He is best able to understand our needs and pray for us (Hebrews 5).

The sign on the door said “PUPPIES FOR SALE”, and so the little boy went inside to look. The man inside the pet shop showed him five of the cutest puppies the little boy had ever seen.

“How much are they?” the little boy asked.

The man replied, “Some are fifty dollars, some are more.”

The little boy reached into his pocket and pulled out some change. After counting it, he said, “I have a dollar and forty-seven cents.”

“Well, I’m afraid I can’t sell you one of these puppies for a dollar and forty-seven cents. You’ll have to save your money and come back next time we have more puppies for sale.”

About that time, the pet store owner’s wife brought out another puppy that had been hidden in the back of the store. It was smaller than the other puppies, and had a bad leg. It couldn’t stand up very well, and when it tried to walk, it limped very badly.

“What’s wrong with that puppy?” asked the little boy. The pet store owner explained that the puppy didn’t have a hip socket. It would always limp and always be lame.

“Oh, I wish I had the money to buy that puppy!” exclaimed the little boy with excitement. “That’s the puppy I would choose!”

Well, that puppy is not for sale, son. But if you really want him, I’ll just give him to you. No charge.”

But the little boy got quite upset. He looked straight at the pet store owner and said, “No, I don’t want you to give him to me. That little dog is worth every bit as much as the other dogs you have for sale. I’ll give you a dollar and forty-seven cents now, and I’ll give you fifty cents a month until I have paid for this dog in full.”

The pet store owner was perplexed. “You don’t really want to spend your money on this little dog, son. He is never going to be able to run and play with you like the other puppies.”

Then the little boy reached down and rolled up his pant leg to reveal a badly twisted, crippled left leg, supported by a big metal brace. He looked up at the pet store owner and said, “Mister, I don’t run and play too good myself. I figure this little puppy is going to need someone like me who understands.”