

ROMANS SERIES TWO
BELOVED SAINTS
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Romans 1:1-7

Martin Luther: “The just shall live by faith.”

Ephesians 2:8-10: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Romans 1:1: Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—

Paul was a Christ-rejecting-Christian killer who surrendered his life as a bond slave (*δουλος*) to the very Lord he so ardently tried to destroy. Christ is truly in the business of changing lives—dramatically!
“Set apart”

Romans 1:2: the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures

The “gospel” is “good news because both God and man have a problem in saving man. God has a problem because He’s too righteous for man. Man has a problem because he’s not righteous enough for God! The solution to both dilemmas was the sacrificial work of Christ on the cross. To appreciate the goodness of the gospel we should begin with the fact that aside from Christianity the religions of the world are not at all good news. On the contrary, they are very bad news, a burden. Apart from Christianity all other religions are self-help or “works” religions.

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 the exhausted Christ awakening in time to still the raging storm (Mark 4:35-41).

Jesus Christ is the God-Man: 100% God and 100% man. This is called the “hypostatic Union,” which is inscrutable.

Jesus became man so that He could die. He was God so that His death was worth something! As both God and man he is best able to understand our needs and help for us (Hebrews 5).

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.

“Nobody is going to believe this!”

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

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.

The deity of Jesus Christ is proved by His resurrection from the dead. The resurrection is God’s guarantee that His “beloved” shall all one day be raised to life in the Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

Grace is God's unmerited favor in giving to us what we don't deserve. Mercy is not giving us what we do deserve.

Grace operates in two realms: salvation and daily living.

Grace in salvation occurs through Christ as our sins are forgiven and we receive the righteousness of God.

Grace in daily living occurs as God pours into us His life and power as we need it for varying situations in life.

“The obedience of faith”: By failing to present the gospel as a command to be obeyed we often minimize sin, trivialize discipleship, rob God of His glory, and delude some into thinking that all is well with their souls when actually they are perishing without Christ.

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 considered among the “called”.

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.

“Called Saints”

This is the new name of the “redeemed”! Our old name was “Sinner”. In Christ our new name is “Saint”. The difference between a saint and a sinner is the Savior.

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

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

“Beloved Of God”

God has some special ones whom He considers to be His special beloved. These are those who have entered into a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Unsaved people are loved by God but they are never called “beloved” by God.

The “beloved” can now come boldly to God without any fear. His love has banished fear and made us accepted in the Beloved and therefore beloved of God.

Tapes and CDs of today's message and other helpful ones are available at the Shepherd's Heart ministry table on the Plaza immediately after this service. Use them for your further study or to give to a friend or loved one who was not here today.