

PAUL AND THE CALL (Part 1)

ROMANS 1:1-7

1/5/24

I. CONTEXT

- A. Claudius' edict – expelled Jews from Rome
- B. The Church in Rome is fractured
- C. Paul writes for unity in the Gospel

II. WHO WAS PAUL?

A. A “servant”

- 1. “Dulos” – slave of Jesus Christ
- 2. Paul saw himself as the possession of Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 6:20 - “For you were bought with a price. So, glorify God in your body”

B. God is unlike any sinful earthly master

Psalms 103:8 - “God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in Love”

C. Paul’s whole life belonged fully to Christ

D. We are all slaves to something

- 1. We were created as dependent beings
- 2. Anything we serve that is not God...is sin

Romans 6:16 - “Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?”

E. God is a good master because He served us

Philippians 2:5-8 - “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What challenged your thinking?
2. As you gather as a group share some of your spiritual goals for this year. Create accountability within your group to help one another grow!
3. Why is the book of Romans important for our church in 2025? For you? For our world?
4. What are you most excited to study in the book of Romans?
5. How does understanding the context of Romans better help us understand the letter?
6. We are all servants of something...What are some ways to identify wrong things we are serving in this life?
7. What are some things that people easily serve, instead of God, in this world?
8. How does God serving us in Jesus make Him a good master to follow?
9. What is one thing from the message that you can live out this week?