

THE MESSENGER OF GOD

Romans 1:1b

The 3 most important ways Paul desired the Romans to think about him:

I. BY THE MASTER HE SERVED

1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus...

doulos = 'slave'

Rom 10:9 - that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved...

1 Cor 6:19 – 19 Or do you not know...that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price...

II. BY THE OFFICE HE HELD

1...called as an apostle...

apostle = ambassador; messenger

Eph 2:20 – (the church is) built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone...

Eph 4:11-12 – 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints ... to the building up of the body of Christ...

2 Cor 12:12 - The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.

II. BY THE OFFICE HE HELD

1...called as an apostle...

*1 Cor 1:2 - To the church of God which is at Corinth... saints
by calling...*

*1 Cor 1:24 - ...those who are the called, both Jews and
Greeks...*

*Rom 8:30 - ...these whom He predestined, He also called;
and these whom He called, He also justified; and these
whom He justified, He also glorified.*

II. BY THE OFFICE HE HELD

1...called as an apostle...

Gal 1:1 - Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father...)

III. BY THE MESSAGE HE PREACHED

1...set apart for the gospel of God...

Gal 1:15 - But...God... set me apart even from my mother's womb...

Acts 9:15 - But the Lord said...he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel...

Acts 13:2 - To the church in Antioch, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

III. BY THE MESSAGE HE PREACHED

1...set apart for the gospel of God...

Isa 52:7 - How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, and says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Greek = euangelion ... euangelizo

Rom 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Questions about the gospel –

FIRST – What do you do with news?

SECOND – What makes it *good* news?

- Because of what Jesus did – He died as a substitute for sinners = *PENAL SUBSTITUTION*.

2 Cor 5:21 - He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Jesus' death accomplished something important
–*PROPITIATION*

*Rom 3:23–26 - 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a **propitiation** in His blood through faith. 26...so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

Questions about the gospel –

FIRST – What do you do with news?

SECOND – What makes it *good* news?

- Because of what Jesus did
- Because of what Jesus will do.

Jesus REMOVES the guilt of our sin = *EXPIATION*.

All this is all at the heart of the good news – *PENAL SUBSTITUTION... EXPIATION...& PROPITIATION*.

The only accepted response – God FORGIVES sinners who turn and trust Jesus.

TURN – from sin and trusting in self-effort

TRUST – have faith in Jesus' promise to save you, and to believe that He will care for you eternally.

'Before the Throne of God Above'

*For God, the Just, is satisfied
to look on Him and pardon me.*

Four words – God...Man...Christ...Response.

- GOD – is the holy Creator who must judge sin.
- MAN – is a sinner.
- CHRIST – lived, died, and rose again for sinners
- RESPONSE – God saves sinners who turn and trust in Jesus.

III. BY THE MESSAGE HE PREACHED

1...set apart for the gospel of God...

Paul was *arrested* by the gospel – it is a powerful message that captures people for God.

A summary of verse one – Paul was:

- a *purchased* slave
- a *called* apostle
- a *separated* preacher.

We NEVER get to a point where we don't need God's grace.

JERRY BRIDGES – *Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace.*