

Separated .. Singled Out .. Servant

Romans 1:1-7



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FOCAL Read Responsively Romans 1:1-7 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called [to be] an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, **(2) (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) (3) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; (4) And declared [to be] the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: (5) By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: (6) Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ: (7) To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called [to be] saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.¹**

Why am I here? For what reason has the Lord given me life on this earth?

As humans, we answer this question by *what we do* each and every day. Some people believe they were placed on this earth to make money, to serve the *god called Mammon*. This idol has consumed so many lives, taken parents away from children, children away from parents, destroyed homes, marriages, and blinded people to the reality of an *eternal future*. Mammon, if worshiped, requires more and more of your soul. As Jesus said, **“Ye cannot serve God and mammon”**. (Matthew 6:24) Both God and Mammon want your soul. The difference is that God will bless your soul when He gets it, whereas Mammon will consume your soul and commit you to hell!

¹ All texts are King James Version (Authorized), unless otherwise noted

What are some of the gods that people chase after?
What gods did Paul chase prior to his salvation on the Damascus Road?

Some chase Mammon, some chase *power*, or *sensual pleasures*, or *entertainment*. Paul was no different than these *god chasers* prior to meeting the Lord Jesus Christ on the Road to Damascus. Paul's god was *power*. His full name was SAULOS PAULOS BENJAMINOS. His names very much described his search for God. The name SAULOS was the name that he used while he was seeking more and more power. Saul was the youngest member of the Jewish Sanhedrin, the ruling Council of Elders in Israel. Saul – whose name means *death*² - was present when the *first Christian was martyred (Acts 7:58)*. Since stoning was a messy business, **Saul** volunteered to stand guard over the assassins clothes:

Acts:7:58: ... the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

as they beat **Stephen** to death. But Saul wasn't done! The Bible says that he followed his god – *power* – very well. He went to the High Priest:

Acts 9:1-2 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, (2) And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues,

² According to *Hitchcock's Bible Names*

that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

and received permission to go and gather up more Christians to be tried and executed like Stephen was. Saul – *Death* – knew what his calling was. He was a Christian Killer, an Avenging Angel of the Sanhedrin,, the Hand of Dark Justice.

Then He met Jesus Christ on the Damascus Road!

The day that Saul was saved, the day He met the Lord on the way to Damascus (**Acts 9:3-6**) his life changed. He no longer chased after **Lord Power** under the guiding hand of **Master Sanhedrin**. On the day he was saved Saul – whose name *means death* – began to change. Salvation, Dear Ones, brings with it a change. He ceased being **Death**, and began to be addressed with his other name PAULOS or **Paul**, which means *little one*. Death became a “little one”, a precious soul bound to Christ by faith.

That which is true in the Apostle Paul's life is true in *every believer's life*. Prior to salvation we all chased after *other gods*, after *various idols*. Our focus in being was Mammon or Money, Power, or Sensuality. Once we were saved we who believe found ourselves, as Paul said of his life:

FOCAL Romans 1:1 Paul, **a servant of Jesus Christ, called [to be] an apostle, separated**

unto the gospel of God,

3. A Servant of Jesus Christ
2. Called To Be A _____
1. Separated Unto The Gospel of God

Let's look at these assertions in *reverse order*, applying them to our own personal lives.

1. A Christian Person, Like Paul, Is A Separated Person

FOCAL Romans 1:1 **Paul**, a servant of Jesus Christ, called [to be] an apostle, **separated unto the gospel of God,**

I remember the day that a little girl accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. She accepted the Lord in our Vacation Bible School, but as her parents were members at a sister Church she was baptized there. This precious child came running to me just the other day, jumped into my arms, and said “Brother David, I been BAP-tizzed”. I can't type it the way she said it, but it was so precious. This child surrendered herself to the Lord Jesus Christ and now she has been **BAP-tizzed**. She's excited about her new relationship with the Lord, and telling everyone else about it. Praise God for saved little girls!

If you are a Christian then you have been **separated unto the Gospel of God**. The word **separated** is the

Greek word *aphorizo*³, which literally means *to be marked off by boundary* or *set apart for a specific purpose*. This verb is in the *Perfect Tense and Passive Voice*, which means that you were *set apart for a specific purpose with permanent results*.

The Christian – because he or she has responded to the Gospel call, and because he or she has submitted themselves to the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved, they are now a *set apart people*. In **Matthew 25:32** Our Lord **Jesus** spoke of a coming day when He would return to this earth and *separate – aphorizo* the sheep from the goats. In this case the word *aphorizo* emphasizes that there are *distinct differences* between the lost and the saved. Even the lost know the difference between themselves and the saved. Jesus said in **Luke 6:22** that the unbeliever would *separate themselves from you*. Why is that? Because you, dear Christian, have been *set apart by the Gospel of God*. You are no longer SAULOS, but you are now PAULOS. You have been changed.

Isaiah 62:2 ... thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

A Christian is a person who heard the Gospel call. He heard that he was bound to this world by chains of sin and darkness. You did not do as **Cain** did, when God commanded that you separate yourself to His command.

3 Perfect Passive Participle of G873, ἀφορίζω, aphorizō, *af-or-id'-zo*, From G575 and G3724; to *set off* by boundary, that is, (figuratively) *limit, exclude, appoint*, etc.: - divide, separate, sever.

When Cain heard that it required a *blood sacrifice* for sin to be covered, Cain rejected that command. He decided that he would offer his *own good works* before God rather than offer the **Blood of the Lamb**. When God rejected Cain's offer – for his offer was *outside the boundaries that God had set* – then Cain attacked and killed his brother **Abel**. Abel heard the good news, heard of the Coming Jesus, and offered the *blood of the Lamb* as God commanded.

What does the murder of Abel by Cain show me about the Blood of Christ and getting to Heaven on *my own good works*?

Here we see the *great separation* between the world and the Christian. The world and the worldling will always believe – *along with Cain* – that God can be approached *apart from God's decree*. Yet that Greek word *aphorizo* – separated once and for all – emphasizes that God has *one way and one way only to reach Him*. That way is not the offering of Cain, not the offering of *good works*, but it is the Gospel of Faith. God has offered a way to Him, and that way is through the Blood of the Lamb, the Blood of Jesus Christ:

FOCAL Romans 1:1b-5 **separated unto the gospel of God, (2) (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) (3) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord,** which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; (4) And

declared [to be] the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: (5) **By whom we have received grace**

The Gospel of God, the *good news of salvation* is **promised by God's prophets in the Holy Scriptures**. This Gospel was foretold, as I have shown you, from the beginning – in Genesis – and has been revealed now in us. The struggle between **Cain and Abel** is the struggle between **human good works and faith in the Lord Jesus**. When Cain decided that he would approach God in his own way, in his own power, human works did what they always did. Cain became angered because he could not reach God, because *he did not get his way*, and as a result he *murdered his brother Abel*.

This is not an allegory, by the way. Our Lord Jesus Christ *knew of the killing of Abel by Cain*, and condemned the *good works by God rejecting Pharisees* when He said:

Matthew 23:33-35 [Ye] serpents, [ye] generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? (34) Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and [some] of them ye shall kill and crucify; and [some] of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute [them] from

city to city: (35) That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

Oh My Beloved, if our Lord Jesus condemned the *highly religious Pharisees as vipers and children of hell*, how can any of us hope to escape the flames of hell on our own good works? We cannot! We must submit our souls to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Abel's sacrifice was accepted by God because *he surrendered to the Blood*:

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, ...

The Gospel is that the Blood of the Lamb has been shed for you! The Gospel is that Jesus Christ gave Himself for you. His offering was foretold from the beginning, and is now manifest by the Holy Scriptures. Abel sacrificed the lamb, *looking forward to the Coming of Jesus Christ*. The Bible says:

Hebrews 12:24-25 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than [that of] Abel. (25) See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they

escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more [shall not] we [escape], if we turn away from him that [speaketh] from heaven:

Today we have Jesus, we have the **Gospel of God, the Good News**. Jesus Christ gave Himself for you. If you give yourselves to Him, believing, then you are **separated unto the Gospel of God**. Your lives have been changed, you are marked for God's specific use and purpose. Like the Apostle of old you are no longer SAULOS, but you are now PAULOS. You belong to Jesus!

As a Work of God and a Workman of God you who believe are called to *remain separated from this present evil age*. Cain will always beckon you to come and be with him. That Force which dwells in and empowers Cain, that fallen Angel we call Satan, will always beckon you to come over to His side. Yet you are **separated, aphorizo, marked out, set apart by the Gospel of God**. This is the *Gospel of God*, the message that Jesus Christ died for you. Since it is His Word, His message that called you, it is His Word that commands you to *remain separate*:

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate⁴, saith

4 Aorist Passive Imperative of G873, ἀφορίζω, aphorizō, *af-or-id'-zo*, From G575 and G3724; to *set off* by boundary, that is, (figuratively) *limit, exclude, appoint*, etc.: - divide, separate, sever.

the Lord, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you, (18) And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

The exact same word – *aphorizo* - is used in this text. Once *set apart by the Gospel* by faith, you now – under the Lordship of Jesus Christ – *stay separated so that God can use you*. This brings us to the second part of this message:

2. The Christian, Saved By Faith, Is CALLED To Be ?

FOCAL Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, **called [to be] an apostle**, separated unto the gospel of God,

Once a person is saved by faith in Christ, they are saved *for a specific purpose*. Paul said that he himself was **called⁵ to be an Apostle⁶**. The word **apostle** means *an ambassador, commissioner, or messenger*. The Apostle represented a Higher Power. In the Church the Offices of Apostle as well as Prophet were *foundational*:

Ephesians 2:19-20 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the

5 G2822, κλητός, klētos, *klay-tos'*, From the same as G2821; *invited*, that is, *appointed*, or (specifically) a *saint*: - called.

6 G652, ἀπόστολος, apostolos, *ap-os'-tol-os*, From G649; a *delegate*; specifically an *ambassador* of the Gospel; officially a *commissioner* of Christ ("apostle"), (with miraculous powers): - apostle, messenger, he that is sent.

saints, and of the household of God; (20) And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone];

Paul was appointed to the *position* of Apostle in the Church.

What is my *general calling* from God? What is my *specific calling* from God?

Every Christian is given a *general* as well as a *specific* calling from God. Our *general* calling is to – like the Apostle of old – **tell others about Jesus Christ**. We represent our Lord Jesus to a lost and dying world.

FOCAL Romans 1:5 By whom **we have received grace and apostleship**, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

Jesus commands us:

Matthew 28:18-20: "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded

YOU: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

You have a purpose – Go and tell. Be **salt** in the midst of this crooked generation. Be **light**, and not darkness. Your *general calling is to grow enough as believers to where you can serve the Lord*. Growth for the Christian comes through prayer and study of the Word of God.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

But is this all you are to be? Absolutely not! From the beginning God has shown us that

after separating by the Gospel of God, The Lord assigns a purpose – a gift – a duty to each person that has been saved!

Paul was *specifically* given the duty or assignment of being **An Apostle of Jesus Christ**, a duty that he affirmed *seventeen times* in the Scripture (**Romans 1:1; Romans 11:13; 1 Corinthians 1:1; 1 Corinthians 9:1; 1 Corinthians 9:2; 1 Corinthians 15:9; 2 Corinthians 1:1; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Galatians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; 1 Timothy 1:1; 1 Timothy 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:11; Titus 1:1**). God set Paul apart by the Gospel, and after salvation the Lord gave Paul the *specific calling* to be the **Apostle to the**

Gentiles. He represented our Lord *outside of* Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, establishing new Church plants where ever the Lord led him.

God's pattern or *method of operation throughout the Scripture* is that He **separates a person unto the Gospel of God** and then **calls that person to service**. What are some examples of this?

Let's look at a few examples. Right after **“Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD” (Genesis 6:8)**, being separated by the Gospel, saved by faith, it isn't long in the text that we see the Lord telling him **“Make thee an ark of gopher wood” (Genesis 6:14)**. With salvation comes purpose!

When God called **Moses “out of the midst of the {burning} bush” (Exodus 3:4)** the Lord sent him to be His messenger to Pharaoh, leading Israel out of Egypt and into glorious freedom.

When God called **the child Samuel (1 Samuel 3:4)** He set that young man apart to be **“a prophet of the LORD” (1 Samuel 3:20)**. When God saves, He then gives purpose to whom He has saved. It is this same **Prophet Samuel** who was sent to Jesse, and was commanded to **separate David and anoint him as the next King of Israel (1 Samuel 16:13)**. David, a **man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14)**, was saved by faith to be the next King of Israel. God calls to salvation, separates by the Gospel, then *assigns* duties to those He has called.

I suppose many of you are saying, “But that was then, during the time of Israel, and THIS is the Church Age”. Yes, you're right, but God has *never* changed. If you are saved, you are saved to serve the Lord. This truth is *clearly presented* in the Scripture. Our focal text states:

FOCAL Romans 1:1, 6-7 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, **called⁷ [to be] an apostle**, separated unto the gospel of God, (6) Among whom **are ye also the called⁷ of Jesus Christ**: (7) To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, **called⁷ [to be] saints**: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul was CALLED or APPOINTED to be an Apostle.
You ALSO are the CALLED or APPOINTED.
The Beloved of God are CALLED or APPOINTED to be God's Saints.

In verses 1, 6 & 7 of our focal text the *exact same word* – *kletos* – is used for Paul and for the Church at large, saved by faith in Christ. If God saved you, He has given you a duty, a gift, an appointment.

You have something you MUST be doing for Him if you are to be obedient Christians. In another place the Scripture makes it clear that:

7 G2822, κλητός, klētos, *klay-tos'*, From the same as G2821; *invited*, that is, *appointed*, or (specifically) a *saint*: - called.

1 Corinthians 12:1, 11 ... About spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. (11) All these {gifts} are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. ^{NIV}

If you are saved, you are *part of the Body of Christ, the Church*. This Body is “**not made up of one part but of many**”. (1 Corinthians 12:14). God separates unto the Gospel of God, then appoints duties or giftings to us. We who believe are *saved to serve*. Everything we do and say as individuals *works together to unify the Body* so that we – working together – can lead others to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

You have a function – you have a duty – you have a gifting – you have a calling. Grow in Grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ so that you can find your place in the Body!

3. If You Are Saved, You Are A Servant Of The Lord!

FOCAL Romans 1:1 **Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ**, called [to be] an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

We saved this portion of the text for last, because it provides balance. Who am I in the Lord? **I am a servant of Jesus Christ**. The word **servant**⁸ is literally a **slave**, a

NIV New International Version of the Scripture

8 G1401, δούλος, *doulos*, *doo'-los*, From G1210; a *slave* (literally or

lowly purchased possession. The reason I say that this brings balance to what we have been discussing is because the word **slave** takes all pride from the Christian.

A I am a slave to Christ – my will must submit to Him as Master. The Scripture says:

1 Corinthians 6:20: "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

1 Corinthians 7: 22-23: "For he that is called⁹ in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called⁹, being free, is Christ's servant. Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men."

If you're saved, the Scripture is clear – you belong to God. You are His property, and subject to do His bidding. This means that I must submit *my will* to *His will* if I expect to be blessed in this life.

B I am a slave of Christ – He is my Lord in *all things*. If you belong to Him, then no matter what happens *He*

figuratively, involuntarily or voluntarily; frequently therefore in a qualified sense of *subjection* or *subserviency*): - bond (-man), servant.

9 G2564, *καλέω*, *kaleō*, *kal-eh'-o*, Akin to the base of G2753; to "call" (properly aloud, but used in a variety of applications, directly or otherwise): - bid, call (forth), (whose, whose sur-) name (was [called]).

has oversight on your lives. If trials come, I know that He will put no more on me than I can bear (**1 Corinthians 10:13**). He alone stands as my Judge (**Romans 14:4**) – the judgment of others means little to a slave. I must please my Master above all. If I am His slave then He must care for me (**1 Peter 5:7**).

C If I am the Lord's slave, then I will not *get prideful* in that which I do. Paul was a called Apostle – one of the greatest gifts in the Church, a foundational gift yet he did not get prideful. Paul understood that he was given this gift not because of any inherent ability, but because the Master *decided to give him this gift*. God assigns the gifts. They all possess equal value, all are very important in the Body. There is no *puffiness* in the one who understands that God sets the gifts "**dividing to every man severally as He will**" (**1 Corinthians 12:11**). Our salvation itself is a gift from God. He offered – you accepted (if you accepted) – and you have no cause for boasting. As it is written:

Romans 3:27-28 Where [is] boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. (28) Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Show me a boaster, and I show you a person who does not understand what Jesus did for him or her on the Cross. We are **separated unto the Gospel of God**,

called to serve Jesus in some capacity, servants for His glory and honor and power.

May God touch your hearts with these words¹⁰.

¹⁰ An extensive study on Romans can be found at my site, located at <http://www.bibleteacher.org/Romanrd.htm>

