

This is a bible study, so expect to do a lot of traveling through Scripture. I use the KJV.

Romans Chapter 1 Romans 1:1-6

I know the subject of “Jew” is a strange thing to open study with, but we need this understanding in any Bible Study, the New Testament especially. Paul will deal with the identity of the Jews in depth in Romans.

Galatians 1:13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews’ religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: 14 And profited in the Jews’ religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

We will encounter the word “Jew” many times, and the word can be very confusing. In both secular and scriptural usage, Jew has several meanings, and the context will usually tell which meaning to use. Its common use in the Old Testament meant a person of the tribe of Judah, which was one of the 12 tribes of the Nation of Israel that came out of Egypt and settled in Canaan. There was no “Jewish Nation” at that time. The “Jewish nation” did not come into existence until David’s grandson, Jeroboam was on the throne of the united Kingdom of Israel; it split into two nations, Judah and Israel.

Here is very short definition of Jew:

1) Jew: a man or woman of the tribe of Judea. About 742 B.C, (2 Kings 16) is first time the word Jew is used to identify those dwelling Jerusalem in Judea. The name Jew was expanded to include all of the Children of Israel regardless of where they lived. After being carried away by Babylon, the vast majority of the Children of Israel remained in Babylon where they were known as Jews. Any national identity of National Israel that came out of Egypt was totally erased from history in 70 AD.

2) Jew: any person whose mother was a Jew or any person who has gone through the formal process of conversion to the Jew’s religion, Judaism. There is no hint of any requirement to show one’s connection to the ancient Children of Israel out of Egypt. The name Jew also applies to those today who identify themselves as Jews, or because others, such as Hitler, have identified them as Jews.

3) Jew: any follower of or convert to the Jew’s religion, Judaism.

According to Rabbi Kertzer (What is a Jew, p. 35), though there are many kinds of Jews, their

unifying point is their common commitment "to live a life of Torah, by which we mean that the totality of Jewish wisdom, which we refer to generally as 'Torah,' forms the basis of what we do. We have been called 'The people of the Book,' and indeed we are that. Torah is therefore primarily a series of books, beginning with the Bible, and then continuing rabbinic writings thereafter: the Mishnah, the Talmud, midrash, laws codes, commentaries, and, commentaries on commentaries. Jewish literature encompasses legal texts, philosophical inquiry, mysticism, poetry, prayer books, history, satire, autobiography, and even ethical wills — wills that record how parents lived their lives and advisor children who survive them how to best continue the values for which the parents stood"

4) Jew: Those who are followers of Christ, and are defined by the Word of God as the "new Israel of God."

We will deal more with the word when we get to **Romans 2:29** *But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*

Not only does the New Testament, but also Jewish writers identify the Jew's religion, Judaism, as the "tradition of the elders," or the religion of the Pharisees, which was established in Babylon. The term "tradition of the elders" is very common in the New Testament, and is continually condemned by Christ and the Apostles.

The common use of the word Jew in the New Testament refers to those who follow the traditions of the fathers, Judaism. Christ identified Judaism as demonic, as did Paul and John.

John 8:44 *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

Introduction. I love history, but I will try to restrict history to what is needed in our study.

When I took Bible Doctrines in School, it was a study in the book of Romans. Romans is the key book that explains salvation.

(In overview) A key point is the date of this letter which was about 57 or 58 A.D., which was about 10-12 years before the destruction of National Israel. It was written by Paul from Corinth and sent to Rome by a woman named Phebe. This Roman Church is not to be confused with the present-day Church of Rome, which

was founded in the fourth century (c. 312) in the Western Roman Empire. Constantine founded the city of Constantinople on the site of Byzantium; it was the first Christian Empire, and lasted for over 1000 years. As Emperor, Constantine proclaimed himself the first Bishop of Rome, a claim the Pope now makes from the city of Rome. That church is now in the grips of with the very false doctrines Paul confronts here.

This epistle by Paul is the most difficult of all the New Testament. There has been controversy over this letter ever since it was written. The controversy comes from an unwillingness to admit the clear truths as presented by Paul. The natural heart is opposed to many of the things presented by Paul, particularly in chapters 9 & 11. Many even professed Christians will reject what Paul presents. Or they add men's ideas or traditions to Paul's words, confusing the issues even more.

When confronted a pastor friend with an obvious scriptural truth, he admitted I was right, but said that he was teaching the way he had been taught by men he respected, and it was too late to change now.

As I have studied Scripture, I have had to lay aside many false teachings from my earlier years for the truth. As a pastor, I have had to admit error from the pulpit.

In order to have the Spirit teach the truth, one must be willing to lay aside any teaching that does not line with the clear teaching of Scripture.

Philippians 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

Many things in this book can only understood according to Heb. 11:3, *By faith we understand....*

The New Testament was written in the context of the old Hebrew religion. This Gospel Church properly has its roots in the day of Pentecost, as recorded in,

Acts 2:5, and there were at Jerusalem Jews, devout men out of every nation under heaven.

These Jews took the message Peter preached back home with them to every nation under heaven. That included Rome. And thus, Matthew 24:14 was fulfilled:

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness

unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

We will not look at it now, but the “end” spoken of by the Lord was the end of the Old Testament “Jewish” economy what required worshiping God at the Temple in Jerusalem.

In Matthew 24, or Lord warns his hearers of the soon coming destruction of Jerusalem and of the destruction of Israel as a nation. Jacob (Israel) and his 12 sons went into Egypt as nomadic shepherds with a few hundred people, and 400 years later, came out as a mighty nation of probably 3 million people with all the skills needed to build a nation.

Abraham had been promised by God the land of Canaan or Palestine. They were delivered out of Egypt as a nation, and they conquered Canaan. That nation of Israel lasted about 1500 years until it was finally and totally destroyed by Rome in 70 A.D. What is identified over there today has nothing to do with the old city of Jerusalem. Modern Jerusalem is built on the ruins what Rome left behind.

The promise in Matthew 24:14 was that national Israel’s destruction would not take place until the gospel had gone into all the world, which it did in Acts 2:5.

Rome:

The Church of Rome claims that Peter went to Rome, but there is neither Biblical nor secular evidence of such a visit. Paul did not go to Rome until he had appealed to Ceasar. And then he was a prisoner there until his death. From there, he wrote what are known as the Prison Epistles.

The Israelites, or Judeans, those who had lived in the southern land of Judah, were scattered widely throughout the Roman Empire, building synagogues wherever they settled. 10 families were required for synagogue. The Roman religion of Paul's day was a worship of many gods, and especially among the higher class of heathens. Gentiles saw the vast superiority of the Jews religion of one God. These synagogues then, where the Jewish religion met, and they had MANY Gentile converts, or proselytes, in them.

The devout Jews who had been in Jerusalem for one of the most holy of their holy days, Pentecost, which took place 50 days after the passover, (Christ, our Passover was crucified the day before the passover) heard the gospel, believed and went back to their places of worship. In these synagogues there were many ready

hearers.

1 Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

Knowing only Peter's message as recorded in Acts 2, the Roman church was open to all kinds of false doctrine from the Jew's religion. Judaism, which was and is basically the tradition of the Elders. actually, started after Moses delivered the 10 commandments. Judaism was thoroughly condemned throughout the NT.

This letter to the Romans was written to counter the Judaism's influence, as well as the Gentile misunderstanding of sound doctrine.

We see in chapter 2, that the Hebrew believers considered themselves better because the law came to and trough them. Evidently, they were then treating the Gentiles as third-class citizens.

Galatians 1:13 *For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: 14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.*

Paul had a thorough background in the Jew's religion, and had promoted that religion even to the death of believers in Christ. He knew exactly where and what the problems were for those who lived in a nation committed to Judaism. Christ, Paul, Peter and John identified the Jew's religion, Judaism as the doctrines of Devils.

Paul's letters, especially Romans and Galatians, were written to counter the creeping influence of the Jew's religion into the new churches.

Example: I was saved out of a "ask Jesus into your heart," "Turn your life over to him," "trust him to come into your life," background, so when dealing with people I know where to put my finger.

The book of Romans

Romans gives the very basic Christian Doctrine in contrast to the Judaism of the day, which is still very active today. The Church of Rome today is a mixture of Judaism, Christianity and paganism. Sadly, the Christian Church is becoming

mixed with Judaism and paganism. However, the Christian church does not have priests as does Rome.

Though the book of Romans is not the first Epistle of Paul, it is the foundational book of doctrine, and the most basic of the New Testament.

In Romans, Paul covers every major doctrine of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the rest of his epistles, he applies these doctrines to everyday life.

Roman's covers the doctrines of faith, grace, baptism, justification, election, divine sovereignty of God, doctrine of sin, total depravity of man, prayer and even the gifts of the spirit in chp. 12.

Romans chapter 1:

Ro 1:1-7 Paul introduces himself to the saints at Rome, and greets them.

1:1 *Paul.*

His name had been Saul, and when he was converted his name was changed to Paul, Acts 6:58.

The changing of a name was a common practice. Abram was changed to Abraham. Jacob to Israel. In the changing of the name, we see the charge of character.

The Christians would remember Saul who had persecuted them. His new name would show a new man to the very ones he persecuted.

Our name was changed at salvation. We are now named after Christ. Does our character reflect our new character? Can Christ be seen in our character? Is the outside clean and white but the inside full of dead men's bone? (Hypocrite)

A servant of Jesus Christ.

This means a slave or one who is not free.

The Jews, especially a Jewish rabbi and a free born Roman citizen prided themselves in being free—that is, not anyone's servant or slave.

Jn. 8:31-37

31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. 33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? 34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. 35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. 36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. 37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

What is the freedom referred to by Christ?

Freedom from the power and penalty of Sin. Paul explains how to gain that freedom here in Romans.

Elsewhere, Paul uses his being a free Roman citizen in his defense, but in his letters, Paul prides himself in being a servant to the Lord Jesus Christ. He knew the only true freedom was in serving Christ.

We will either serve our own desires and be a slave to them, or you will serve Christ and be free in him. Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

Luke 4:16 *And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. 17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, 18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach **deliverance to the captives**, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. 20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.*

He did not come to take his people to heaven; rather, he came to set them free from the power and penalty of sin, which delivers from eternal damnation.

V. 1, *called to be an apostle...* That is, a special, unique messenger from God. He was inspired as was Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah and the rest of the OT Prophets.

Galatians 1:15 *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, 16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: 17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. 19 But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother. 20 Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not. 21 Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia; 22 And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ: 23 But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. 24 And they glorified God in me.*

Paul was an apostle called out of due season. He did not walk with Christ while Christ was here, but Christ did personally instruct him.

He did not volunteer, nor did he seek the office. Rather, Paul was drafted against his will into the Lord's service. At the start of each of his letters, he establishes his authority to write the doctrines that go so much against the human thought of his day.

V. 1, *Separated unto the gospel of God.*

In Acts 2, Peter preached the first gospel message in Jerusalem, and 3 thousand were added to the kingdom of God. God had a purpose in setting aside Paul from his anti-Christian fervor, and that was to take the gospel to the Gentile world. He did go to the Jews, who mostly rejected his message. After their rejection, he went to the Gentiles.

Quite contrary to modern thought, the foundation of the church is not Old Testament Judaism, but the Hebrew prophets of old:

Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the 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; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Paul, in his letters, made sure that what was being spread was the truth according to the established Old Testament law and prophets.

Christ himself said search the Old Testament scriptures to make sure the new message was true.

John 5:34 But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. 35 He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. 36 But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. 37 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. 38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. 39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. 40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

V. 1 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;

V. 2 is a most important point. If a preacher's message cannot be confirmed by God's prophets in the Old Testament, he is presenting false doctrine. Though the context is Paul's instruction concerning proper attitude of employees to their employer, his words apply very well to false teachers of any kind:

*1 Timothy 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; 4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, 5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: **from such withdraw thyself.***

Paul further warns in 2 Timothy 3:1 *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that*

are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Paul warns the Child of God to flee from any message that is contrary to the law and the prophets of old. We will see more of this in Romans 3:21.

Though the gospel of God might appear new, Paul clearly tells the Church at Rome that it was according to what had been prophesied. It had been clearly spelled out in the Old Testament. If its roots had not been in the Old Testament, the gospel would have been soundly rejected by all. Paul makes it clear in all his letters that the Gospel is not new, but is according to what was prophesied.

How was it prophesied?

Paul presented nothing new, nor did any of the New Testament preachers, or they would have been stoned. Everything that was presented in the Gospel was built on the law and the prophets.

It was pictured in all the sacrifices, rites and rituals that were required of the Children of Israel in the temple;

Colossians 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

The clearest prophecy of the gospel of God is Isaiah 53.

"The gospel is, that Jesus Christ suffered in the place of all sinners who trust him as their Saviour, that he endured what they ought to have endured, and made atonement to God for all the sins that they would ever commit; and if you thus trust him you are saved. The simple act of relying upon the Lord Jesus as your substitute and Saviour puts away your guilt and sin forever." (C. H. Spurgeon, Aug. 17, 1873)

Start, 1/10/19

Last time we saw that the gospel was proclaimed in the law and in the prophets.

The law being all the ordinances, rites and rituals of the Israelite religion that pointed to the substitutionary work of Christ. Colossians 2:14

The prophets being places like Isa 53.

Any message that does not -based in the work of Christ is not a Christian message. and both of Paul's letters two Timothy, he warns him to flee from those who are not true to the gospel message of Christ.

V. 3. Concerning his (God's) Son Jesus Christ our Lord which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

The problem with Christ was not his claim to be of the seed of David. Christ's genealogy is recorded in Matthew and Luke. From the time of Moses, Israel was very careful to keep an accurate genealogy record. We have some recorded in Numbers. The records were officially and carefully archived. They existed until Rome destroyed Jerusalem. God preserved the records to prove Christ's lineage. After he came and his lineage recorded in the Word of God, there was no longer any need for them, so he sent his Roman army to destroy apostate Israel and all genealogy records.

V. 4. And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

The problem was that Christ claimed to be the Son of God, making himself equal with God.

Israel had been severely judged for their following after many other gods, and carried off into Assyria and Judah to Babylon. Only a small minority of Israelites return from Babylon under Ezra and Nehemiah. From that time, Israel avoided serving more than one God. At the time of Christ, they were serving who they thought was the One True God, but that service had been greatly corrupted by traditions of the elders. That tradition was developed by Israelite apostates who remained in Babylon, and was known as the Babylonian Talmud.

Christ claimed to be the Son of God, and proved it with great power. But he attacked their traditions with the command-word of God. Their traditions kept the people in bondage, and provided the religious leaders with great wealth and power, so the leaders created an extremely hostile environment. So hostile, in fact, that they put him to death for his claim.

The final proof of his deity was his resurrection from the dead. Those who tried to

retain their power even rejected that proof, though the fact was evident for all to see.

The Gospel message must be based in the death, burial and resurrection, and faith in what he did for the individual sinner. Paul, in Galatians 1 identifies anything less as a false gospel.

V. 4, Christ was ALL GOD, “the Son of God,” and ALL MAN, “the seed of David according to the flesh.”

Attacks on the doctrine of the divinity of Christ started at the appearance of Christ, and have continued to this very day. The attacks come from both secular and religious sources.

Fallen man's problem is that if Christ is God then his deity demands accountability and obedience to Him. Non-Christian governments around the world realize that if their citizens first duty is to the kingdom of God then they must fall. Communist China realizes that if they allow the church to openly prosper, their authority as an all-powerful state must fall. Commitment to a foreign state, God's kingdom on earth (Matthew 63:3) must be considered sedition if the pagan state will survive. Every effort must be made against sedition.

In China, that takes form in serious physical persecution. In the US, state-sponsored undermining of the kingdom of God takes many forms: education, government grants to religious institutions and churches, the IRS, false teachers supported by the state, &c.

In 451 AD, the church held a council to deal with the attacks on the Deity of Christ. It was called the Council of Chalcedon. Let me give you a excerpts of what they said. There is really no way to put it better.

--We all with one accord teach men to acknowledge one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at once complete in Godhead and complete in manhood, truly God and truly man--- Of one substance with the Father as regards his Godhead and at the same time of one substance with us as regards his manhood; like us in all respects, apart from sin; as regards his Godhead, begotten of the Father before the ages, but yet as regards his manhood begotten for us men and for our salvation, of Mary the virgin, the God-bearer, one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, only begotten, recognized in two natures, without confusion, without charge, without division, without separation.

The distinction of natures being in no way annulled by the union, but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one person and subsistence, not as parted or separated into two person, but one and the same Son and only begotten God the Word, Lord Jesus Christ.

That is, Christ is “Very man of very man and very God of very God, two natures in union without confusion.”

He is not a helpless babe a woman's arms nor in a manger, nor is he a helpless man hanging on a cross.

The early pictures of Christ in the Masonic floors within the first several centuries show him crowned as king. Have we crowned him king in our lives? We do that by keeping his commandments.

Son of God.

This is not a title or office held by Christ but it is his very nature. He has the same nature as the Father.

It was not his resurrection from dead that made him the Son of God. Rather, the resurrection that proved who he was from the beginning.

"And declared to be the son of God"

I said this would not be a Bible study for the faint of heart, and it is not. I had not planned to go into the covenant at this point, but this is a good point to do it. This is chapter 7 in the London Baptist confession.

Here is something I put together some years ago as I studied out the covenant.

Went to everlasting covenant

We were ready to go into the Covenant of Grace.

1/31/19

START HERE AFTER COVENANT

We return to our study of Romans 1:1-7, and will return to the Covenant of

Grace in Romans 4:13, where we will discuss the covenant promise to Abraham.

V. 3. Paul tells us in Colossians 1:15 *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:*

What are we told here: Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. As we read the Gospels, we see God himself acting out his perfect character.

First question on hand out:

V. 4, though the resurrection did not make him the Son of God, **What did it do?**
b

First, it proved there is a resurrection from the dead:

1 Corinthians 15:12, Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead.

Moreover, it proves that every person who ever lived will be raised from the dead and will stand in judgment before the resurrected Christ. He will answer for every deed done in the flesh:

2 Corinthians 5:10, for we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. That everyone may receive the things done in his body according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Second, it proved that just the same as all men die in Adam, all men can be made alive in Christ:

1 Corinthians 15:22, for as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Third, it proved Christ to be the Son of God:

Romans 1:4, and declared to be the Son of God with power...

Obviously, no one except God himself has the power over life; that is, to create life when there is no life present.

Christ raised many from the dead while he walked among us, and then he raised

himself from the dead. Who but God with us could do such things?

His resurrection proved that he alone was the Christ sent from God.

John 14:11, *Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works sake.*

I heard one of these faith healers tell his followers to bring the dead bodies of their loved ones and place them in front of the TV set. Then he said that there will be many brought back to life. And people still sent him money.

Christ proved his claim to be God with us by the resurrection from the dead.

The resurrection confirmed that the claims of Christ were true, proof especially to the Jews as Peter reminded them in Acts chp. 2.

Fourth, it proved that the sin debt of his people was paid, the sacrifice was accepted by the Father, and that Christ is now seated in the heavens

Ephesians 1:20 *Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:*

Fifth, it proved that Christ's destroyed the power of death and of the grave, and with that, the power of the devil.

Hebrews 2:14 *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

Sixth, his power to raise from the dead shows us that he has the power to raise those who are dead in sin:

Ephesians 2:1-10

Colossians 2:13 *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;*

V. 5. *By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith*

among all nations, for his name:

V. 5, Paul explains how and why he is now an apostle.

1 Corinthians 15:10 *But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*

How is he now an apostle? He was called by God's grace to his apostleship. He did nothing to deserve his call. In fact, he was persecuting the new church. It was strictly by God's grace that he was called to apostleship.

Why is he now an apostle?

Ephesians 3:8 *Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;*

He was called and given supernatural grace for a special ministry among the Gentiles.

What is his mission? Notice that he did not say, "To further the faith among all nations" or "to obedience to the gospel." **He said his call is to call the Gentiles to obedience to the faith---**

Paul's call is not only to issue the gospel call to unbelievers, but it is also to call believers to obedience to the faith. Salvation is not based upon obedience to anything but the gospel of Christ. It is not based in obedience to the law.

Paul sums up James chapter 2 with only 4 words: "obedience to the faith."

His message was not, You have salvation now, so you are safe from hell fire. Rather, his message is that those who claim faith but do not prove their faith by their works, have no faith. James sums up Paul's message in 5 words, Faith without works is dead. That is, it is a dead faith.

It is not surprising that God called a man steeped in Jewish religious tradition. He could recognize the Jewish influence in the new church, and could therefore deal with it in properly from the Old Testament Scripture.

V. 6, Paul had said that his responsibility as an apostle called by the Lord Jesus

Christ was to call all nations for the obedience to the faith, and those at Rome were part of his responsibility.

Note, the called of Jesus Christ

That is, the “Effectual call” This is the London Baptist Confession of Faith which repeats the Westminster confession, ch 10.

We will go to that chapter after we finish this section.

V. 7, he concludes his introduction by identifying to whom he is writing. By what names does he identify them:

Beloved of God. How can he call them beloved by God? Because of their obedience to the faith?

Ephesians 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Saints. Who are the saints

Acts 9:13 *Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:*

Hebrews 6:10 *For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

Revelation 5:8 *And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.*

V. 7. How did they become saints?

He tells them that they are called by God to holiness and faithfulness just as much as he is called.

Grace and peace can only come from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This book should be read and even studied by every believer, and taught periodically by the leaders.

1. Paul as an apostle called by the glorified Lord Jesus had the authority to write this.

2. He anchors his doctrine in the OT.

3. He affirms both the deity and humanity of Christ.

4. He points to the resurrection as proof of the deity of Jesus Christ.

Others rose from the dead but none had made the claim that Christ did.

5. God appointed Paul to call all nations to be obedient to the faith which included these here in Rome and all down through history to today. He never separates FAITH for OBEDIENCE.

Note obedience to the faith, not obedience to the understanding.

"If I understand it I'll do it." Then you expect us as preachers to help you understand so you can obey.

The preacher's job is to point out the word of God and then the hearers' job is to obey it by faith.

Go to chapter 10 of the confession

To here, 1/31/19