

Opening the Letter (Part One) ***The Gospel of God***

Romans 1:1-7

Read Romans 1:1-7

1. As we open the letter to the Romans the first word we see is "Paul." It was very common for Greco-Roman letters to begin with the name of the sender, unlike our modern letters that begin with the recipient. What do you know about this man Paul? Use the rest of the Bible, specifically the book of Acts, and see how many of the following questions you can answer.
 - a. What was his race?
 - b. What tribe was he from?
 - c. What was his official status before his salvation?
 - d. How did he become a Christian?
 - e. How many books of the Bible did he write?
 - f. What was his occupation (besides being a missionary)?
 - g. Was he married?
2. Paul's life and ministry must have been very well known to the Romans because he does not need to spend much time telling them about himself and giving them these facts. List the three self-descriptive phrases that Paul gives in verse one.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

9. So far in this passage we have learned that God communicates His gospel not by some miraculous means, but by using simple people whom He sets apart for the task. In verse two, Paul elaborates on the gospel of God. He knew that this gospel sounded new to a lot of people in Rome and He did not want them to think this was some religion that he just thought up one day. Paul feels the need to quickly explain a little bit about the gospel before he continues. First of all Paul explains that the gospel of God was "promised beforehand through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures (v.2). To what specifically is Paul referring when He uses the words "holy Scriptures?"

10. Paul describes the gospel further by stating that it is centered upon one person. Who is that person?

11. Why is it significant that Paul mentions that Jesus was a descendant of David? Refer to 2 Samuel 7:12-13; Psalm 89:3-4, 19, 24; Isaiah 11:1-5; Jeremiah 23:5-6.

12. Why was it important for Jesus to be a real man? Could God have just appeared in the form of a man, such as He did sometimes in the Old Testament? Refer to Phil. 2:4-8; Hebrews 4:15 and Romans 5:18-19.

13. From verse 4, what event enabled Christ to be "declared the Son of God with power?"

14. What does the term "Son of God" mean? Does it mean that the Son originated from the Father, such as you originated from yours? Refer to John 5:18; 10:33 and 19:7.

15. Paul's commission was to give the true gospel in order to bring about this type of faith to others. How does your faith compare to the type of faith that Paul was sent to bring about? What does your answer convey to you about the validity of your faith?

