

ROMANS

THE GRACE OF GOD: A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

The Salutation

• Romans 1 : 1 - 7 •

Week 1

DEVOTION

If you had one sentence to describe yourself and your purpose on this earth to a group of strangers, what would you say? How would you word it? This is not a question we often ponder. We tend to go about our daily lives without giving much thought to our purpose and identity. Yet, these very things—whether we consciously acknowledge them or not—govern many of our actions, emotions, and choices. If we believe our lives lack purpose, it will affect how we interact with others, how we feel, and the decisions we make. Conversely, when we live with a sense of purpose, it changes how we approach each day, our relationships, our work, and so much more.

Now, imagine finding your identity and purpose in the God of the universe. That elevates things to an entirely new level because this identity and purpose are eternal and unchanging. If we base our identity on our job, it will eventually end. If we find it in other people, those relationships may change. But the Lord is eternal and never changes.

This week, we are looking at the first verses of Romans, where Paul introduces himself to the church in Rome, laying out his identity and purpose. We often marvel at Paul's fearless travel across the known world to spread the gospel, despite the dangers he faced, including the prospect of death. How could he live like this? I believe it's because Paul found both his identity and purpose in Jesus. As we reflect on these verses this week, may we grow in finding more of our identity and purpose in Him, leading to miraculous changes in our lives.

Monday

Read: Romans 1:1-7

There are two key words Paul uses in these opening verses that we'll explore this week: "called" and "servant." Before we dive deeper, take a moment to reflect on these two questions:

1. What do these words mean to you?
2. How would your life change if you truly felt "called" and considered yourself a "servant"?

Tuesday

Paul uses the word "called" in Romans 1:1-7. Today, let's look at a few other verses about being "called" and reflect on what it means for us.

Read: 2 Timothy 1:8-9; 1 Peter 2:20-21; 1 Peter 3:8-9; 1 Peter 5:10*

Take a minute to look up the word "called" in a dictionary or online. How does the Bible use it? What does it mean to be called by God? What different things are we called to in these passages? Do you feel called by God? How do you live as though you were called, even on days when you don't feel particularly called?

Wednesday

Today we will look at verses about being a "servant." Paul refers to himself as a servant, or in some translations, a slave. Let's see what Jesus thought about being a servant.

Read: Mark 10:35-45; Luke 22:24-27; Philippians 2:1-11

Jesus teaches that being a servant is an essential part of following Him. What does it mean to be a servant in your world today? How can you shift your thinking to see yourself as a servant of the Lord in the various roles you play in life?

Thursday

In these first few verses of Romans, Paul speaks about Jesus being prophesied and anticipated in the Old Testament. In our passage today Jesus meets two people on the road to Emmaus and shares this truth as well.

Read: Luke 24:13-27

Why does it matter that Jesus was expected in the Old Testament? What significance did this hold for people in biblical times, and what does it mean for us today? How does this affirm our faith and what does it reveal about the character of God?

Friday

As we conclude the week, let's revisit our text. The most important part of this text has nothing to do with Paul, but with Jesus, and the message he is declaring, that Jesus is the Son of God, who by the power of the Holy Spirit was raised from the dead, and because of this truth we received grace, and apostleship. Your identity and calling is not based on you, your worthiness, or your works, it is based on what Jesus has done, and if we have received that for ourselves. Have you received this for yourself?

Read: Romans 1:1-7

If there is a verse that stood out to you, try committing it to memory. If you enjoy using apps, I recommend the app "Verses," which can help you memorize Scripture quickly, you will be amazed how much you can accomplish in just 10 minutes. As you head into the weekend, remember that you are called, you have a purpose, and you are a servant of the living God, partnering with Him in His eternal plan. This is part of your new identity in Christ—no longer aimless or wandering. All of this happens NOT because of you, or your works, this week meditate on the Love of God, what He has done, and what this living King desires to do in you. Have a great weekend meditating and marvelling at the amazing work of our King!