Intro: 1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, 6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, 7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. Paul was a servant to Christ – 1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

a. Paul was indebted to Christ

• Slavery was much different in Paul’s day than what America went through during the slave years. In the biblical times slavery was about business not race. You owe money to someone then they, by Rome law, can enslave you until you or your family pays that debt. America slavery was all about owning people for personal use. People are not property.

° 23 “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ 27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ 29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ 30 He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. 31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. 32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ 34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.” Matthew 18:23-35

b. Paul was called to be an apostle

• We don’t have apostles anymore. In order to be an apostle of Jesus Christ you had to fit in a special class of people. One of these criteria was you had to literally see and talk with Jesus in the flesh and be a follower of Him. Paul fit these qualifications by seeing Jesus on the Road to Damascus and spending three years in the desert with Jesus before starting his ministry.

° 11 For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man’s gospel. 12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ . . . 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. 19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord’s brother. 20 (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) Galatians 1:11, 12; 17-20

c. Paul was called to be separated for the gospel of Christ

• When we, as Christian, say we have been separated for the work of Christ, it is not to be taken literally. We do separate ourselves from the world, but we separate ourselves from the world’s sin nature and activities. But we will go one step further and that is we will then fill that separation with the fruit of the Spirit and the Great Commission for the world to notice that the Christina life is a better way to live.

° 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world— the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15-17

1. The gospel was promised by the prophets

• The gospel of the “good news” was prophesied by Isaiah in many of his writings.

° 7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Isaiah 52:7

° 1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; Isaiah 61:1

2. The promised gospel was centered on Jesus Christ

• There is a story line in all the books of the Bible and that story line is Jesus and Him crucified. You can find Christ in some way in every chapter of the Bible. Some are hard to find and understand, and others are as easy to see as the morning sun. You just got to look, but He is there. Example of this Jesus saying that Moses wrote about Him in the Old Testament.

° 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?” John 5:46, 47

3. The promised gospel was declared by:

a. The Holy Spirit

• The Holy Spirit has been a part of the storyline of Jesus from the very beginning in the Old Testament. Peter made this clear that the holy words of Scripture was in fact given by the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote that the Holy Spirit was also the author of the word of God in the New Testament.

° 16 “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. Acts 1:16

° 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17

b. The Resurrection

• The resurrection is one of the most single events that proves that the gospel is true. It was prophesied in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament. If this was not true, then the word of God is the biggest fraud of writings in all of human history. We would call this today a being fake news.

° 2 After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Hosea 6:2

° 8 I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.   
9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.   
10 For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.   
11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalms 16:8-11

° 38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” 39 But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.   
40 For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. Matthew 12:38-40

II. Paul received God’s grace and a call to mission work – 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,

a. God’s grace:

1. He has shown us that He has loved us from the very beginning

° 3 the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Jeremiah 31:3

2. He has saved us from our sin

° 14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16

3. He takes care of us from day to day

° 25 “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Matthew 6:25, 26

4. His eternal promise of redemption

° 11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Hebrews 9:11-14

b. God’s mission for us:

1. is for us to be obedient – “to bring about the obedience”

° 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. 1 John 5:2, 3

2. is for us to be faithful – “to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name”

° 1 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.   
2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy (faithful[[1]](#footnote-1)). 1 Corinthians 4:1, 2

3. is for us to carry out the Great Commission – “for the sake of His name among all the nations”

° 16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:16-20

III. Paul humbles himself to others in the ministry – 6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, 7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

a. Paul recognized those who also are in the ministry

• It is important to recognize others who are in the ministry. I have been in church where ministers would rip me in the presence of my people for the benefit of their glory and the applause of other ministers, only to later want me to recognize them in the presence of the people and other minsters. What hypocrites. We all must recognize each other’s ministries and respect each other’s callings. Paul recognizes a man that almost dies ministering to Paul.

° 25 I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, 26 for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. 27 Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. Philippians 2:25-27

b. Saint’s are loved by God in an anti-God place

• Rome was not known for their acceptance of Christianity but yet Christians survived and even thrived in some of the most ungodly places. We are told that Ceasar had Christian living right under the devil’s nose. I have a sermon that deals with this, “Christians in the devils house”.

° 19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. 20 To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. 21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar’s household. 23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Philippians 4:19-23

c. There is Grace and Peace from the Father and Jesus Christ

• These two gifts can only come from God. Grace is a gift from God that we don’t deserve, we can’t earn it, we can’t buy it; it is totally and completely a God act on mankind. Peace is the result of us accepting the grace of God and knowing that God forgive us and redeems us as a reconciliation relationship back to Him. In other words, peace is us knowing we have God’s grace in our life’s.

° 19 For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. 20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Romans 16:19, 20

1. This is my word translation and not ESV [↑](#footnote-ref-1)