

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**  
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Romans 1:1-17

1. I want to introduce you to Paul's letter to the Romans over the next several months.
2. Since Paul had never been to Rome his letter to the church there contains a comprehensive overview of what is referred to as Pauline Doctrine.
3. Paul wrote this letter while he was ministering in Corinth, and it was written in 56 or 57 AD.
4. Paul's introductory remarks are part of the first section of the letter that ends at chapter 3:18.
5. Parts of this section are misinterpreted and misapplied because of a failure to read Paul's concluding statement found in chapter 3:9 which states, "What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin."
6. Beginning in chapter 1:18 Paul sets out to prove that every person on this planet is guilty before God and without hope apart from the saving work of the Gospel message.
7. My approach will not be a verse by verse exposition of this letter; rather I will deal with it by sections.

**I. The call. 1-7**

A. In the Bible we find three different calls.

1. A general called addressed to all of mankind.

a. Paul referenced this call in Acts 17:30-31.

"Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, **God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent**, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

b. Jesus concluded the Parable of the Wedding Feast found in Matthew 22:1-14 with these words, "For many are called (invited), but few are chosen (actually obey the Gospel leading to salvation).

2. An effectual call that leads to salvation.

a. As we will see in our study of Romans the majority of people ignore or reject God's general call.

b. Subsequently their lives are lived in rebellion and disobedience.

c. Paul referred to his readers in Rome as, "the called of Jesus Christ," and, "called as saints." 6-7

NOTE: The Word of God is effectual in a person's life only if it is believed and obeyed, otherwise, in a practical sense, it is ineffectual.

3. A call to specific service.

a. William Newell, in his commentary on Romans, defined what it means to be called by God this way.

“Designated and set apart by an action of God to some special sphere and manner of being and of consequent activity.”

b. Paul stated that he was a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God. 1

c. Note what Paul told the Galatians in his letter to them. Gal 1:13-17

For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it; 14 and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions. 15 **But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased 16 to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles,** I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus.

NOTE: If you are a genuine follower of Jesus Christ God set you apart and called you through His grace before you were born.

B. Note also that with Paul's call came his message and the grace to fulfill his calling. 2-5

## II. The connection. 8-13

A. Paul had never been to Rome, but he knew the church's reputation. 8

B. Even though he had no history with the church in Rome he faithfully prayed for the church. 9

NOTE: Our prayer lives should extend beyond the limitations of our little world.

C. In verses 10-13 Paul expressed his earnest desire to be allowed by God to visit Rome and to be used in the lives of the Christians there.

1. He constantly prayed for God to open the door for him to go.

2. He stated that he longed to see the believers there.

3. His desire was to see the church strengthened; to encourage and to be encouraged.

4. He had planned to come to the church but thus far had been prevented from doing so.

NOTE: Our desire may be within the will of God but not presently, or our will and God's will is being resisted by the Devil. 1 Thess 2:17-19

But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while — in person, not in spirit — were all the more eager with great desire to see your face. 18 For we wanted to come to you — I, Paul, more than once — and yet Satan hindered us.

### **III. The conviction. 14-17**

A. Because of his call Paul felt obligated to fulfill his ministry to all he came in contact with.

B. He was eager to preach the Gospel to those who lived in Rome.

NOTE: Something is seriously wrong if we call ourselves Christians but have no desire to count of Christ.

C. Paul understood the power of the Gospel to save and transform lives.

D. He also believed that those who had heard and responded to the Gospel had a responsibility to those who had not heard and who had not had the opportunity to respond.

### **APPLICATION**

1. Notice that in verse 7 Paul referred to the Christians in Rome as the “beloved of God.”

2. I believe that the beloved of God ought to love God in return.

3. Our lives should declare and demonstrate that we love God.

4. If we love God we will love God’s people.

5. If we love God we will want other people to know and love Him also.

6. Most professing Christians do not love God with all their minds, hearts, souls and strength.

7. I think the problem is that many are professing Christians but not possessing Christians; they have never genuinely repented towards God and embraced Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.