



Romans

Right With God

You Are Called

Lesson Five

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

Romans

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You are Called

In our Scripture for today, we find that, according to Paul, all those who receive the grace of God are expected to be apostles.* Read Romans 1:4, 5. We should first get to know what an apostle is. The word apostle, as Paul used it, literally means “one who is sent.” And, it’s not just being sent away. It is being sent for a purpose.

Lest we get ahead of ourselves, we must understand that grace comes first. Paul liked to remind his readers that their new life, their hope in this world and the next, was because of the grace of God. Those to whom he wrote were blessed by the grace of God in their lives.

Now, grace is unmerited favor. It is “the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man.” (Titus 3:4) No one can earn grace. If it is earned, it is a payment, not grace. According to Paul, Jesus Christ our Lord, risen from the dead and ascended to sit at the right hand of God, is the one who makes grace possible. God gives grace to us and we can fully and completely depend on it. Our sin is forgiven, forgotten, cleansed, atoned for, covered, blotted out as a thick cloud blots out the Sun, cast into the depth of the sea, removed as far as the east is from the west, cast behind God’s back, and remembered against us no more, *forever.*

Why do we need grace? If we behave ourselves and live a good life, won’t God see that and reward us for being good? No. Not according to the Bible. We must see that the very best that we can be is just bad stuff when it is compared to the goodness of God. If you don’t think that you deserve eternal punishment, you have never understood the holiness, the righteousness of God and the sinfulness of sin. It’s like comparing a grain of sand to the whole universe, or the glow of a penlight to the sun. You nor I could pay even the smallest fraction of the cost of forgiveness demanded by the righteousness, the holiness, of God.

When we stand in front of God at the end of life, the only way we will be allowed to remain in His presence is having already accepted His grace gift of salvation through Jesus. And, that grace comes only when we believe, have faith, that Jesus is exactly who He said He is. It comes to us when we ask Him to be the Lord of our life. See “A Roman Road to Salvation” on the Student Worksheet.

After we have received grace, we receive apostleship. Being an apostle, being sent, is preceded by humility. It must come from a heart like Isaiah’s who upon realizing his own great limitations dared to hear God and respond, “Here am I, send me.”

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Every Christian is called...sent by God. An outstanding Christian layman and witness, when he was asked what he did would say, "I am a witness for Jesus Christ, but I pack pork to pay my expenses." Apostleship may not look alike with everyone. Paul was an apostle, so are we all...every Christian. The grace and apostleship are not earned. They are received as a gift and an assignment from God.

Paul says in verse five that, as apostles, we are to call people to obedience; obedience to God. Ephesians 2:10 says that we are created in Christ Jesus to do good works. God creates these works and we ought to walk, or live our lives, in them. We are not saved so that we can become great Biblical scholars and understand all Christian belief. We are saved...we become God's children...so that we can surrender our lives to God, becoming holy...separated...to God for His purposes. And, His purpose is that everyone would be obedient to Him and the Christian way of life. It is, without any doubt, the best way for anyone to live.

**Scripture Memory: "And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus."
Romans 1:6**

*Underlined statements in this Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.

For the Teacher:

Lesson Goal: To guide students to understand that all Christians are called to serve God.

1. Barnhouse says, "Love that goes upward is worship; love that goes outward is affection; love that stoops down is grace. We were not lovely or loveable." "God commended His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"...for the ungodly. (Romans 5:8)
2. One writer suggested a way we can understand grace. He said, "Put down in your own handwriting:
I (your name) deserve Hell.
Jesus Christ took my Hell.
There is nothing left for me but His Heaven."
3. The words of humility in the 1956 hymn written by Ross Coggins are appropriate to this lesson:
"O God of might, O son of light, O Holy Spirit sweet,
Thy church expand till all shall stand At Jesus' pierced feet.
Let all who once thy Son disowned Rejoice to see Him now enthroned;
Yet while one straying soul there be, Send me, O Lord, send me."
4. "Calling" is not necessarily vocational, but specific to a ministry of one kind or another. It may be to witness to an individual, or teach God's Word, or preach, or sing, or stand firm as an example in the workplace, or any of thousands of other things to which God points those of us who are His children.

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Student Worksheet

You are Called

=In our Scripture for today, we find that, according to _____, all those who receive the grace of God are expected to be _____.

=The word apostle means one who is _____. And, it's not just being sent away. It is being sent for a _____.

=Grace is unmerited favor. It is "the _____ and _____ of God our Savior toward man." (Titus 3:4) No one can earn _____.

=Being an apostle, being sent, is preceded by _____. It must come from a heart like Isaiah's who upon realizing his own great limitations dared to hear _____ and respond, "Here am I, send _____."

=We are _____ so that we can surrender our lives to God, becoming separated to _____ for His purposes.

Scripture Memory: "And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus."

Romans 1:6

A Roman Road to Salvation:

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Everyone is a sinner and needs salvation.

Romans 6:23a "For the wages of sin is death." The law of God is unchangeable. If someone sins the penalty must be paid, and that payment is death.

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us." God loves us so much, according to John 3:16, that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins.

Romans 6:23b "But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." The debt for sin is spiritual death, but God, through the death of Jesus on the cross, paid that debt and now everyone can have eternal life. See also, II Corinthians 5:21

Romans 1:9, 10 "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." To personally receive the gift of God, eternal life in Christ Jesus, you trust God to be what He says He is. Believing that "God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead" is to accept all that the Bible says about God and His Son, Jesus. Then you speak (confess) the words, "Jesus is Lord," as a statement of faith. Believing "with your heart" means that you believe with your mind and with all that you are.

Romans 10:13 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." You have the promise of God Himself that if you do what Romans 10:9, 10 says, you will become God's child and have eternal life.

Romans 12:1, 2 "I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." Becoming a Christian is a life-long act of faith and worship.