

First Southern Baptist Church - December 28, 2022
A Servant - Romans 1:1-12

Themes Here:

Identity - Paul's and theirs
 Roles flow from these
 Terms used for "office" and terms used for all
 Serving

Verse 1

Paul's identity

Servant - self-identity - note he is a servant of Jesus, not God???

- "servant" here is more of a "slave" than servant

- "Servant"

1) *diakonos* - minister (like a deacon) - a table-waiter

2) *doulos* - bond-slave - the idea is always on subservience not honor

- one born a slave, whose ties to his master were so strong his own
 will was swallowed up in that of the master

- at 4:1 he asked them to regard him as a galley slave - there the word is

"*huperetes*" which means "under rowers" in a Roman ship

Called to be Apostle

The Office of Apostle:

1. All are eyewitnesses of the risen Savior

2. All chosen directly by Jesus

3. All given authority:

- to cast out demons

- to heal the sick

- to proclaim the word

- Abraham heard the call

- Moses heard the call

- Jeremiah heard the call

- you have not chosen me, I have chosen you (John 15:16)

- Paul did not think in terms of what he wanted to do, but in terms of what God
 meant for him to do

Separated to the gospel

Two different ways of being "called"

- here it is definitely set apart to a work, not salvation

Paul is "called" (verse 1) - we are "also" called (verse 6)

Paul is "apostle" (verse 1) - we are apostles (verse 5)

Verse 2 - Gospel (verse 1)

Which he had promised by his prophets

"Holy scriptures" - the Old Testament - the good news did not just begin in Jesus

Gospel (verse 1)

Verse 3

Concerning

His Son

Jesus

Christ

Our Lord

Seed of David

-descendant of David:

-fully human

-fully divine (exalted titles... but seed of David)

-made after the seed of David - flesh

-made after the seed of the Spirit - spirit

-declared to be the son - with power, by the resurrection (4)

Son - made of seed (verse 3)

Verse 4**Declared** to be the Son

-with power

-according to the spirit of holiness

-by the resurrection of the dead

Son (verse 3)

Verse 5**By whom** we have received

-grace

-apostleship (for obedience to the faith, among nations)

-a term usually reserved for the 12 - but can be applied to all of us

Other “apostles”

1. Junias and Andronicus - “outstanding among the apostles” - Rom. 16:7

2. Barnabas - Acts 14:14

3. Epaphroditus - Phil. 2:25

4. Unnamed workers - 2 Cor. 8:23

*these did not have the “office” of apostle. Everyone saved by grace is made an apostle

!!). There are those who occupy the “office” of deacon (1 Tim. 3) and there are those who do the work of a deacon - like Phoebe at Rom. 16:1

So...

Apostles

1. Office

2. General

Deacons

1. Office

2. General

Called

1. Paul’s call (verse 1)

2. Our call (verses 6-7)

Verse 6**Among whom**

- ye are also the called of the Lord Jesus
- “Called” then of the saints is the same as the “call” of Paul
- they too are “set apart”

Verse 7

To all that are in Rome (recipients of the letter)

Describes them:

- called to be saints
- Grace to you and peace

Verse 8

First, I thank my God for you all (the first thing on the agenda of his letter to Rome)

- that your faith is spoken of (some churches are known for their architecture, some for their pastor, some for their size or wealth) -these guys are known for their faith

Verses 8-10 are the prayer - verses 11-12 is the why of the prayer

Verse 9

Without ceasing I pray for you

- God is my witness

Serves God “in his spirit” - other Pharisees served in the flesh - mechanical, routine, legalistic and motivated by self-interest

- worship God in spirit and in truth - John 4
- others can see our body, but only God can see our spirit
- sincerity of heart and conscience is one of the prime necessities of a healthy Christian life

*Note that in verse 1 he calls himself “servant” (who he is) - here, we get how he does his “service” (not hypocritically, but from him heart)

- 1) served with heart - spirit
- 2) served with “clear conscience” - 2 Tim 1:13
- 3) his service was an act of worship
- 4) “in the gospel” - his primary service was preaching the gospel

**“The Christian who looks on his service to the Lord as a means of receiving appreciation and personal satisfaction is inevitably subject to disappointment and self-pity. But the one who focuses on giving never has such problems.” - John MacArthur*

Verse 10

Making Requests

- that I might have a chance to come to you

Why?

Verse 11

Because I long to see you

Why?

- to be comforted with you

-by mutual faith

To “impart” some spiritual gift - he wanted to give

1) to be a servant to them

2) to present them complete in Christ - 1 Col. 1:28-29

3) to impart his very life - 1 Thess. 2:7-9

4) to “spend and be spent” - 2 Cor.12:15

Verse 12

Oftentimes I wanted to come

-I “purposed” (determined or planned)

-but was “let hitherto”

-that I might be of some fruit

So his prayer was unanswered?

The depth and intensity of prayer measures the depth and intensity of concern.

Sees himself as a “*doulos*” (1)

Serves “from his spirit” (9)

“Impart” - gives (11)