



7/7/25

I'm really excited about this series we've begun, Free Indeed. For the next 8 weeks, we'll be walking verse by verse through Romans 8. So... for the reading plan, we're going to do something a little different. Normally, Monday through Thursday we study passages that point back to the message that was preached on Sunday, and Friday is the passage that will be preached the following Sunday. While our Friday passages will be the same, this summer on Monday through Thursday we'll start with Romans 1 and work our way through Romans 7 with a few other passages sprinkled in.

A lot of the passages will be shorter in length than what we normally study. I want to encourage you to use these shorter passages as a chance to dive a little deeper into their meanings. You could rephrase verses in your own words, look for the action words and why they're there, and even look up some of the verse on www.biblehub.com to get more insight. Ask the Lord to show you more of who He is and how He wants you to respond. If you have questions about it, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'd love to help. I'm looking forward to seeing what God is going to reveal to us through one of the most gospel comprehensive books of the Bible. Are you ready???

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Romans 1:1-7

Though I've been taught Romans through the series, Gospel Deep, I have not recently done a deep dive into the first several chapters of Romans on my own. I'm looking forward to getting a deeper perspective of the gospel.

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the Christians in Rome, though he had never been to Rome. I'm guessing this is why he wrote an in depth explanation of the gospel. He wanted to make sure these believers understood how the gospel changes EVERYTHING. Father, I pray that You will give me deeper insight into my own understanding of the relationship I get to have with You because of this good news.

Vs. 1a ~ Paul calls himself a "servant" of Christ Jesus, "called to be an apostle." The Greek word for servant is "doulos." A doulos is a servant by choice. I think this is really cool. Paul CHOSE to be a servant. God never forces that. But God did call Paul to be an apostle... which is a title given to only a handful of men in the entire course of history. How humble was Paul? He didn't view his role of apostle as something that made him superior to others. He saw himself as a servant. I pray that I will be God's doulos first and foremost, before I ever consider any other role He gives me. If I don't filter the roles He gives me first through the mindset of "servant," I will be in danger of letting pride take root in my heart. Let me never forget... Jesus came to serve... so why wouldn't I want to serve?

Vs. 1b-6 ~ Paul was set apart for the gospel of God, the good news of Jesus. The Lord promised the good news of a Savior coming for centuries before Jesus came "in the likeness of sinful flesh". He sent prophets to speak and to write the holy word. All scripture points to Jesus.

This is really important for me to understand. Reading God's word is not about checking a box or following a list of rules. The purpose of reading God's word is to point me to relationship with Jesus. Reading God's word without that purpose is like studying a treasure map but never looking for the treasure.

What does the scripture tell me? Jesus is a descendent of David... according to the flesh. Jesus became a man... through the physical bloodline of David, as God said would happen. AND Jesus is the Son of God in supernatural power according to the Spirit of holiness. Jesus is God. He is fully man, fully God. That is miraculous. No other person in all of history is both man and God.

What's the proof that Jesus is not just man but also God? He has been raised from the dead, as He said He would be... and as the scriptures and prophets said He would be. God raised Him up and gave Him the name that is above every name... Jesus Christ is Lord... Master... in charge with all authority.

The wonderful thing about the power and authority of Jesus is that He doesn't use it to crush us... as we deserve. Instead, He uses His power to give us grace, just like He gave Paul. And Paul received the grace of apostleship for a purpose... to help me come to the obedience of faith because of Jesus. I belong to Jesus.

In Ephesians 3:7-8, Paul explained his purpose as an apostle for the gospel. He said, "Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of His power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." Such humility! Such excitement over his purpose in Christ! How often do I get caught up in a lesser purpose?

O Lord, I am not an apostle, but I want to be Your servant and serve in whatever role You have for me, that Your grace may reach the people in whose path You place me. I praise You that

You called me to be Your own, and You gave me the opportunity to help others grow in their obedience of faith.

This is an interesting phrase, "obedience of faith." True faith will show itself in obedience. If I genuinely trust the Lord, my actions and attitudes will prove it by how devoted I am to be doing what He calls me to do. Do I believe that I belong to Jesus? Do I believe that He is fully God and fully man? Do I believe that He is risen from the dead, His sacrifice covering the debt of my sin? If I believe that, I will seek to obey Him. O Lord, please let there be so much evidence of my obedience to You, that if all the evidence were brought against me, I would be ruled "guilty" of loving Jesus with everything I've got. O Lord, please make it so in me.

Paul wrote this letter to those in Rome "who are loved by God and called to be saints." That's how I hope he would describe me today. This is who I am because of the gospel: set apart for the gospel, standing in His grace, obedient to Him through faith, belonging to Jesus, loved by the Father, His saint. I did nothing to earn His gift of salvation and I can do nothing to keep it. But I pray that I will live as His doulos, His servant by choice, because I'm so grateful to be in this relationship with Him.