



Connect Discussion Guide

02.06.22 Message | Tyler Myers | Romans 1:1-7

Key Scriptures:

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Matthew 28:18-20

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 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, 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, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

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.

- Romans 1:1-7

Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

- Romans 7:24-25

They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.

- Revelation 17:14

Message Highlights:

- The struggle of trust is not only real, but REALLY important; you and I are responsible for deciding who we place our trust in and why we do so.
- The New Testament's use of the term "gospel" is exclusively singular; there is only one good news and it is a gospel that points to Jesus.
- "The gospel is the true story of how Jesus the Son was sent by God the Father to become the Saving King who now rules forever at God's right hand through the sending of the Holy Spirit, fulfilling God's promises in Scripture." (Matt Bates)
- Paul exhibited boldness in writing to a church who knew Caesar as lord. What Rome didn't have is something its successes couldn't provide: oneness with God, self and others.

Conversation Starter:

Think of a time when you were entrusted with an important task. How did it make you feel to be trusted in that way? How did it require you to put some trust in the one who chose you for that task? Share your thoughts with your group.

Discuss the Message:

1. Read the introduction of Paul's letter to the church at Rome again (Romans 1:1-7) and recount all of the ways Paul introduces or describes Jesus Christ. Why do you think Paul chose to begin his letter in this way, taking into account that he is writing to a church struggling with disunity?
2. How is Paul introduced in Romans 1:1? What is a servant of Christ Jesus, and how might your understanding of the role be impacted by thinking about it in terms of dependence on Christ? What does verse 7 of this chapter bring to the conversation, and why is it so important?
3. Explore the concept of being "set apart for the gospel" by reading Romans 1:1 and Revelation 17:14 side by side. How does John's reference to the spiritual battle at hand bring more weight to our daily call to be a servant for Christ?
4. You and I are responsible for deciding who we place our trust in and why we do so. Spend a few moments pondering these very things and then share aloud with your group. Try to include both scriptural truths and personal experiences in your discussion.
5. If the book of Romans doesn't create healthy tensions in us, we are likely being spiritually apathetic. Think about at least one way studying the book of Romans has introduced a tension in your life and share with your group. Further, how is that tension maturing you into the image of Christ?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and mission. We confess that it is difficult at times to fully trust the reality that in Christ we stand before you completely accepted, freed from the guilt and shame of our sin, and welcomed into your family as beloved children. Empower us by your Holy Spirit to live out the mission to which you have called us. But help us to do so in complete dependence on the grace you have given us in Christ. Amen.