

# *The Gospel of God*

## *Romans 1:5*

I can't begin to tell you, the work that God is doing in my heart, upon the study of this wonderful epistle!

These first 7 verses can be broken down into 5 sections...

- (Vs 1) Speaks to the “**Preacher of the Gospel...**” The Apostle *Paul*...
- (Vs 2) Speaks to the “**Promise of the Gospel...**” The *Holy Scriptures*...
- (Vs 3~4) Speaks to the “**Person of the Gospel...**” The Lord *Jesus Christ*...
- (Vs 5) Speaks to the “**Power of the Gospel...**” The *Grace* of God...
- (Vs 6~7) Speaks to the “**People of the Gospel...**” The *Saints*... The Church...

Having spoken to the “Preacher of the Gospel...” the apostle Paul, the “*Promise of the Gospel...*” the Holy Scriptures, the “*Person of the Gospel...*” our Lord Jesus Christ... Paul now turns to the “*Power of the Gospel...*” ...Grace!

**(Vs 5)** *<sup>5</sup>By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:*

Paul now speaks to “*The Power*” he has received from Jesus, the “*Person of the Gospel!*”

It might be better understood, separated and read this way...

*<sup>5</sup>By whom we have received grace for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:*

*<sup>5</sup>By whom we have received apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:*

But Paul says... **It was by “*Jesus...*” he received “*Authoritative Power*” as an apostle!**

He says the same thing in **Galatians 1:1**...<sup>1</sup>*Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)*

**An “*Authority*” that The United Church of Christ has “*Openly and Arrogantly*” discounted!**

Paul is clear here in verses 26~28...<sup>26</sup>*For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: <sup>27</sup>And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. <sup>28</sup>And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*

Now, there's no way they or anyone else could miss-interpret what Paul is saying here... It's clear... Thus, the only way to get passed this, is to perceive “*Paul's writings*” **as simply Paul's opinion!**

You see, that's were me and the United Church of Christ go head to head!

I am utterly persuaded, that Paul is a God-Called “*Spokesman of Jesus...*” that what he says is the “*Gospel of God!*”

That his words are nothing less than the very words of God! And that we, are to build and shape our lives upon his words!

One man has said... **Many reject the gospel, not because it contradicts itself...but rather it contradicts them!**

Paul not only “*Received Authoritative Power*” to speak on behalf of God...(as O.T Prophets)

But he also says, he “*Received Power to Obey*” himself!

(Vs 5) ***By whom*** we have *received grace* and apostleship, ***for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:***

The “*Power*” he found in “*The Gospel of God*” changed his life...

Unlike that of the Old Testament Law...The “*One*” difference between “*Saul & Paul!*” As Saul, he was blameless in the law as he tells us in Philippians 3. He was very “zealous” to keep all the commandments. But when Saul met Christ on the road to Damascus, he realized, what he considered as “Righteousness” was nothing more than “dung!”

**That’s why he wrote in 1Timothy 1:15...**<sup>15</sup>*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*

Paul realized, that all of “*his goodness*” without Christ was worthless, iniquity! Without Jesus...all we can produce is “*good deeds*”, and that still is sin... Because we do them in the “*power*” of the flesh!

**The greatest sin of all...Self-Righteousness!**

It wasn’t until Paul met Christ Jesus face to face that day, that he realized that all his self-produced righteousness was worthless! Yet, when he realized this, is when God filled him up with true righteousness! Something was placed inside him that day...the Spirit of God, Grace!

**It is this Grace we receive in Christ, enables us to please God!**

Many have a wrong understanding of “*Grace...*” Here is where, no doubt, that the United Church of Christ went wrong... They do not understand the “*Grace of God!*”

No doubt, if you listen closely, they argued this change, for the reasons that “*God loves everyone!*” Which he does... But they are ignorant to the fact, that “*God Hates Sin!*”

He loves the sinner, but hates the sin!

**He hates it so much...that He gave His only begotten Son...to “Rescue us from it!”**

★ Grace is not Freedom to Sin.....but rather Freedom from Sin!  
**Grace is the “*Enabling Power*” to do right!**

The Law can't make me truly love my brother, only Jesus can do that...

*"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself..."*

Without Christ, that commandment is impossible to keep...no matter how hard you try! Because alone, we are self-centered! We are in bondage to our selves... But Christ sets us free from that, and in doing so, he enables us to fulfill that commandment... He does so through His "Grace", the "**Power of God**" he changes my heart! Something that the law could never do! Paul says, it is through "JESUS..." that we receive the power to obey!

**In Romans 8, Paul contrast the "Law" and "Grace"...**

**(Romans 8)** <sup>1</sup>*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.* <sup>2</sup>*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.* **For what the law could not do**, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: <sup>4</sup>**That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us**, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Grace is the "**enabling power**" to live pleasing unto God!

**(Vs 5)** <sup>5</sup>**By whom** we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

And here's what really blesses me...is how all the glory goes to God!  
Any righteousness I may have, is attributed to God's Grace!

Paul fully understood Jesus' words... "**Without me, you can do nothing...**"

I heard one preacher say, "**That's the problem with most of our Baptist churches today... were doing very little that can't be explained any other way... THAN GOD!**"

If we are "**Witnesses to Him,**" it will be because of "**Gods Grace...**" the power to obey!

Paul goes into "Great detail and depth" on this subject matter in this letter! Beloved, I'm telling you, there is not a more important teaching and understanding than to correctly understand... Grace!

**Grace** is God's Love...the most powerful force known to man!

Grace is a bible word that is used to describe the unconditional, unmerited favor and love of God!

A love that is impossible to describe... (Ep. 3 prayer)

**Gods Riches At Christ Expense...**

The best definition of Grace, is to look to the Cross... What the law could not do, Jesus (**which is a manifestation of the love of God**) has done!

God himself, hanging on a tree for my sins...

When a person understands the cross, and experiences the grace of God, his heart of stone is melted... The "**love of God**" has changed my life... I'll never be the same again!