

Romans 1:6~7

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) Paul now Speaks to the “**People of the Gospel...**”

...the called of Jesus Christ...all that be in Rome... beloved of God... saints:

Paul addresses his audience using 4 different titles, all of which describe one particular group, *the people of God*... The **Church**...

To understand verses 6~7, we must read them in context of verse 5.

(Vs 5) ⁵By whom we have received grace and apostleship, *for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:* ⁶Among whom are ye also *the called of Jesus Christ:* ⁷To *all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints:* Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Herein Paul is speaking to what is likely the most important part of the “*Gospel...*”

The “*People of God*” being witnesses of the “*Gospel of God*” to a lost and dying world!

Paul speaks to them of the “*Purpose...or the work*” that God has called them to. That of being “*witnesses of Christ to those around them where they live, in Rome...*”

...the called of Jesus Christ... Speaks to their salvation, their means of deliverance...*The Savior...*

...all that be in Rome... Speaks to their *area of influence*, their *mission field*...

...beloved of God... Speaks to God’s great love for them ... “*The objects of God’s affection...*”

...saints... Speaks to their *uniqueness*...their *separation*...

...saints: a word that scares us...

ἁγιος (*ἁγῶ-εε-ος*)...*sacred* (physically *pure*, morally *blameless*, *consecrated*) *clean*, *innocent*.

It carries the idea of *separation*, *unmixed*, *unadulterated*...*single, set apart!*

Jesus illustrated this point...*Ye are the salt of the earth*...

(Luke 14) ³⁴Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be seasoned? ³⁵It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; *but* men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

(*Illus: Salt shaker*) Beloved, the Church must *stay unmixed!* *Separated!* *Pure!*

Our “*Purpose*” is to “*Influence*” the “*World*”...*not be influenced by it!*

Thus, to remain “*Unmixed*” with the world, *will in turn* make us “*Unique*”...

(1Peter 2) ⁹*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:* ¹⁰*Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

The “*Gospel of God*” produces a “*Peculiar People...*”

It's a word that carries the meaning of “*Odd*” “*Strange*” “*Unusual*” “*Irregular*” “*Abnormal*.” We often make light of this...but it is not making reference to being “*weird*” or “*crazy...*” For the people of God are to manifest the “*Wisdom*” and “*Character*” of God!

A better definition would be that of a “*Unique*” people...

It is best illustrated by looking at the “*Various Nationalities*” of people in the world...

When you compare people of other nations with Americans, you will find a *vastly different* people! A Japanese person, for example, “*Sticks out*” in our society! It doesn't mean he isn't intellectually smart, it doesn't mean they are “*weird*”, it doesn't mean their crazy... It just means they “*Don't fit in...*” They stand out! They don't fit the standard mold...

Placed in the context of Peter's statement here... It means that “*We*” as Christians, out to stand out the same way! We are a “*Nation of People...*” And the real difference is, we don't “*fit in...*” in this world any more! We're odd balls in that sense...

¹¹*Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;* ¹²*Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

Both Paul and Peter describe “*The People of the Gospel*” as a “*Unique*” people...

A “*Different*” people...a people that is “*Set Apart*” because of the gospel...

Beloved, if I was not different, I would be concerned where I was going to spend eternity!

Because, the “*Natural result*” of the “*Gospel of God*” is that it “*Separates!*”

Listen to me very closely... There are only two types of people in the world... “*Saints and Sinners.*”

A “*Saint*” is defined as one who is “*Separated from this world*” to God...by Jesus Christ!

A “*Sinner*” is defined as one who is “*Separated from God*” to this world by...Sin!

(Galatians 1) ³*Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,* ⁴*Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:* ⁵*To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

The “*Gospel of God*”, which is “*His Son*”, was given by God Himself for one reason...
To “*deliver us*” from this “*present, evil world...*”

T: A “*Saint*” is a “*Rescued Sinner!*”

Beloved, that is the “*Purpose of the Gospel!*”

To deliver the “*People of this world*” to be the “*People of God!*”

Beloved, it is with a “*heavy heart*” that I say this...

The name “*Christian*” has lost much of its meaning in the day & times in which we live...

Many see “*Coming to Church*” as it... Partaking in religious activities...

What are you saying preacher? I’m saying that it is possible, to “*Know*” the gospel story, and not know the Savior!

I’m saying it is possible to be raised in church, to know all the bible stories, to be able to quote scripture... and yet not be “*Separated from this world!*” Which is the “*Purpose of the Gospel!*”

According to the scripture, a Christian is one who has been “*supernaturally*” rescued from this world by a changed heart through Jesus Christ!

Do you want to know how I know that I am “*Saved?*” I no longer love this world! God changed my heart toward it! My heart longs for Him and His World...and listen... I DIDN’T DO THAT! That’s the work of God! That is the power of the Gospel!

I can’t rescue myself from this world...and being religious certainly can’t do it!

That’s why Jesus is the ONLY WAY!

Beloved, that’s why I say, with a “*heavy heart*”...

That the name “*Christian*” has lost much of its meaning ... I’m telling you, there are people in church service this morning in all churches that maybe know scripture, maybe raised in church, maybe walked the aisle, even baptized... But the one thing that has not happened is that the “*Power of God*” be birthed in their heart! They still love the world! They go to church, their religious, good folks... But their heart belongs to this world...and not God!

The “*Gospel*” is not a “*Cute little Story about Jesus...*”

The “*Gospel*” is a “*Call to come out of this world, and follow Jesus!*”

The *Gospel of God*...Separates!

It draws a clear line in the sand, one that “*Divides,*” a line that “*Separates...*”

(Luke 12) ⁵¹Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: ⁵²For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. ⁵³The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

(Matthew 10) ³²Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. ³³But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

³⁴Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

³⁵For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. ³⁶And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household. ³⁷He

that loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸*And he that takes not his cross, and follows after me, is not worthy of me.*
³⁹*He that finds his life shall lose it: and he that loses his life for my sake shall find it.*

The “*Gospel of God*” DIVIDES...

It separates, it “*Marks a clear distinction*” between two types of people...

The People of this World...and “Those who have been called out of this world...”

Listen closely beloved...

T: A “*Socially Acceptable*” Gospel...**is not** the “*Gospel of God!*”

Beloved, if an unrepentant, sinful society is not offended by the gospel...something is wrong!

¹⁸*If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.* ¹⁹*If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.* ²⁰*Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.* ²¹*But all these things will they do unto you for my name’s sake, because they know not him that sent me.* ²²*If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin.* ²³**He that hates me hates my Father also.**

The “*Gospel of God*” divides by *drawing a line*...

And depending on which side of that line you are standing, will determine your destiny!

God’s call is this...

Come out from among them...and be ye separate!