



Life Group Study – Week of October 21, 2018

Romans 1:1

Memorize.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God.

Romans 1:1

Open.

Some people sign their letters “Sincerely...” or “Love...” or “Best Wishes...” But what was the most memorable (funny, poignant, creative) line you have seen at the close of a letter?

Study.

If you had the opportunity to hear Pastor Jim’s message on Sunday, what stood out to you personally? What questions or conflicts did it raise for you, if any?

In the ancient world people began their letters by identifying themselves and their recipients. Read Romans 1:1-7. What stands out to you about Paul’s greeting to the Roman believers?

What do the following scriptures reveal about Saul before his conversion? *Philippians 3:5-6; Acts 9:11; 22:3-5; 22:28-29; 18:3; 26:9-11; 7:54-8:3*

Read Acts 9:1-19. What happens in these verses? Why do you think God chose to intersect Saul’s life so abruptly and dramatically? Connect verse 6 with verses 15-16. What unique plans did God have for Saul? Compare your answer with Paul’s reflections in *1 Timothy 1:12-17*, and *Galatians 1:11-17*.

Paul refers to himself in Romans 1:1 first as a “*servant of Christ Jesus*.” Did he claim it as an expression of honor, or humility? Why? Compare *Genesis 26:24; Numbers 12:7; Joshua 24:29; 2 Samuel 7:5; Isaiah 20:3; Isaiah 53:11*, with *1 Corinthians 3:5-9; 4:1; 15:3-9; 1 Timothy 1:15*.

Paul identifies himself next as having been “*called to be an apostle*.” “Apostle” generally means “sent one, ambassador, envoy.” In the early church, it specifically referred to the 12 apostles appointed by Jesus, plus Matthias (*Acts 1:12-26*). Requirements of an apostle were that they had been personally called by Jesus, were witnesses of his resurrection, were given direct revelation of God’s word to proclaim it with authority, were given power to heal and to cast out demons. How did Paul meet these requirements? See *Acts 9:15; 22:14-15; 26:12-18*.

The third designation Paul claims in Romans 1:1 is that he is “*set apart for the Gospel of God*.” As a Pharisee, Paul had set himself apart *for the law*. On what basis did Paul understand himself now as having been “*set apart for the Gospel*”? See *Galatians 1:15-16; Acts 13:1-3*.

Our self-perception, both objective or subjective, shapes our identity and sense of purpose in life. What has God said in His word is true of you? See *Ephesians 2:8-10*. Have you received God’s gracious gift of salvation through personal faith in Christ? What are you doing with what God created and prepared you to accomplish for His kingdom?

Remember to pray for, and share Christ with your

