

Romans 1:5-7 (Romans, Part III)

10/23/08

“Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ. To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints; Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

The apostles received grace and their spiritual gifts “through Him”- there was nothing in them to merit their gifting- their call was not from men, but from God! The same is true of us.

Why did the apostles receive grace and apostleship?

1. For obedience to the faith
2. For His name- to exalt the name of Jesus Christ
3. Among all nations- the call was universal

Like the apostles, we have been blessed with God’s undeserved favor and His gifts- His call on our lives as saints- called out as a separate and holy people onto God, to exalt the name of Jesus Christ. Why do we share the gospel with people?

1. For His name: to exalt the name of Jesus Christ: When people see the earnestness of conviction in our lives to preach Jesus Christ regardless of whether or not we will receive man’s praise or persecution, it glorifies Jesus Christ- they see Jesus lived through us. Paul was deeply excited about the Thessalonian church which boldly proclaimed Christ in spite of severe persecution, “We ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure... You have become examples.. for from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth...” (2 Thess 1:4-10) Such a faith exalts the name of Jesus Christ.
2. For obedience to the faith- many will come to a saving faith through the ministry of evangelism! May we use the time, treasure and gifts the Lord has given us to boldly advance the gospel!
3. This gospel is to go out “among all nations”. I listen with passion the leadership of my missionary-minded church as they talk about the various missionaries they support overseas- our church gives 1/3 of its budget to missions. We are fortunate to live at the crossroads of America- the world truly comes to Indianapolis- we don’t have to learn another language to reach many of the people groups of the world- we can reach them right here. Imagine if one of the Saudi Arabians we witness to that goes to IUPUI got saved and went back to their own country and shared the gospel there, knowing the language and the culture! Every one of us is a missionary! Take a look around- at your workplace and in the community- you are a missionary! I’m excited to hear when people plan missions trips- they’re in prayer, they’re making financial and time sacrifices- to go over to a country for 2 weeks or 2 months- I pray likewise that their hearts would be precisely the same as they’re here in the states, every day sharing the gospel and making sacrifices- that the gospel would ring forth from them!

Precious laborer for Christ, don’t ever forget who you are in the eyes of God- through all the struggles in this life, you are “beloved of God”, you are “called to be saints”, and God’s grace and peace flow over into your lives- your eternal destiny is secure. You’ve been permanently adopted into God our Father’s family and have all the rights as sons and daughters of our King! Because you have received God’s unmerited favor, His grace, every spiritual blessing and every spiritual promise are yours. Embrace your identity in Christ- rejoice in all He has accomplished and will accomplish for you, in you and through you for His glory- let His peace reign supreme in the midst of all the struggles of life and ministry as God uses you in weakness to bring many to obedience to the faith and exaltation of the name of Jesus Christ!