

The Solid Rock on Which We Stand:
“The Marks of an Authentic Follower of Jesus”
(Romans 1:1-7)

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The Big Idea:

Authentic followers of Jesus are blood-bought saints and slaves who live for the purpose of glorifying Jesus, in the power of Jesus. (Romans 1:1-7)

The Unique Marks of an Authentic Follower of Jesus

1. Authentic followers of Jesus have a unique status. (Romans 1:1, 7)

A. Our status in Jesus is that of a slave. (Romans 1:1)

B. Our status in Jesus is that of a called and sent one. (Romans 1:1)

B. Our status in Jesus is that of a saint. (Romans 1:7)

2. Authentic followers of Jesus have a unique Savior. (Romans 1:1-4)

A. The prophecies concerning Jesus make Him unique.

B. The nature of Jesus makes Him unique.

C. The verification of Christ's Lordship makes Him unique.

3. Authentic followers of Jesus have a unique purpose. (Romans 1:5-6)

A. Our special purpose is to be in a relationship with Jesus. (Romans 1:5-6)

B. Our special purpose is to be in service to Jesus. (Romans 1:6)

4. Authentic followers of Jesus have unique possessions. (Romans 1:7)

A. Followers of Jesus have the unique possession of grace. (Romans 1:7)

B. Followers of Jesus have the unique possession of peace. (Romans 1:7)

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Romans 1:1-7 (study guide)

1. Discuss the paradox of "voluntary slavery" as presented in the text. Contrast the Roman legal view of a slave with the biblical portrayal of a "bond-servant" to Christ, specifically addressing the motivations for such a surrender.

2. Analyze how the setting of imperial Rome—including the reign of Nero and the prevalence of pagan rituals—serves as a backdrop for Paul’s message. How might these external pressures have influenced the way Paul framed the "Big Idea" of being a "blood-bought saint"?

3. Evaluate the arguments provided in the text for the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. Focus on the roles of fulfilled prophecy, the dual nature of Christ (human and divine), and the historical evidence for the resurrection as cited by various scholars.

4. Explore the relationship between a believer’s "status" and their "behavior." Use the text to explain how seeing oneself as a saint rather than a sinner impacts daily living.

5. Detail the three "biggest gifts of grace" outlined in the text (Life, Salvation, and Eternal Life). Explain how these gifts form the foundation for the believer's unique purpose in a relationship with and service to Jesus.