

## **Romans 1:1–7**

### **Main Idea:**

Before we go deep into Romans, we must understand the foundation. The gospel shapes our identity, unites us as a church, and calls us to a life of faith-filled obedience.

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### **1. The Author — God Uses Surrendered People**

Paul introduces himself not just as an apostle, but first as a servant of Christ Jesus.

Explanation: Paul was once Saul, a persecutor of the church, yet after encountering Jesus, his life was completely transformed. His story reminds us that no past disqualifies someone from being used by God. What matters is surrender.

Truth: God can use anyone who has surrendered their life to Him.

Challenge: Are you holding back from being used by God because of your past? What would it look like to fully surrender and step forward in faith?

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### **2. The Audience — The Church is United in Christ**

Paul writes to believers in Rome, a church made up of both Jews and Gentiles navigating deep cultural differences.

Explanation: This church lived under pressure, both from outside persecution and internal tension. Yet Paul writes to remind them that their unity is not found in culture, preference, or background, but in Jesus Christ.

Truth: The church was meant to unite around Jesus and nothing else.

Challenge: Are there preferences or differences you are elevating above the gospel? Where is God calling you to choose unity over personal preference?

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### **3. The Identity — Our Highest Title is “Servant”**

Paul, though an apostle, leads with “servant of Christ Jesus.”

Explanation: In a world that values titles, roles, and accomplishments, Paul shows us that our primary identity is not what we do, but who we belong to. Titles can be lost. Identity in Christ cannot.

Truth: Our most important identity is that we are servants of Jesus.

Challenge: What title or role have you allowed to define your worth? How would your life change if “servant of Christ” became your primary identity?

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#### **4. The Direction — Faith that Leads to Obedience**

Paul introduces a key theme of Romans: “the obedience that comes from faith.”

Explanation: Salvation is not earned. It is received by grace through faith. But true faith does not stay still. It produces a life of obedience that honors Christ.

Truth: Saving faith leads to a life that increasingly reflects Jesus.

Challenge: Where is God calling you to take a step of obedience right now?

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#### **Reflection:**

We are at the beginning of a long journey through Romans. This is a call to go deeper, to grow stronger in our understanding of the gospel, and to allow it to shape every part of our lives. Commit to the journey. Stay engaged. Expect God to work.