

Romans 1:1-7
“Transforming Grace”

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (Rom. 1:1-7).

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: **“Transforming Grace”**

~ BACKGROUND ~

ROMANS HAS BEEN CALLED...

- “*The Gospel According to Grace*”
 - Because it's a book of inspiration & renewal!

HOWEVER... IN THE FIRST THREE CHAPTERS...

- Paul lays bare the need for the Gospel of grace because all are guilty!
 - 1) **The secular man** = Living a life as though God doesn't exist!
 - 2) **The self-righteous man** = I'm ok, I'll take my chances!
 - 3) **The hypocritical religious man** = I was raised with God!

NOW... AS WE PUT INTO PRACTICAL USE THE N.T.

- Let's understand at a high-level the reason for the different books.
- The N.T. can be broken into 4-major blocks:
 - 1) It starts with the Gospels...
 - Which present the **life & work** of Jesus Christ!
 - 2) Followed by the book of **Acts**...
 - Revealing the **History** of the early Church & work of H.S.
 - 3) Next... **Romans** & the **Epistles**
 - Covering both doctrine & Christian living!
 - 4) Finally... **Revelation** the forth-telling of what's to come...
 - Thru the unveiling of Jesus Christ's rule & reign on earth.

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The Foundation: (*the – mel – e – os*) = A system of truth.

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have – **Jesus Christ.**”(1 Cor. 3:11) NLT

- In other words, faith in the Son of God...
 - Is a foundation for the soul...
 - Which is built upon as we get to know Him!

(2 Peter 3:18)...

- We're to “*grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ...*”

POINT #1 – SEPARATED TO GOD:

(v.1)

PAUL WAS *called*...

- He was divinely selected & appointed. (Eph. 1:4) *Chosen by the Father*
 - This *call*... lead to a separation.

I LOVE THIS!!!

- Because a changed heart...
 - Is always followed by a changed life.
 - (Treating symptoms thru self-reformation never lasts)

BEFORE JESUS...

- Paul was an angry / violent / religious zealot.
- But once Jesus got a hold of him...
 - The man who destroyed others lives...
 - Became a builder of lives!

ALL BELIEVERS IN JESUS...

- Are new creations – (2 Cor. 5:17).
 - Yet... at times we still struggle to live a separated life!

- a) **Separated** from the world (come out from the old life)
- b) **Separated** to God (go into the new life)

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LET ME GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE:

TURN TO (2 Cor. 6:17)

- “Don’t touch...”

FIRST... WE LEARN NOT TO EMBRACE...

- What Jesus died for.

SECOND... WE LEARN TO PARTICIPATE IN...

- The very purposes God has for His people on earth (maturity).

IT’S BEEN SAID...

“The health of the church is portioned to the health of the individual Christian. Each of us are apart of the body... we do not exist in a vacuum separate from each other. Rather, we live life together, worship together, pray together, and serve together. If this is not the norm with the masses we are greatly hindered and suffer sickness in parts of the body.”

POINT #2 – POWER AT WORK:

(vv. 3-4)

THE DECLARATION OF JESUS...

- As the Son of God is proved by His resurrection from the dead!

HOWEVER...

- Just like Pontius Pilate...
 - Who had to decide what to do with Jesus at His trial (Matt. 27:22)
 - So too each one of us have to decide what to do with Jesus!

THERE’S PROOF IN THE RESURRECTION...

- That the words of Christ are true!

WE ALSO HAVE THE ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE FATHER...

- (Matt. 17:5) At the mount of transfiguration:

“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!”

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SO... BECAUSE THERE’S POWER IN THE NAME OF JESUS...

- We can rest in His transforming grace!

POINT #3 – GRACE FOR OBEDIENCE:

(vv.5-7)

CHURCH HISTORY RECORDS...

- Many lives have been changed thru the book of Romans!

1. St. Augustine: 354 – 430 AD
 - o Converted thru Romans after struggling with sin.
2. Martin Luther: 1483 – 1546 AD
 - o Converted by Romans & ushered in the first wave of the Great Awakening!
3. John Wesley: 1703 – 1791 AD
 - o Transformed on May 24, 1738 when he heard a minister reading Luther’s commentary on Romans.

GUYS...

- The one thing **these men** have in common...
 - Is that **thru an understanding** of Romans...
 - o Their lives were changed...
 - Set free from religion...
 - And brought into **the glorious joy** of Christ!

TURN TO (Isa. 30:15)

GANG... MAY WE CONSIDER...

- All that Jesus has done for us as we prepare for communion!

~ COMMUNION ~

READ (Isa. 53)

~ LET’S PRAY ~