

August 30, 2026

Dr. Jay Robertson

Series: “Romans: The Gospel according to Paul”

Sermon: “For Christ and His Kingdom”

Scripture: Romans 1:1

Memory Verse: Romans 8:1



Introduction

- A. What are three ways you describe yourself to other people?**
- B. What is your driving passion? What are you living for?**
- C. Is what you're living for worth Christ dying for?**
- D. “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21).**
- E. “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7).**
- F. Big idea: We should strive to be faithful and fruitful for Christ and His kingdom.**
- G. If we're going to be faithful to and fruitful for Christ and His kingdom, we need humility, devotion, calling, and purpose.**

I. We Need to Be Characterized by Humility (1:1a)

- A. The name “Paul” means “the little one.” It was his Roman name.**
- B. Although his Jewish name was Saul (in honor of Israel's first king), he was willing to be known as the little or small one, who preached about Christ, the truly great One.**
- C. Paul was willing to use his Roman name as he served the Lord as the apostle to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15-16). His Roman name would not have been an instant stumbling block to the Gentiles like his Jewish name could have been.**
- D. We see his humility demonstrated in the name that he went by while ministering as the apostle to the Gentiles.**

E. We see evidence of a changed man in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 and Philippians 3:5-11.

F. How do you score on humility?

II. We Need to Be Characterized by Devotion (1:1b)

A. “Paul, a slave (doulos) of Christ Jesus”

B. Paul chose a strong Greek word to describe his relationship with Christ. The word “doulos” communicates that Paul understood that he belonged to Christ and that he was obligated to serve Him. (1:14)

C. This word implies “complete commitment, devotion, and a willing allegiance wrought in his heart by the free grace and love of Jesus” (Rob Ventura).

D. How could he not serve Christ with passionate devotion since Christ had paid his sin debt at the cross?

E. Before Christ saved him, Paul had been a slave of sin (Romans 6:6-7, 16-18). But now he was a slave of Christ.

F. Before Christ saves us we are dead in transgressions and sins, dry bones in the valley, and haters of God (Ephesians 2:1; Ezekiel 37; Romans 1:30).

G. “But God, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:4-6).

H. How can you not serve Christ with devotion when you understand what God in Christ has done for you?

III. We Need to Be Characterized by Calling (1:1c)

A. “Called as an apostle”

B. The calling in this verse is “the effective work of God by which he calls people to salvation and office” (Tom Schreiner).

C. Before God calls you to serve Him He will first call you to salvation (the effectual call).

D. This call is powerful. It gives you spiritual life in Christ. You become a Christian when you receive the effectual call.

E. And when God calls you unto Himself, He also calls you to serve Him.

F. Paul began his letter to the church in Rome by introducing himself and then by introducing the gospel of Jesus Christ. And this introduction is the longest of all of his letters, probably because he did not plant this church and most of the people there didn't know him.

G. Christ Himself called Paul to be His apostle. He was called to be Christ's authoritative messenger, His sent one, to the Gentiles.

H. Christ is not calling you to be His apostle, but He is calling you to serve Him for His glory and for the spreading of the gospel.

I. How are you serving Christ in order to build up and strengthen the church and proclaim the gospel?

IV. We Need to Be Characterized by Purpose (1:1d)

A. "Having been set apart for the gospel of God"

B. If God has called you to salvation, then He has also called you to service. And whatever way He has gifted you to serve, it is to further the proclamation of the "gospel of God."

C. Paul was a called apostle, set apart from sin to proclaim the gospel.

D. Christian, you too have been called by God and set apart from a life of slavery to sin in order to proclaim the gospel of God.

Conclusion

A. What are you living for?

B. Is what you're living for worth Christ dying for?

C. God is calling you unto Himself and to a big, fulfilling purpose in this life. Don't miss it. Don't waste your life.

D. “Only one life, ‘twill soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last” (C. T. Studd).

E. The Gospel Definition