

## Connection to Romans 1

The apostle Paul was captured by the gospel of Jesus Christ and was called into a life of service that included sharing the gospel to the Gentiles.

## Introduction/Opening

When you're fascinated with what someone is saying, you lean in, hungry for the words pouring out of the person's mouth. Captivate someone for a moment, and you stay captured in their memory forever. When someone enralls you, the rest of the world melts away, and it seems like nothing else matters.

The apostle Paul was captivated by Jesus. He could not escape the grace found in the gospel of Jesus Christ. The calling from the Lord Jesus Christ was not a bare invitation. It was a sovereign summons that moved Paul to go to great lengths so people could respond in faith to God's salvation. The gospel calls us to serve as well, commissioning us to go as champions for the cause of our Lord.

## Outline

1. The Gospel Calls Us to Jesus (vv. 5-7).  
Paul shared that the gospel displays the kindness of God that was poured out through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ to undeserving sinners. The gospel calls sinners to a relationship with Jesus Christ. It is through Jesus that Paul received the generous gift of eternal life and the urgent task of passing it on to others so they too could enter into relationship with God through faith in Jesus.
2. The Gospel Captivates Us as Servants (v. 1).  
Paul could have called himself several different titles.
  - a. Paul was a scholar; he was mentored by a well-known Jewish scholar, Gamaliel (Acts 22:3).
  - b. He was a Roman citizen (Acts 22:28) which would have given him influence in Rome.
  - c. He could have mentioned his personal experience with his risen Lord (Acts 22:6-11) or that he got to see the brilliance of heaven (2 Cor. 12:2-5).
  - d. Instead, Paul chose to call himself a servant of Christ Jesus. The one-time servant of the Jewish laws and traditions was now a servant of the Lord Jesus like Abraham, Moses, or David. He discovered a lifetime of joy through service to His King and Lord Jesus Christ.

3. The Gospel Commissions Us to Go (v. 1).  
Paul claimed authority not because of his education, personality, or special revelation but on the basis that he had been chosen by God to be an apostle. An apostle refers to someone sent to accomplish a task on behalf of the sender. An apostle was a representative of the sender. Paul had been commissioned by the Lord Jesus Himself to represent—to share—the gospel with the Gentiles.
4. Believers are to be Champions of the Gospel (v. 1).  
Paul emphasized that he had been “set apart” for the gospel of God. Paul had been separated or reserved for the purpose of spreading the gospel of Christ to the world. He was called to champion the gospel everywhere he went.

## Conclusion

The gospel of Jesus Christ calls to you today. He died on the cross for our sins and He rose again to give us new life. He is calling you to serve. He is calling you to go. He is calling you to champion the gospel. Will you trust in Him today to help you discover the same joy found by Paul?

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