

ALL THE COUNSEL OF GOD

“Separated Unto”

Text: Romans 1:1-17

Intro:

⇒ The verse that I will be preaching from in our passage is verse 1.

➤ The Apostle Paul says in the opening verse of his epistle to the believers at Rome, **“Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,”**

➤ In his opening verse, Paul states his position or vocation.

✓ Notice with me how Paul puts **“servant”** before **“apostle.”**

✓ A “servant” is a position of humility, or servitude.

✓ Paul tells us his position in Christ is first and foremost the one of a servant.

➤ Paul goes on to say, **“called to be an apostle”**

✓ The word “apostle” means sent one.

✓ It was a position of great authority and influence.

⇒ What is the Word of God trying to show us by having Paul by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit call himself a “servant” first and then “an apostle” second.

➤ I believe first, to receive your specific calling from God, each Christian has to first become a servant of Jesus Christ.

➤ Before, God gives you anything specific to do.

✓ You first must submit to His will for your life and take a position of humility.

⇒ **Illustrations:**

➤ Christ is our greatest example of humility and servitude.

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- ✓ We are told in **John 13:4-5**, “He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.”
- ✓ **See Philippians 2:5-11.**
- ✓ **Bible Principle** – Before God will exalt you, you must first voluntarily humble yourself before him.
 - o In other words “Before you can go up you must go down.”
 - o The Word of God tells us in **1 Pe. 5:5-6**, “...God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:”
- Some may wonder why the Apostle Paul was so successful in the ministry that God called him into.
 - ✓ The answer is found at his conversion on the road to Damascus.
 - o Paul, right after his conversion says to the Lord in **Acts 9:6**, “**Lord what wilt thou have me to do?**”
 - o In other words, Paul gave God a blank check and allowed the Lord to fill it in.
- The problem with many Christians is that they have never become a servant of Jesus Christ.
 - ✓ Meet most Christians today and they give you their title in church.
 - o I’m a deacon.
 - o I’m the Sunday School Superintendent.

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- o I'm the music director.
 - ✓ But you very rarely hear them say as Paul did, I'm **“a servant of Jesus Christ.”**
- ⇒ This morning what we want to focus on in particular in Romans 1:1, is that Paul tells the believers at Rome that he was, **“separated unto the gospel of God,...”**
- ⇒ By Paul's statement we can conclude that if Paul was separated **“unto”** something, **“the gospel of God”** then he must have been separated **“from”** something.
- ⇒ In order, for a person to make a real change in their life and not just turn over a new leaf or get cleaned up for awhile, then they must not only separate **“from”** something but also separate **“unto”** something.
- ⇒ What Paul, said about being **“separated unto the gospel of God,”** applies to every born again, child of God and not just the Apostle Paul.
- If you are truly saved, then you have been separated unto the **“gospel of God.”**
- ⇒ **First we want to look at –**
- ⇒ **I. What The Christian Has Been Separated “FROM”**
- **1) Our Skin or Flesh – See Col 2:11-13.**
 - **2) Our Service To Sin – See Rom. 6:6, 11-18.**
 - **3) Our Sentence – See Rom. 6:23 & Rev. 20:14**
 - **4) Our Servitude to Satan (the god of this world) – See Gal. 1:4 & 2 Cor. 6:14-18.**
- ⇒ **Second we want to look at**
- ⇒ **II. What The Christian Has Been Separated “UNTO”**
- **1) The Saviour**

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- ✓ The Christian is “in Christ” no longer “in Adam”
 - o No longer condemned in Adam but justified in Christ.
- ✓ **Gal 2:20** – “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth **in me**.”
- ✓ **Eph. 3:17** – “That Christ may dwell **in your hearts** by faith;”
- ✓ **Col. 1:27** – “...Christ **in you**, the hope of glory.”
- ✓ **2 Cor. 5:17**, tells us because a person is **“in Christ”** they are a new creature.
- ✓ **Rom. 8:35-39**, tells us that once a person is **“in Christ”** nothing can separate them from Christ.
- **2) Separated unto – SERVICE**
 - ✓ **a.** Each Christian according to **1 Pe. 2:9** is part of a **chosen generation and an holy nation**.
 - o They belong to a **royal priesthood** and are a **peculiar people**.
 - ✓ **b.** Each Christian in their service to the Lord are according to **Titus 2:14**, are to be **“zealous of good works”**
 - ✓ **c.** According to **2 Timothy 2:21**, the Christian in his service to the Lord should purge his vessel or flesh of all uncleanness so they can be a vessel unto honor and meet for the Master’s use.
 - ✓ **d.** The Word of God tells us in **2 Cor. 5:18-20**, that each Christian is an Ambassador for Christ and have been given the ministry of reconciliation.
 - o We are to be telling others how they can have peace with God and avoid the wrath of Almighty God through the shed blood of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

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➤ 3) Separated unto – THE SOLUTION

- ✓ The only solution for this sin sick world.
 - o The “gospel of God”
- ✓ Paul defines in **1 Cor. 15:1-4 – Read.**
 - o The Apostle Paul tells us in verse 3, that he received the gospel from the Lord, Himself and now delivers it “**unto us.**”.
 - o He did not receive it from man.
- ✓ The Christian in turn is suppose to deliver the Gospel of God unto a lost and dying world.
 - o Why?
 - o Because **Rom 1:16**, tells us that it “**the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;**”

➤ 4) Separated Someday unto SINLESSNESS

- ✓ Man is made of body, soul, and spirit.
 - o The Christian’s spirit has been born again of the Spirit of God.
 - o The body or flesh is still unsaved.
 - o And the inner man, the soul is being renewed day by day or being conformed to the image of Christ.
- ✓ However, someday soon the body, soul, and spirit of the Christian shall be sinless.
- ✓ The Word of God tells us this will occur at the rapture of the church, the body of Christ.

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- ✓ The individual Christian shall be spiritually and physically separated from this world.
 - Our sinful flesh shall become sinless and totally sanctified.
- ✓ The Word of God tells us that our vile bodies shall be changed into glorified bodies.
 - And we shall be like Christ.

➤ **5) Separated unto the SCRIPTURES, the Word of God**

- ✓ **As Christians we are instructed to:**
 - **Read the SCRIPTURES – Deut. 17:19**
 - **Meditate on the SCRIPTURES day and night – Joshua 1:8**
 - **Study the SCRIPTURES – 2 Tim. 2:15.**
 - **Hid the SCRIPTURES in our hearts to keep us from sin – Psalm 119:11**
 - **Search the SCRIPTURES – John 5:39.**
 - **Be a doer not just a hearer of the SCRIPTURES or the Word – James 1:22.**

➤ **6) Separated unto the SANCTUARY**

- ✓ **Hebrews 10:25** – “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”
- ✓ **David said in Psalm 122:1**, “I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.”
 - Is that your attitude about coming to the House of God.

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➤ 7) Separated unto the SAINTS

- ✓ 1 John 3:14, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."

⇒ Conclusion:

➤ We have seen this morning that Christian has been **first** separated **FROM**

- ✓ His Skin or Flesh
- ✓ His Service To Sin
- ✓ His Sentence
- ✓ His Our Servitude to Satan

➤ And **second** the Christian has been separated **UNTO**

- ✓ The Saviour
- ✓ Service
- ✓ The Solution
- ✓ Someday Soon Sinlessness
- ✓ The Scriptures
- ✓ The Sanctuary
- ✓ The Saints

