

PAUL'S SELF-DESCRIPTION: A HUMBLE INTRODUCTION (Romans 1:1)

1. He was a "slave" of Christ Jesus
 - Paul could have introduced himself differently
 - A SCHOLAR, tutored by the renowned Jewish master Gamaliel (Acts 22:3)
 - A ROMAN CITIZEN (Acts 22:28), a title of significant influence in Rome
 - A PERSONAL CONVERT of the risen Christ (Acts 22:6-11)
 - A SUPERIOR CHRISTIAN due to his firsthand experience of the third heaven (2 Cor. 12:2-5)
 - Paul chose to identify himself as a DOULOS is the Greek word for "slave"
 - 4 realities for a slave
 - They were another person's PROPERTY.
 - They were PURCHASED, bought for a price.
 - They received no PAY.
 - They could not QUIT.
 - Greeks, Romans and Jews despised servitude above everything else.
 - According to Phil. 2:7, JESUS took on the form of a SLAVE.
2. He was called to be an "apostle"
 - "Called to be" implies that Paul DID NOT CALL HIMSELF.
 - Paul understood himself to be COMMISSIONED by God (Acts 9)
 - APOSTOLOS is the Greek word for "Apostle"
 - An apostle is one who is sent to speak on behalf of and represent another
 - An apostle is like an AMBASSADOR in that he authoritatively communicates as an official representative of the One who has sent him
3. He was "set apart" for the Gospel of God
 - The Greek word for "set apart" means to SEPARATE, to APPOINT, to SINGLE OUT.
 - God singled Paul out to preach the Good News or the Gospel of God
 - The "GOSPEL" comes from the Greek word, euangelion, meaning the "GOOD NEWS" about Jesus Christ

PAUL'S OVERVIEW OF THE GOSPEL (Romans 1:2-6)

1. The ORIGIN of the gospel was GOD (v.2)
 - The gospel was promised BEFOREHAND.
 - The gospel was promised through His PROPHETS.
 - The gospel was promised in the holy SCRIPTURES.

2. The CONTENT of the gospel is JESUS CHRIST (v.3-4)
 - Jesus was born a descendant of DAVID.
 - Jesus was born according to the FLESH.
 - Jesus was declared the SON OF GOD.
 - with power
 - by the resurrection from the dead
 - according to the Spirit of holiness

3. The PURPOSE of the gospel is to produce OBEDIENT FAITH (v.5-6)

PAUL'S INTRODUCTORY GREETING

Paul's two-fold Identification of his audience

1. "Loved by God"
 2. "called to be his holy people"
- The Greek word "hagiois" means, SAINTS or HOLY ONES.
- "called" means, to be set apart, kept pure

Paul's double-blessing

1. Grace
 - Grace, ("charis" in the Greek) refers to God's UNMERITED FAVOR.
 - Grace refers to God giving us what we need but do not deserve

2. Peace
 - Peace ("eirene" in the Greek) refers to COMPLETENESS and FULFILLMENT found only in God through Jesus Christ
 - Peace, here, becomes an extension of the Jewish greeting, "shalom"