

Commentary on the Book of Romans

1:1 Paul a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

I. Prior to Paul's Call: His testimony before hand

The apostle Paul said that God called him to be an apostle. Paul was called in Acts 9. Before the Lord called Saul to be the apostle Paul, Saul was present when Stephen preached a great sermon that would be condemned by most modern apostate Christians because Stephen was "unkind" and "harsh" and was not "loving." However the Bible says that Stephen was full of the Holy Ghost (Acts 7:55).

You see people forget that the first work of the Holy Ghost is to reprove of sin (John 16:8-11). The scripture says that those that heard Holy Ghost preaching were "cut to the heart" (Acts 7:54). True biblical preaching utilizes that sharp two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12) and that sword will cut you one-way or the other. It will either cut off the foreskin of your heart allowing you to worship, walk, and work the way God would have you to be or it will prick your heart and conscience and stick you and wound you that it might bring you to repentance.

People think that if someone is offended by preaching, there is something wrong with the preacher or with what is being said. That is incorrect. Now I understand that people can preach with a wrong heart attitude, nevertheless, if what is being preached is what that book says, the problem is not with the preacher or his message, the problem is with the hearer. That is why anyone who is called to preach, from the get go, ought to set out that he is going to please God with his preaching, and preach what God wants him to preach, regardless of man's opinion or reaction. Paul said that the preaching ought to please Christ and not man (Galatians 1:10) and sometimes that means men aren't going to be pleased with what a preacher says: so be it. If they were walking in the Light, as he is in the Light, the word of God being preached shouldn't bother them one bit. Amen.

Paul was consenting unto Stephen's death in Acts 8:1 and in Acts 9:1, we find that Paul was threatening and slaughtering Christians. He says in Acts 26:9-11 that he thought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And Paul actually did so, in putting the saints in prison, putting the saints to death, compelling them to blaspheme and was exceedingly mad against them and persecuted them all over the place. In Philippians 3:1-6 Paul was a Hebrew of Hebrews, he had zeal in that he persecuted the church of God, and he was blameless insofar as touching the righteousness of the law was concerned. He was a Pharisee, which according to scripture was the straightest sect of the Jews religion (Acts 26:5). This was Paul's testimony before the Lord called him to be an apostle to the Gentiles.

II. Paul's call

We read about Paul's call to be an apostle in Acts 9:1-22, Acts 22:6-16, and Acts 26:12-18. Saul was on the road to Damascus. His purpose for going there was to find disciples

of the Lord and bring them bound unto Jerusalem for judgment. As he went his way, “there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do” (Acts 9:3-6).

Saul sees a light brighter than the sun shining round about him and it blinded him. Who was the man clothed in light? It was Jesus! The Lord Jesus called him by name and asked why he was persecuting him. Now let’s pause right there for a second. Did you get that or did you miss that? Jesus says, when the saints of God are persecuted, the persecutors are not persecuting the saints, they are actually persecuting the Lord Jesus Christ. I don’t know about you but after I had been saved, I was persecuted because of the Lord, but they weren’t persecuting me, they were persecuting him. And the Bible says we are blessed when we are persecuted for his sake because great is our reward in heaven (Matthew 5:11-12). We ought to rejoice and count it a blessing to suffer reproach for his name’s sake.

Saul then asks, “Who art thou, Lord?” This is an interesting response from Saul. Now Saul knew there was a God and that the only God was the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob: the God of Israel, the LORD of hosts, Jehovah. He knew those things. But when Paul asks, “Who art thou, Lord?” it seems to me that Paul was wondering who the Lord really was. He wanted to know. It just may be that the Holy Ghost of God had been working on Saul’s heart for some time about believing in Jesus (John 16:8-11). When this started one can only guess. If Paul was a big shot in the Jew’s religion, which he was, he must have known and heard about Jesus of Nazareth before Stephen’s preaching in Acts 7. Regardless of when you mark down when the Spirit started reproving Saul for his sin of unbelief in Jesus, the passage makes clear the Lord had been dealing with Saul for some amount of time before he went on to Damascus.

Notice in Acts 9:5, The Lord says that he is Jesus, the one Saul has been persecuting this whole time. Then the Lord says something that cut to the heart of Paul. This was an example of that proverb which says, “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.” Jesus then says something to Paul that only the Lord and Paul knew about. He says, “it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.”

What does this mean? It means that the Paul kept bucking or going against the pricks that the Holy Ghost had been impressing upon his conscience. The Lord kept pricking his heart and pricking his heart for what he was doing towards the saints, and for his unbelief in Jesus as the Messiah long before Damascus. In Acts 2:37 after the multitude of Jews from many nations heard Peter preach, they were “pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Compare that with Acts 9:5-6. The proper response after being convicted of the Holy Ghost is to say, Lord you got me, and then ask the Lord, what do you want me to do?

Amen! That word pricked in the Bible has to do with being convicted when hearing the preaching of the word of God (see Psalm 73, Acts 2:37, Acts 9:5, Acts 26:14).

What Jesus says in Acts 9:5 is an allusion to an ox kicking against the goad by which he is driven. A goad is a pointed instrument that was used by the driver to urge forward the ox. When an ox would kick against the prick by the goad, the ox did not hurt the goad, but only hurt himself. The ox was going against the direction of the driver: he was rebelling. Now the Lord is the driver and we are the oxen, and the word of God being the sharp two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12) is the goad, and the Lord will prick our hearts with his word and we have the choice to follow the Lord's direction or "kick against the pricks of our conscience." The latter is to our hurt; the former is to our gain.

Solomon said this in Ecclesiastes 12:11-12, "The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd. And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh." The words of the wise are sharp and will prick us when we go astray or need to go further or in another direction, and they are given from one shepherd. Do you know who that shepherd is? I do. The next verse says we are to be admonished by these words that are as goads. We are to receive instruction, and warning, and counsel from these. If something from the word of the Lord pricks our conscience, say, Lord, what do you want me to do about this thing? That is the biblical response. Don't kick against the pricks because when you do, you are resisting the Holy Ghost (Acts 7:51).

So Jesus says to Saul, is it hard for thee to kick against the pricks. That must mean that Saul was rebelling against the pricks of his conscience. The Holy Ghost was dealing with Saul long before Acts 9. Saul heard Stephen preach in Acts 7, Saul was cut to the heart (Acts 7:54). Saul started to persecute the church of God, and I bet the Spirit of God bothered him about it. Then one day, as he was on his way to persecute the disciples of the Lord, the Lord knocks him on his face and says, is it hard for thee to kick against the pricks. At this point Saul is done, he is trembling and astonished and says what do you want me to do Lord? And the Lord said, get up and go into the city and it shall be told to you there what you must do. Amen.

So Saul gets up and when he opens his eyes he realizes he is blind. They lead him to Damascus and there he waits for three days without sight and not having food or drink. Then the Lord speaks to Ananias in a vision and tells him to go see Saul and heal his eye sight. So Ananias goes and finds Saul and heals his eye sight and gets baptized. If you compare the parallel accounts of Saul's call, we find in Acts 22:16, that Ananias tells him to rise up and get baptized, and wash away his sins, calling upon the name of the Lord. What took away his sins? Calling upon the name of the Lord. Amen. In this day and age water baptism does not remit sins, but calling upon the name of the Lord does.

What was Saul called to do? What did Jesus want Paul to do? Saul was to be a chosen vessel for the Lord and was to bear his name before the Gentiles, kings, and the

children of Israel and that he was going to suffer great things for his name's sake (Acts 9:15-16) He was to know God's will and see the Just One, and should hear the voice of his mouth, and be a witness unto all men of what he has seen and heard (Acts 22:14-15). He was to be a minister of what he has seen and the things which the Lord would show him later, being sent to the Gentiles to open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light, from the power of Satan unto God in order that they might receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith in Jesus (Acts 26:16-18). This was Saul's call. This is what the Lord wanted him to do. Saul was obedient to the heavenly vision, and forsook all and followed Jesus.

III. The Call to Preach

Paul said he was called to be an apostle and was separated unto the gospel of God. Briefly I want to discuss the call to preach. There are three things that I find to be consistent among those whom the Lord called to preach his word: 1) The call to preach comes out of nowhere, (2) none of those whom the Lord called were looking to be called, (3) and the men the Lord called were faithful in whatever they were doing prior to being called.

First let us consider the 12 apostles. Before they became apostles what were they doing? They were working to make a living. Some were fishing, some were collecting taxes: they were busy working. They were providing for their families by the sweat of their brow. They were not looking to be apostles; they were just doing what they knew they were supposed to do. They were working for quite some time I would imagine. Then out of nowhere the Lord shows up and says, Follow me and I will make you fishers of men. How did these men respond? They immediately forsook their nets and followed Jesus. Isn't that a strange thing? Don't you find it odd that the Lord did not choose a recognized religious leader and authority to be one of his disciples? He chose common, ordinary people to be his apostles. Were these men looking to be called of God? Doesn't appear so.

Consider some of the Old Testament prophets. How about Moses? When Moses is 80 years old, God calls him to be a prophet and a deliverer for the children of Israel. Prior to the burning bush, Moses spent 40 years in Egypt as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He ends up killing a man and flees into the land of Midian and dwells there, gets married, has a child, and keeps the flock of his father in law Jethro. Then one day out of nowhere the Lord calls Moses out of the burning bush. Did Moses seek to be the deliverer of the children of Israel? Did he seek to be the mediator of the Old Testament? Did he seek to be a prophet? I don't think so. In fact for a while Moses told God that he couldn't do it because he wasn't an eloquent speaker.

What about David? Before the Lord called him to be king over all Israel what was he doing? Was he seeking to be king? No, not at all. What was he doing? He was keeping his father's sheep. He was busy working, doing what he knew to do to be right. Then out of nowhere one day the prophet Samuel shows up and anoints David king and the Spirit of God came upon him from that day forward.

What about Jonah? He clearly wasn't looking to be called of God. As soon as the word of God came to him, he fled to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. It appears to me that the people God called to preach his word were busy doing something else and not seeking to be called of God to be a preacher, then one day out of nowhere the word of the Lord just shows up to them and then they obey the Lord and follow him.

Even the Lord Jesus Christ's calling: the Father called him to be a high priest and the Bible says no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God as was Aaron (Hebrews 5:4). The Lord wasn't seeking this position, but God called him to be a faithful high priest for us. And notice before Jesus was called to "the ministry", he was working as a carpenter for over a decade (Luke 3:23, Mark 6:3). Do you see that? The men God called in the Bible, even his only begotten Son, worked for a living and did what was right to do way before they were called into the ministry. Now the scripture does say if any man desires the office of a bishop he desires a good work (1 Timothy 3:1). But just because you desire it doesn't mean you are called to be a bishop, you must meet certain qualifications that are laid out in 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

You need to understand this: a burden or desire is not necessarily a calling. I know when I was first saved, I was like Paul, and had a great burning desire for Jews to get saved (Romans 10:1). At one point I actually thought that God was calling me to be a missionary to Israel or to the Jewish people. Then the Lord showed me this thing about the apostle Paul, a burden or desire does not equate to a calling. Paul's heart's desire was for the Jew to be saved and he wanted to go to them, but God sent him to the Gentiles and called him to be an apostle to the Gentiles. Sure Paul preached every now and then to the Jews but God called him to go preach to the Gentiles. Also when Paul disobeyed the instruction of the Holy Ghost and went to Jerusalem, he was taken away in chains and bound up which led him to his death in Rome. You need to understand a burden is not necessarily a calling. Jonah had absolutely no burden or care at all for Nineveh to repent, but God called him to go and preach to them, and eventually he did.

Lastly, the men God called to preach his word were all faithful men. There are many verses that state these men were faithful in whatever they were doing prior to their calling. We will look at a few. The apostle Paul said this, "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry" (1 Timothy 1:12). Faithfulness is a prerequisite for being put into the ministry. God requires faithfulness. How about Moses? The Bible says he was faithful in all his house (Hebrews 3:5). What about Jesus? He was faithful to him that appointed him (Hebrews 3:2). The men God called for particular tasks were all faithful men. That was one of the characteristics these men had. They were faithful.

Those that are called of God to preach have these three things in common: 1) The call to preach comes out of nowhere, (2) none of those whom the Lord called were looking to be called, (3) and the men the Lord called were faithful in whatever they were doing prior to being called.

1:2-4 “(Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:”

Before we look at the Old Testament where this gospel of God was promised, I first want to state something about the gospel(s) in that Bible. Not one time in your Bible does the word gospel have to do with you working or doing something in order to obtain the promises of that gospel. The word gospel simply means good news and the Lord is careful and how this word is used in the Bible. Tell me what is good news out of the following options:

1. Keep the 10 commandments and live the golden rule and **you might make it.**
2. Get sprinkled as a baby, get confirmed in the church, drink the body and blood of Jesus Christ, have faith and works, pray the rosary, pray to saints, give to the church, give to help free souls from purgatory, and die in a state of grace **and you might make it.**
3. Confess there is no God but God and that Mohammed is his messenger, pray 5 times a day toward Mecca, give money for charity, have faith and works **and you might make it.**
4. Though your sins be as scarlet they shall be white as wool. Jesus cried with a loud voice, IT IS FINISHED! Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved from sin, hell, death, and the grave. You are safe for ever, you will get the pure, spotless righteousness of God's Son, you get the Holy Ghost who shall abide with you for ever, your sins are gone and forgotten of God, you have a mansion prepared for you in glory, you will get a sinless glorified body just like Jesus Christ and will live for ever and ever seeing the face of God and enjoying his fellowship for ever and a perfect world with no death, sorrow, crying, pain with a perfect ruler on the throne. O I almost forgot, not to mention you are now a son of the living God and have access to the Father anytime, any day, anywhere by the blood of Christ and the Lord will provide for all your need according to his riches in glory by Jesus Christ and take care of you now and will bear the fruits of the Holy Ghost in you both now and hereafter. If you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and receive him personally as Saviour, **you have made it and will make it in the future.**

Now which one is good news?

Everything that is called a gospel in that Bible (see the Different Gospels study): the promises connected with those gospels do not require work to get those promises: they are all gained by FAITH ALONE and simply by believing God.

This gospel of God was promised before by the prophets of old that we read about in the Holy Scriptures. Peter says the same thing in 1 Peter 1:9-12.

“Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that

should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into. ”

This gospel is a gospel of salvation by faith. Notice it is not a gospel of salvation by faith and works. It is solely by faith. In the OT salvation was by faith and works. We won't get into that now, but under the law, a man had to keep the law in order to be saved. To whet your whistle real quick on OT salvation see Ezekiel 14:12-13, 18:4-32, 33.

Now this kind of salvation that we have and enjoy and experience (salvation by faith alone) is what the prophets had enquired and searched diligently about in times past. Notice in the passage, they *prophesied* of the grace that should come unto you. Stop right there. Did you get that? They spoke about a way of salvation that didn't exist in their days: it was yet future. Salvation by grace through faith didn't exist under the law. But God was revealing to Israel through the prophets that that grace was coming in the future in which a man is saved simply by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ! Praise the LORD! They *prophesied* of the grace (notice) that should COME UNTO YOU. That means what God spoke about in the past is here now, namely salvation by believing the gospel of God (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

So the prophets prophesied of these things, searching what, or WHAT MANNER OF TIME the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify. When the Holy Spirit was revealing these things to the prophets, the prophets in response to what they were hearing asked when this was going to happen. Answer, they didn't know. But they knew it tied into the work of Christ.

Notice in 1 Peter 1:12 that this gospel of salvation by faith was revealed unto them. That must mean we should be able to find it in the Old Testament. Is it there? You bet it is! Here is a nice list for you to read: Isaiah 28:16, Joel 2:32, Psalm 2:12, Isaiah 55:1-5.

In the next part of the verse, we have further proof that this salvation (by grace through faith) spoken of by the prophets was not for their day. “Not unto themselves, but unto US they did minister the things...” So we find that the verses we just read were not applicable when they were originally spoken and written: they were for another day. Same goes for a lot of the things in Matthew, Mark, Luke, Acts, Hebrews – Revelation. Remember, God told you to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). So what Peter is telling us here is that the prophets knew about this grace, but it wasn't for their days, but for the days in which we are living in. These specific things were to minister to us today! Then he says these things are NOW REPORTED by them that have preached the gospel to you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven. Hallelujah!

This gospel of God was indeed promised before hand in the scriptures by the prophets. There are many other verses that are not as clear as the ones I just gave you but refer

to the same thing, such as Isaiah 62:1, 11-12; Zechariah 9:9-12. This gospel of God has to deal with God's Son Jesus Christ our Lord who was made of the seed of David according to the flesh.

Christ had to come from the seed of David. This was prophesied in the Old Testament. See 1 Chronicles 17:11-15, Micah 5:2, Isaiah 9:6-7. You ever wonder why God wrote down all those genealogies? It's so that a man can trace the lineage of Jesus Christ back to David and even all the way back to Adam. In order for Jesus to be the Christ of God, he must have come from the seed of David: and so he was! Notice the language though here, he was MADE of the seed of David, he didn't COME from the seed of David in the literal sense. Well how can that work? With God all things are possible! He was born of a virgin's womb (Isaiah 7:14) and his mother and Joseph descended from David. So God made him after that seed but not directly of that seed. He formed a body in Mary's womb and the Godhead stepped into that body (Colossians 1:19, 2:9; Philippians 2:6) and grew up as a man!!!!!!! WHAT A SAVIOUR THAT HE WOULD DO THAT FOR YOU AND FOR ME!

Romans 1:4 says that Jesus was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection of the dead. There are several things in the life of Jesus that prove conclusively that he was the Son of God. But before we look to those things, I want to show you that even in the Old Testament the Father declares that he has a Son, but not in the same sense of an earthly father and earthly son relationship. He is *called* (Luke 1:34-35) the Son of God by how he became manifest in the flesh, but that discussion is for another day. Here are the verses on God having a Son in the Old Testament: Psalm 2:1-12, Proverbs 30:4, Daniel 3:25 and Isaiah 9:6-7. Now read Isaiah 9:6-7, it tells you that a man that was born, is a son that was given (John 3:16), and that this son is called the mighty God, the everlasting Father! So when Jesus says, I and my Father are one (John 10:30) and he that hath seen me hath seen the Father (John 14:9), he is correct doctrinally! How about that!

One of the greatest proofs that Jesus is the Messiah, are all the fulfilled prophecies. Jesus did not fulfill all the prophecies that Messiah was supposed to fulfill because the Jews rejected him and the kingdom of heaven ended up being postponed indefinitely. A Jew says, I don't believe Jesus is the Messiah because the world is not redeemed. The Bible says when the Messiah shows up, the creation will be redeemed and the Jews would be saved from their enemies. Yea, those things could have happened but your fathers rejected and killed the Prince of Life and even after his resurrection, he was still offering to your fathers the kingdom and they rejected his messengers. Also, the Bible says Messiah would die but not for himself (Daniel 9:26) and be raised from the dead and ascend into heaven. Jesus has to fulfill them all. Jesus said himself the scripture cannot be broken (John 10:35). He will do everything that Bible says the Messiah will do, but most of those prophecies will be fulfilled at his second coming. You need to get that! Therefore when Christ returns, all of those other prophecies will be fulfilled literally just like all the prophecies were fulfilled literally at his first coming. Here is a list of the prophecies Jesus fulfilled at his first coming:

Prophecies Fulfilled by our Lord Jesus Christ

His Life

Descendant of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David (Genesis 12:3, 21:12, 28:14, 1 Chronicles 17:11-15, Matthew 1)

He would come out of Judah (Genesis 49:8-12) (Hebrews 7:14)

Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14, Genesis 3:15)(Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-35)

Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)(Luke 2:1-11, Matthew 2:1)

The people of northern Israel would see a great light (Isaiah 9:1-2)(Matthew 4:12-16)

His family thought Jesus as a stranger (Psalm 69:8) (John 7:1-5)

Preceded by Elijah the prophet (Malachi 4:5-6, Isaiah 40:1-4)(Matthew 3:1-6, 11:14, 17:10-13)

Despised, rejected, and hated by many (Isaiah 53:3, Psalm 118:22-23)(John 1:10-13, 7:7; Matthew 21:42)

Hated without a cause (Psalm 69:4, Psalm 35:7)(John 15:25)

Ride into Jerusalem on a Donkey (Zechariah 9:9)(Matthew 21:5)

He would be very zealous over the Temple (Psalm 69:9) (John 2:17)

Hated without a cause (Psalm 69:4, Psalm 35:7)(John 15:25)

All the miracles (Isaiah 29:18-19, 61:1)(Matthew 11:5 and really all the 4 Gospels)

He suddenly appears in the Temple (Malachi 3:1)(John 2:13-17)

His Death

The betrayer eats bread with him (Psalm 41:9)(John 13:8, 26-27)

False witnesses accused him (Psalm 35:11)(Matthew 26:59-62)

Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12-13) (Matthew 26:15, 27:3-10)

Disciples would forsake him (Zechariah 13:7) (Matthew 26:31-32)

Smitten on his cheek with a rod (Micah 5:1) (Matthew 27:29-31)

His beard was plucked and he was spat on (Isaiah 50:6) (Matthew 26:67-68, 27:30)

His back was whipped (Isaiah 53:5, Psalm 129:3)(Matthew 27:26)

Hands and feet pierced (Psalm 22:16) (Matthew 27:35)

God is pierced (Zechariah 12:9-10) (John 19:33-37)

No bones broken (Psalm 22:17) (John 19:31-36)

He would cry My God, my God from the cross (Psalm 22:1) (Matthew 27:46)

Mocked while he was on the cross (Psalm 22:6-8) (Matthew 27:39-44)

Garments parted and the cast lots for his vesture (Psalm 22:18) (John 19:23-24)

Died for sins (Daniel 9:26, Isaiah 53) (John 11:49-52, 1 John 2:2)

They gave him gall and vinegar to drink (Psalm 69:21)(Matthew 27:34)

Gentiles and Jews come together against him (Psalm 2:1-3)(Acts 4:25-28)

Buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9)(Matthew 27:57-60)

Numbered with the transgressors (Isaiah 53:12)(Matthew 15:27-28)

His Resurrection

God raised him from the dead (Isaiah 53:10, Psalm 16:8-11, Psalm 2:6-7)(Matthew 28:5-6)

He ascends to heaven (Psalm 68:18, Proverbs 30:4)(Acts 1:9-12, Matthew 27:51-53)

He sits down on the right hand of God (Psalm 110:1)(Mark 16:19)

There are other proofs as well. He was declared to be the Son of God with power. When Jesus was baptized of John in the Jordan River, the heaven opened up and the Holy Ghost descended upon him and the Father said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3:17). Hallelujah! He never spoke about anyone else that way! He was declared to be the Son of God by the Father. We also read about this in the second Psalm. Also he is the Son of God because of the power. No doubt this is referring to the power of the Holy Ghost that was in him and upon him. Jesus healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, cast out devils, fed the multitudes, commanded nature, and raised people from the dead. Also according to the spirit of holiness.

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” - 1Timothy 3:16

He was justified in the Spirit. No man could ever convince Christ of sin and no man can to this very day. If a man claims to be the Son of God, he ought to be able to back it up. Jesus was able to back it up! O that'll preach right there. For us who have been adopted, we ought to be able to back up or talk with our walk! Jesus asked the Jews in John 8:46, which one of you can convince me that I am a sinner? No one could. Amen! Jesus was the spotless, holy, Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world! This proved that he was the Son of God. “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” could not be applied to Jesus: for he is the glory of God, God manifest in the flesh. Praise his holy name!

One other thing that forever settles the question if Jesus Christ is the Son of God is an empty tomb. There is no denying it. There is no way around it. All of the false religions and gods out there have nothing on Jesus! For my God died for me and rose from the dead! He arose! He arose! Hallelujah, Christ arose!!!!!!

*He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way
He lives, He lives, Salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives, HE LIVES WITHIN MY HEART!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

That's it right there. He was raised from the dead by God the Father and thus proving to all men everywhere that IT IS HE! That ought to make a wooden Indian shout! Mohammed is dead, Buddha is dead, Gandhi is dead, the popes are dead, Mary is dead, BUT JESUS CHRIST DIED AND ROSE AGAIN!

People say, there are so many religions out there, how can you know which one is right? That's easy, whosoever is THE LIVING GOD, whose name is I AM, is the one true God! My God is he that liveth and was dead, and behold is alive FOREVERMORE and has the keys of hell and of death (Revelation 1:18). I know Christ is alive and well! So do tens of thousands who are alive today that have called upon his name for salvation and HE SAVED THEM and he continues to have fellowship with them and

does speak! GLORY! Jesus Christ is the SON OF GOD because of all these things. None of the false gods of the heathen can even come close!

1:5-8 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ: To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

The Ecumenical Movement:

Notice God says that all nations are to be obedient to the faith. You see how one verse of scripture destroys the ecumenical movement. God never told you to unite with people that don't believe in Jesus Christ and obey his words and keep his doctrine. He told you to separate from such people. There is only one way, one truth, and one life.

Uniting at the expense of sound doctrine is Satanic and ushers in the 3.5 year rule and reign of the Antichrist (Make a reference to the "Paul's Warnings" study). Over 60% of Paul's warnings to the church has to do with doctrinal issues. Talk about Paul's life a pattern to the church and how when he COMPROMISED FOR THE SAKE OF THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH that brought him to bondage and led him to Rome where he died.

A one world religion (Revelation 17-18, Nahum 3, Isaiah 47, 2 Thessalonians 2), one world government (Revelation 13, Daniel 2 and 7) headed up by Rome (Revelation 17:18).

Since uniting at the expense of truth and sound doctrine is wrong, the Bible tells us how to deal with false teachers and prophets.

Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

Titus 3:9-11 But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

He didn't say argue with them, he didn't say have a dialogue with them, he definitely did not say to join with them and compromise for them, he said to avoid them and reject them. How about that for the sweet Spirit of Christ? Just a little taste of this Spirit, here is what Paul said about those that had corrupt doctrine and were deceiving people: he called them beasts and said those people shall bear their judgment and Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost wished they were cut off, which means to die (1 Corinthians 15:29-34, Galatians 5:7-12). That is why doctrine is important because souls are at stake and Christians rewards are at stake at the judgment seat of Christ.

Here are some verses that speak of the importance of doctrine (1 Timothy 4:16, 2 Timothy 3:14-17, Titus 2:1-8)

Alright now what is “the faith” that is talked about in this passage? Some would have you believe (these are your ‘high-church’ folk) that these are traditions of the Apostles that contradict the writing of the Apostles (i.e. New Testament). That’s a silly thing to believe. Imagine Peter, Paul, and James all agreeing in writing that salvation is by grace (Acts 15) and then they go around and taught that you are saved by faith + works. That’s what you must believe if you are a high-churcher. You see how crazy that is? I’m not going to spend time on what this phrase is not but what it is. So what is “the faith?”

“The faith” is the body of doctrines that were taught by the Apostles and are to be believed and adhered to. It also refers to living godly and being a doer of the word and not just a hearer only.

The first time this phrase appears in Scripture is in Acts 3:16. Peter says his name through faith in his name healed the man; yea, the faith which is by him has given him a complete healing. So it is connected with Jesus Christ obviously. The faith is by Jesus Christ. Acts 6:7 states “the faith” is connected with the word of God and a great company of priests were obedient to the faith. It is connected with hearing the word of God again in Acts 13:8 and we read in that chapter that Paul preached that through Jesus Christ is forgiveness of sins and all those that believe are justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law (Acts 13:38-39). In Acts 14:22, it is connected to the gospel Paul was preaching (1 Corinthians 15) and they were exhorted to continue in the faith. In Acts 16:5 the churches are said to be established in the faith. In Acts 24:24 it is referred to as the faith in Christ. In Galatians 1:23 Paul was preaching the faith that he once was destroyed. That is the belief in Jesus as the Messiah, the king of Israel who died on the cross and rose again from the dead.

Then in Galatians 2:16 we are told we are justified by the faith of Christ. That means the righteousness, faith, and life of Christ is what makes us just in the sight of God, not anything we do. Because when we believe on Christ, his righteousness (his faith) is imputed unto us, and our sins are imputed unto him! Thank you Lord!

We are told in Galatians 3:23-29 the faith has to do with being justified by faith alone and that we are no longer under the law and are now children of God!

In Ephesians 4:13-14 we are told “the faith” relates to doctrinal matters. Therefore the faith has to do with what God commands us and requires us to believe. Notice in this passage, there will be all kinds of false doctrines out there until the rapture of the Church and it will be all sorted out at the judgment seat of Christ.

In Colossians 2:7, the faith has to deal with what was taught by the Apostle Paul.

In 1 Timothy 4:1-5, we are told in the last days some shall depart from the faith. That is, they will depart from the fundamental Christian truths taught to us by the Apostles and

adopt instead doctrines of devils (which ironically enough, are doctrines taught by the Roman Catholic Church – don't get mad at me. I didn't write 1 Timothy). How about that for hate speech?

In 1 Timothy 5:8 we are told that a person that doesn't live the word has denied the faith and is worse than a Muslim, Buddhist or Hindu. So the faith not only refers to believing certain things, but also doing certain things. Hence the phrase in our text, "obedience to the faith."

In Titus 1:1 the faith is connected with godliness and godly living.

We are to be obedient to things we have just mentioned. We ought to believe what they say and do what they say: we will be held accountable to God for these things.

1:9-13 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers; Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you. For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

Serving God in spirit, not in the flesh

The apostle Paul states that he serves God with his spirit in the gospel of his Son. Compare this with Romans 7:15-25. Paul says he delights in the law of God after the inward man and serves the law of God with his mind, but with his flesh it is a different story. If you could just get that Christian, you wouldn't doubt your salvation.

The reason why saved people doubt their salvation is not because they never repented of their wickedness and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, and that God raised him from the dead, it's because they have sinned after they were saved or backslid real bad. They think that since they committed horrible sins since they've been saved, they must have never been saved to begin with. That's not true at all! Perhaps the greatest Christian to ever live was the apostle Paul, and he struggled with the flesh and gave into it like we all do at times. He said what I would like to do, I don't do and what I hate, that I do and guess what – Paul didn't loose his salvation! See also Galatians 5:16-25.

As Christians we have a war going on in our body. This war will continue until the day we die or get our new bodies at the resurrection of the church (the rapture). Our spirit that is joined to the Holy Spirit desires and wants to serve God and on the other hand our flesh desires to please itself and disobey God. But here is the great thing: we are no longer in the flesh (Romans 8:7-10). Christ Jesus has made us free from the law of sin and death (Romans 6:18-22, 8:2-4; John 8:30-36; Galatians 5:1). Since you have been saved, Jesus Christ has set you free from the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes,

and the pride of life (2 Peter 1:3-4). You don't have to serve sin and your flesh anymore! You can now serve God and please him! The power of sin has been broken over your life (Romans 6:14, Psalm 19:13)! The choice is yours. Choose you this day whom ye will serve! For more on this, see the study called The Old Man vs. The New Man.

Praying for the saints

The apostle Paul prayed for the church without ceasing. He told you elsewhere to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). We need to pray for each other. Our most powerful weapon is the word of God, but we also have prayer as another weapon. We ought to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ. What should we pray about for them?

Well here is what Paul prayed for and asked for prayer for:

That they would do no evil (2 Corinthians 13:7)

Give thanks for the saints, and that God would give them the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him, that their eyes would be enlightened, that they would know what is the hope of his calling, and the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and the greatness of his power (Ephesians 1:16-20).

Asked for prayer to speak with boldness (Ephesians 6:18-20).

That their love would abound more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; they would be able to approve things that are excellent, and be SINCERE and without offence till the day of Christ (Philippians 1:9-10).

That they would be filled with the Holy Ghost and bear his fruits (Philippians 1:11).

That God would grant an open door to his preachers of the gospel (Colossians 4:2-3).

That they would stand perfect and complete in all the will of God (Colossians 4:12).

That God would count you worthy of this calling and that you would fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness and that Christ may be glorified in you and ye in him (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12).

Prayer to help perfect what is lacking in your faith (1 Thessalonians 3:10).

To be blameless in body, soul, and spirit until the day of the Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

That God's word would be glorified and have free course (2 Thessalonians 3:1)

Prayer for all men that we might live a quiet peaceable life (1 Timothy 2:1)

*Prayer for the sick (James 5:13-16)

Does your pray life resemble Paul's? Looking at Paul's prayers, he was more concerned about Jesus Christ's desires than his owns.