

“Paul’s Portrait of Our Promise”

(Romans 1:2-7)

“...which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name’s sake, among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Paul’s 10 Parts of the Portrait

v.1	=	the People...	of the gospel (<i>slaves, summoned, sent, & set apart</i>)
v.2	=	the Promise...	of the gospel
v.2	=	the Prophets...	of the gospel
v.3-4	=	the Person...	of the gospel
v.4a	=	the Power...	of the gospel
v.4b	=	the Proof...	of the gospel
v.5a	=	the Provision...	of the gospel
v.5b	=	the Proclamation...	of the gospel
v.5c	=	the Purpose...	of the gospel
v.6-7	=	the Privileges...	of the gospel

PROMISE

What do you have? Answer: Romans 1:2 (God’s Gospel Promise)

THE gospel (of God) IS A PROMISE! Who promised” **GOD PROMISED!**

God’s Gospel promise is not “new” - nor was it new in Paul’s day...

Paul had been accused by the Jews of making up his own gospel...

Paul was reassuring the Roman Church that his was the true gospel...

Evidenced by the truth of their shared, Holy Scriptures (O.T.)

Note: role & inspiration of Old Testament

Note: God’s gospel plan & promise has/will never change(d)

Note: God’s plan was first revealed in the Garden (Gen.3:15)

PROPHETS

*“...He promised beforehand thru His **prophets** in the Holy Scriptures.”* (Romans 1:2)

“promised beforehand” = past tense...

Luke 24:27 = (Jesus speaking to 2 disciples after resurrection)

Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

It is demonic irony that... the spokes people who hold up & herald the “One”

that the Old Testament so clearly pointed to (with over 300 specific prophecies fulfilled in the person of Jesus), as the Messiah... would be so vehemently attacked by those who purport to be, and are widely recognized and trusted as, the religious leaders (of both Paul's day... and ours). In reality, the leaders were the liars... Sadly, somethings never change.

Reality of Paul's day and ours as well... the religious crowd had minimized the Scriptures and focused primarily on "man's wisdom & ways"

Note: Jesus's Sermon on the Mount: "You have heard that is was said..."

He was talking about rabbinical teaching, NOT O.T. truth.

Man's ways were walking all over God's ways...

Jesus pointed people back to Scripture!

Matthew 5:17-18 = *"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke pass from the Law until all is accomplished.*

shall

"thru His prophets" = God again WORKING IN & THRU PEOPLE (just like us)

Hebrews 1:1-2 = *In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.*

1 Peter 1:10 = *Concerning this salvation, the prophets... spoke of the grace that was to come to you...*

Note: *"I am no prophet..."* **YES, YOU ARE!** "Prophet" = spokes person for God (Acts 1:8)

"in the Holy Scriptures" = We need no more... & accept no less!

Key Points: *ALL Scripture is God breathed...* (**2 Timothy 3:16**)

- The Old Testament is every bit as inspired as the red letters in your N.T.

Recognize... the "Good News" is ALSO the "old news"

If you're a gospel transformed Christian... **YOU are a "prophet,"** a "spokes person" for God... whether you want to be or not.

Question is.... "What are you saying about & for your crucified King?"

Question is... "How consistent are you?"

Question is... "Are your lips & your life in agreement?"

--- **"Lips lie. Lives tell the truth."** - JDP

PERSON

"...regarding His Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord."

Jesus is both God, and man... both the Content & Conduit of the Gospel.

John 1: 1-5 = *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

One of the 300+ O.T. prophecies said the Messiah would be “a descendant of David”
Both Mary (Jesus’ earthly mom, & Joseph, Jesus’ legal dad, were descendants of David

Hebrews 4:15 = *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.*

Isaiah 53 (brings together the Promise, Prophets, & Person of the gospel)

Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 2 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. 3 He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? 9 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand 11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Philippians 2:5-8 = *Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made*

in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

For more direct Scriptural support... read 1 John 4:2-3

POWER & PROOF

A) Resurrection of Jesus, the Christ...

Acts 13: 29-33 = *"When they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. (v.30) **"But God raised Him from the dead;** and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people. "And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus..."*

1 Corinthians 15: 17-20 = *"...if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep."*

"declared" = Gk. root = English "horizon" - the boundary between heaven & earth...
Jesus, like that line, touched both. heaven & earth
Jesus, like that line, = both a "barrier & Bridge"

"By that supreme demonstration of His ability to conquer death, a power belonging to only God Himself (the Giver of life), He established beyond all doubt, that He was/is indeed God, the Son." = John MacArthur

B) *"...according to the spirit of holiness."*

Definition = according to the nature & work of the Holy Spirit
God, the Holy Spirit was active in:

Jesus' supernatural incarnation
Jesus' supernatural life & ministry (Holy, Sinless, Miraculous)
Jesus' supernatural resurrection

The God/Man... Our Servant King... the One & Only Jesus, the Christ:

Mt 17: The "man" who paid taxes... the God who supernaturally provided...

Mk 4: The “man” who was exhausted... the God who controlled mother nature...

Lk 23: The “man” who would die an excruciating, torturous death...
the God who would grant salvation by grace, thru faith from the cross!

Qt: “Paul is declaring: “This Son of God & Son of Man who was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit was Jesus Christ our Lord...”

“Jesus” means Savior

“Christ” means Anointed One

“Lord” means Sovereign Ruler

He is Jesus because He saves His people from their sin.

He is Christ because He has been anointed by God as King...

He is Lord because He is God... sovereign ruler of the universe.” - MacArthur

PROVISION

*“...through whom we **have received** grace and apostleship...”*

Every biblical Christian (a.k.a. “true Christ-follower”) has been...

“Saved & Sent”

“Adopted & Assigned”

“Rescued for Reconnaissance”

Ephesians 2:8-9 = “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith -- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Qt: “Salvation does not come by baptism, by confirmation, by communion, by church membership, by church attendance, by keeping the Ten Commandments, by trying to live up to the Sermon on the Mount, by serving other people, or even by serving God. It does not come by being morally upright, respectable, and self-giving. Nor does it come by simply believing that there is a God or that Jesus Christ is His Son. Even the demons recognize such truths (see Mark 5:7; James 2:19). Salvation comes only when a person repenting of sin receives by faith the gracious provision of forgiveness offered by God through the atoning work of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.” - John MacArthur

“grace”

Definition: God’s totally unmerited favor!

Grace is when God gives you what you don’t deserve... and “Mercy” is demonstrated when God withholds from you what you DO deserve.

Qt: “Love that gives upward is Worship. Love that goes outward is Affection. Love that stoops down is Grace.” - Donald Grey Barnhouse

2 Corinthians 8: 9 = “You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”

1 Corinthians 2:9 = (Paul, quoting Isaiah...) "...as it is written: 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him,' but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit."

Qt: Carl Barth: "Only when grace is recognized to be incomprehensible is it grace."

Qt: RK Hughes: "If we think we understand God's love & grace, we are probably without it."

Qt: (unknown): "Grace is the only thing that can make us like God. I might be dragged thru heaven, earth, and hell, and I would still be the same sinful, polluted wretch unless God Himself should cleanse me by His grace."

Every "slave" that has been "called" & "set apart" by Christ Jesus, has received the unimaginable and eternal game-changing **provision** of God's grace, along with the purpose-giving assignment of sharing the "God's Gospel" as a "sent-one."

2 Peter 1: 3 = "His divine power has given us everything we need for life & godliness..." (a.k.a. "grace")

No Christian has ever been Called & Converted w/out also be Commissioned!

Read: **Acts 1:8**

Read **Matthew 28:18-20**

Read **Ephesians 2:10 - "For we are God's workmanship, created in-Christ Jesus to do good works..."**

PROCLAMATION

"to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles..." (1:5b)

EVERY biblical believer... EVERY "Slave" of Christ Jesus that has been "Summoned/Called" to be a "Sent-One that is Sent-Out," acknowledging all the while that they have been "Set Apart," "FOR THE GOSPEL OF GOD," is COMMANDED to Witness for Christ... in order to...
"bring about the obedience of faith" - in others.

Calling people to obedience of faith = fulfilling the Great Commission!

Consequently, there is no such thing as obedient, "Quiet Christianity."
Moreover, there is no such thing as consistently-disobedient Christianity.

Qt: "It is not that faith plus obedience equals salvation, but rather, that obedient faith equals salvation.... Genuine faith is obedient faith. Obedient faith proves itself true, whereas disobedient faith proves itself false." - John MacArthur

James ch. 2 is brutally clear... Faith without corresponding obedience is worthless!

What God's Word teaches is that when someone's life and lips do not match up in regards to their claims of being a Christian... their lives are the true indicator.

In short, the church world is full of people living lies...

And one of the many roles & responsibilities that God's "called, set apart, and sent-out, slaves" have been commanded to embrace is the loving proclamation of God's unwavering standards of holiness & righteousness for His children.

Go back and read Ephesians 2:8-9 and then 2:10 again... awesome book-ends!

"To take Lordship away from the Lord, is to take the Christian away from Christ!" - JDP

This is the thrust of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount... & wide/narrow path!

If that rubs you the wrong way, then go directly to:

Jude 3-4.... then

Titus 1: 11

NOTE: **Caution!**

"Doing" without "BEING," "hands without hearts" is REJECTED by Jesus!

*** Matthew 7:21-23**

Hebrews 12:14 = *"Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."*

PURPOSE

"...for His name's sake, among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ." (1:5c-6)

The Purpose of the Gospel... the Purpose of Creation... the Purpose of every Christian...

THE GLORY of GOD!!!

Chivalry vs. Christianity (Read/summarize **Acts 4-5**)

The People, Promise, Person (Jesus), Power, Proof, Provision, Proclamation, & Privileges of the Gospel have the same, shared, singular Purpose...

Bring GLORY to GOD!

While the Gospel is *for* you... It is **NOT *about* you.**

Our salvation is a *fruit* of God's grace, but the *root* of grace is to display God's glory!

Philippians 2:10-11 = *"...at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

2 Corinthians 4:15 = *“All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.”*

Biblical Christians live Christ-like lives for the glory of God... period!

PRIVILEGES

*“to all who are **beloved** of God in Rome, **called** as **saints**; **Grace** to you and **peace** from God our **Father** and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (1:7)*

We are God’s “beloved”

Jeremiah 31: 3 = *“I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have drawn you with loving-kindness.”*

Ephesians 2: 4-5 = Paul declares that God is *“rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our sins.”*

Ephesians 4:1 = assures we, the beloved, that nothing can *“separate us from the love of Christ...”* We are God’s “called”

Adapted from R.K. Hughes: **John 3:16...**

<i>“For God...</i>	The greatest Lover
<i>so loved...</i>	The greatest expression
<i>the world...</i>	The greatest quantity
<i>that He gave...</i>	The greatest act
<i>His only begotten Son...</i>	The greatest Gift
<i>that whosoever...</i>	The greatest opportunity
<i>believes...</i>	The greatest simplicity
<i>in Him...</i>	The greatest attraction
<i>will not perish...</i>	The greatest promise
<i>but...</i>	The greatest contrast
<i>have...</i>	The greatest guaranty
<i>everlasting life.”</i>	The greatest reality.

We are God’s “called” (synonym for “elect” and “predestined”)

Romans 8:30-31 = *“...those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. What, then, shall we say in response to this? **If God is for us, who can be against us?**”*

CRITICAL NEED FOR UNDERSTANDING... God’s “elect” vs. our “select”

Doctrine of Election: Matthew 20:15-16; John 15:16 & 17:9; Acts 13:48; Romans 9:14-15 & 11:5; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Ephesians 2:8-9; Colossians 1:3-5; 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 1:9 & 2:10; 1 Peter 1:1-2; Revelation 13:8 & ch. 17 v.8 & v.14.

We are God's "saints"

"Saints" in Gk. = "set apart, holy ones of God"

Remember: **We are not called because we are saints...**
We are saints because we are called!

The real saints of God are the real Church of Jesus Christ!

"Being the Church" means LOVING GOD & LOVING PEOPLE...

John 13: 34-35 = *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

1 Peter 1:22 = *"Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart."*

1 John 3:18 = *"Let us not love each other with word & tongue, but in action and in truth."*

1 Peter 4:8 = *"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."*

Lastly... as a beloved, called, saint...

You get the eternal privilege of:

GRACE

PEACE

ADOPTION

DADDY (Abba/Father)

CLOSE:

When you pull all Privileges & Promises Romans 1:1-7 together, you see Gospel...

“Daddy” God’s “beloved,”
Grace-gifted, Peace-powered “slaves,”
Adopted thru “Christ Jesus,”
“Called,” (a.k.a. chosen, elected, predestined)
as “saints,”
“sent-ones”-“sent out,”
and “set apart,”
as God’s holy ones,
to proclaim His:
Promise,
Prophecies,
Person,
Power,
Proof,
Provision,
Purpose,
and Privileges...
(a.k.a. the grace)
of God...
AMEN!

What a Portrait of Privilege & Promise!

Let’s Pray!