SESSION ONE

Set Apart for the Gospel · Romans 1:1

ROMANS

The Gospel Blueprint

A Group Study to Go with the Sunday Sermons

Sundays · Grace Fellowship of Kent · 10:45 AM

Any church or ministry is welcome to use it. When it bears fruit, please send your stories to Grace Fellowship of Kent at gracekent.org

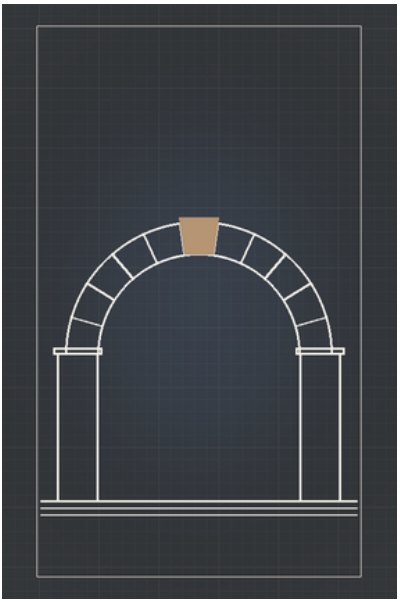
ROMANS 1:1

Set Apart for the Gospel

- Watch the sermon "Set Apart for the Gospel" on the Jesse Campbell Ministries YouTube channel, or hear it in person Sundays at 10:45 AM at Grace Fellowship of Kent.

- Apply your life to the Bible alongside your group or family with the honest questions in this lesson.

- Be sure to close with "The Takeaway" and keep a journal of answered prayer requests in your final minutes together.



This session and its sermon both come from Romans 1:1, the first verse of the letter.
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Context

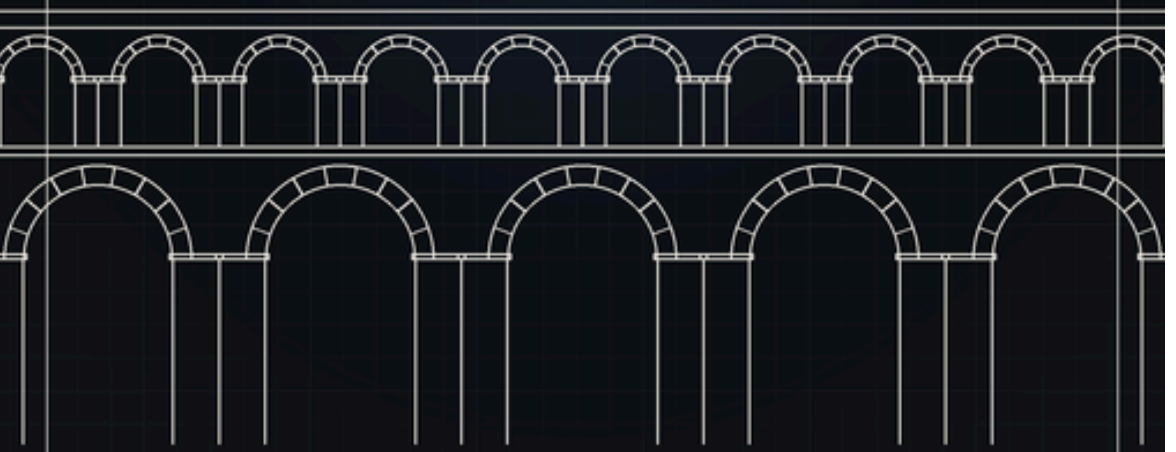
Paul wrote Romans around AD 57, most likely from Corinth, near the end of his third missionary journey (Acts 20:2–3). He had never been to Rome, but he longed to visit (Romans 1:10–13) and hoped the church there would help send him on to Spain (Romans 15:24). Rome was the capital of the empire, famous for its roads, arches, and aqueducts. The believers there came from Jewish and non-Jewish backgrounds and met in homes around the city (Romans 16:3–5). So Paul begins by introducing himself. In one verse he tells them whom he belongs to, what God called him to do, and what his whole life is for: the gospel of God.

The Big Idea of the Text

Paul introduced himself as a servant of Christ Jesus, called by God and set apart for the gospel of God.

Connecting the Session to the Sermon:

This Sunday, November 15, Redemption Church joins Grace Fellowship of Kent, and our first sermon together opens the book of Romans. Romans begins the way Paul begins, by telling us who he is. Before Paul says anything about himself, he names Jesus. He calls himself a servant, someone who belongs to Christ Jesus. He did not appoint himself; God called him. And he was set apart for one purpose: the gospel, the good news about God's Son (Romans 1:3–4). Rome was a city of arches, and a Roman arch is locked in place by its keystone, the stone at the top. In Paul's life, that keystone was Jesus. Our lives hold together the same way when they are built on Jesus and given to His good news.



Biblical Text (CSB) - Romans 1

1:1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures— 3 concerning his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was a descendant of David according to the flesh 4 and was appointed to be the powerful Son of God according to the Spirit of holiness by the resurrection of the dead. 5 Through him we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the Gentiles, 6 including you who are also called by Jesus Christ.

7 To all who are in Rome, loved by God, called as saints.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you because the news of your faith is being reported in all the world. 9 God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in telling the good news about his Son—that I constantly mention you, 10 always asking in my prayers that if it is somehow in God's will, I may now at last succeed in coming to you. 11 For I want very much to see you, so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you, 12 that is, to be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

13 Now I don't want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I often planned to come to you (but was prevented until now) in order that I might have a fruitful ministry among you, just as I have had among the rest of the Gentiles. 14 I am obligated both to Greeks and barbarians, both to the wise and the foolish. 15 So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written: The righteous will live by faith.

18 For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth, 19 since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, that is, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what he has made. As a result, people are without excuse. 21 For though they knew God, they did not glorify him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became worthless, and their senseless hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, four-footed animals, and reptiles.

24 Therefore God delivered them over in the desires of their hearts to sexual impurity, so that their bodies were degraded among themselves. 25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served what has been created instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen.

26 For this reason God delivered them over to disgraceful passions. Their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. 27 The men in the same way also left natural relations with women and were inflamed in their lust for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in their own persons the appropriate penalty of their error.

28 And because they did not think it worthwhile to acknowledge God, God delivered them over to a corrupt mind so that they do what is not right. 29 They are filled with all unrighteousness, evil, greed, and wickedness. They are full of envy, murder, quarrels, deceit, and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, arrogant, proud, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 senseless, untrustworthy, unloving, and unmerciful. 32 Although they know God's just sentence—that those who practice such things deserve to die—they not only do them, but even applaud others who practice them.

Applying Our Lives to the Text Together

1. Read Romans 1:1 aloud. Paul introduces himself in three short phrases: "a servant of Christ Jesus," "called as an apostle," and "set apart for the gospel of God." Now, explain why Christians will just never fit in unless they compromise biblical doctrine.
2. Describe what a servant is. Paul's first words about himself are "a servant of Christ Jesus." What would it look like this Tuesday to live like you belong to Jesus, not to yourself?
3. Notice that Paul names Jesus before he names his own job. Be honest: where are you putting your own plans, comfort, or reputation ahead of Jesus?
4. Paul was "called as an apostle." Consider his past: he did not choose the job; God chose him (Acts 9:15), even though he had once attacked the church (Acts 9:1–2). What does that show you about God's grace? Who have you given up on that God could still call?
5. Explain the gospel in one sentence. Paul was "set apart for the gospel of God," the good news about God's Son, Jesus (Romans 1:3–4). It is God's good news, not Paul's and not yours. How does that take the pressure off when you share it?
6. Most of us are not apostles, in fact all the apostles are in heaven. However, every believer belongs to Jesus and carries His good news (2 Corinthians 5:20). Who in your life needs to hear it, and what is one step you will take this week? Buck up. Let's grow.

The Takeaway: So What, Church?

Before Paul was anything else, he belonged to Jesus.
If you trust Jesus, you belong to Him too.
Give your life to His good news.
Pray by name for one person who needs to hear the good news about Jesus, and ask God to open a door for you to share it this week. Like Paul, you belong to Jesus, and your life has a purpose in His gospel. In Jesus' name, Amen!

For Parents:
How do you start a letter? Paul started his letter to the church in Rome by telling them who he was. He did not brag about himself. He called himself a servant of Jesus. A servant is a helper who belongs to someone else. Paul was glad to belong to Jesus, because Jesus loved him and saved him. God also gave Paul a special job: telling people the good news about Jesus. If you trust Jesus, you belong to Him too, and you can tell others the good news! Ask your child: Who could you tell about Jesus this week?



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- Holy Dissident: Isaiah for Groups
- Letters to My Sons: The Pastoral Epistles
- Into The Fray: I Corinthians
- The God of All Comfort: II Corinthians
- Reason For Hope: 6 Presuppositional Apologetics Sessions for Groups
- The Sacred Acts: Ordinances of the Church
- The Revival Project: A Transformative Study of Nehemiah
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ABOUT PASTOR JESSE CAMPBELL

Dr. Jesse Campbell is the founder of Jesse Campbell Ministries (JCM). He launched The Redemption Church on the outskirts of Seattle, WA, in 2020. Beginning November 15, 2026, The Redemption Church joins Grace Fellowship of Kent.

Originally from the Pensacola, FL area, Jesse moved with his family to Nashville and worked at Lifeway Publishing before completing his pastoral education.

Jesse is married to his wife, Jessi, and they have had five children. Together they also run a conference for bereaved parents, in memory of their son, the Aiden's Hope Conference. When Jesse and Jessi aren't investing their time in JCM or their church family, you can find them on the bleachers cheering on many baseball and football games, or traveling.

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