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Romans 1:1, **“Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God...”**

Have you ever desired deeply to go visit among a people you have never met, and yet already know that you have a love for them? Usually, this is because you know up front that there is common ground, a like understanding, and a similar vision for the cause of Christ. This was the case for Paul as he wrote the book of Romans. Notice his words in Acts 19:21, **“After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there I must also see Rome.”** When someone says “I must” it means they are compelled to do so with a strong desire.

Paul was an apostle, called and set aside by God, to preach the gospel (the good news of Jesus Christ). In Acts 9:3 we find the Lord made Himself known to Paul in a dramatic way, by shining a great light (The Holy Spirit) upon him which came directly from Heaven. His calling as an apostle came strictly from God for Jesus told him, **“I am Jesus whom thou persecutest”** (Acts 9:5) and then continued by telling Paul to **“Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do”** (vs. 6).

The latter part of Romans 1:1 states that Paul was **“separated unto the gospel of God.”** If one is separated, then they are removed from one place, or one condition, to another place or condition. They are no longer where they were. Paul, now born of the Spirit of God, Quickened by the Lord’s power, Called by an Holy Calling, Circumcised in the Heart, and Drawn by God’s love; is no longer the same person. Even his name will be changed from Saul to Paul. He has been separated from the teachings of the law, the high priest, and the Sanhedrin Council; to the teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord. No longer is Paul seeking to do harm unto the cause of Christ, but rather to now say, **“Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”** Notice what Paul said to the young preacher Timothy concerning the gospel, **“But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath**

abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel..." (II Timothy 1:10). Paul was sharing with Timothy his own experience; that of the gospel declaring the work of Christ and what God had done for him. The gospel did not separate Saul to Paul, nor did it change his nature. The gospel of Christ told him what Jesus had done for him as it tells us today that Salvation is of the Lord, and Him alone.

Bottom Line: Paul no longer declared the teachings of the law, but rather the teachings of the gospel. What wonderous power rests in the Spirit of God. Think About It!