



How To Be A Good And Faithful Servant

Romans 1:1-17 (Part 1)
#1 in a series on Romans
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Introduction To The Book.

1. The circumstances.
2. The central message.
3. The content.

The Servant's Basic Identity.

1. A bond-servant of Christ Jesus. (1; cf. Luke 9:23-24; Philippians 2:5-7)
2. A messenger of God. (1; cf. Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:15-26; 14:4, 14; Romans 16:7; 1 Corinthians 15:7; 2 Corinthians 8:23; Galatians 1:19; 2:9; Ephesians 2:20; 4:7; Philippians 2:25; Hebrews 3:1))
3. A person set apart for the gospel. (1; cf. Acts 9:15-16; 13:1-3; Galatians 1:15)

October 4, Part 2:

The Servant's Service To The Church
The Servant's Service To The World

In My Life This Week

(As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.)

Monday. Read Romans 1:1-17. This is Paul's introduction to himself and his subject. He states his focus or theme in verses 16-17—the gospel, the good news of Christ Jesus. Memorize these two verses this week (if you already have, refresh them), and keep them front and center in your thoughts as we move through the book.

Tuesday. As Paul shares some things about himself he reveals part of what made him successful. On Sunday we described success with Jesus words in Matthew 25, “Well done, my good and faithful servant.” Being a good and faithful servant begins with who and what we are, our basic identity.

Paul described himself as “a bond-servant of Christ Jesus” (1:1). A bond-servant was not free to explore options, move to different places or into different things, but had to follow his or her master's will. Read Philippians 2:5-7 to refresh the attitude that is to drive our being God's servants. Are you really a bond-servant of Christ Jesus? As a reminder of your commitment to be bound to Him, tie two fingers together with a string or thread on your non-writing hand for the rest of today.

Wednesday. Another part of Paul's basic identity was being called by God as an apostle (1:1). The word apostle basically refers to one who is sent, a messenger. While we are not apostles in a *technical sense* as Paul was, each one of us who knows Christ has been commissioned by Him as His messenger (see Matthew 28:29-10). At this midpoint of the week, can you say that a basic part of who you have been, what you have been about has been being Christ's messenger in how you relate and speak to others?

Thursday. The final part of a good and faithful servant's basic identity we noted on Sunday was being set apart for the gospel (1:1). This applies to each and every believer, not just to pastors, missionaries and other *full time* workers. Christ has saved you from sin and the world to Himself and His service. Your vocation in the marketplace or home can and should be a channel for living out this new identity.

Friday/Saturday. Have you memorized Romans 1:16-17? On Sunday we plan to take a second look at being a good and faithful servant, focusing on our service to the church and world. Read and think through 1:1-17 as you prepare for our time together.

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