

ROMANS 1



Romans 1:1-7

Read pages 1-8 in the accompanying PCF Devotional Commentary.

Devotional Reflection

Paul opens his letter to the Romans by declaring his identity as a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ—called not by merit, but by grace. His calling was grounded in Christ’s resurrection, the defining moment that turned despair into hope and confusion into clarity. The risen Lord revealed Himself as more than a wise teacher or miracle worker; He is the very Son of God. That revelation turned Paul’s life—and the world—upside down.

Now we who are not apostles like Paul are still invited into that same grace and called into the work of Christ’s Kingdom. We are disciples, known by name, written in the Book of Life, and called to the obedience of faith for the glory of Jesus’ Name among the nations. In this calling, we find meaning, strength, and peace through our union with the risen Christ.

Prayer

Gracious Father, thank You for the grace that called Paul and for the same grace that calls me today. I praise You for the risen Lord Jesus Christ whose resurrection changes everything, bringing life, purpose, and power to those who follow Him. Just as the early apostles were transformed by the truth of the gospel, so may I be a faithful disciple, walking in the obedience of faith for the sake of His Name. Lord, fill me with the same boldness and joy that turned the world upside down, and let my life reflect the glory of the One Who conquered death. May I rest daily in Your grace

and peace, living as one set apart to belong to Jesus. In His Name I pray, Amen.

Questions for Reflection

1. How has the resurrection of Jesus changed the way I view my own life, purpose, and calling as a follower of Christ?
2. In what ways am I responding to God's grace with the "obedience of faith" in my daily life?
3. If Paul was called to proclaim Jesus among the nations, where and how might God be calling me to reflect Jesus in the place He has planted me?

Personal Reflection

Romans 1:8-13

Read pages 9-12 in the accompanying PCF Devotional Commentary.

Devotional Reflection

Paul longed to visit the church in Rome, not out of duty but out of deep affection and spiritual desire. He had proclaimed the gospel across many regions, but he knew the joy of Christian fellowship was more than simply sharing doctrine: it was about being mutually strengthened in the faith. The resurrection of Jesus had changed everything, and the bond it created among believers turned ordinary friendships into supernatural fellowships of grace.

Paul saw this kind of fellowship as vital. It wasn't an accessory to the gospel: it was one of its clearest expressions. When believers share their stories, their burdens, and their joys, they testify that Jesus is alive and at work. Such gatherings are not optional; they are the soil in which truth nurtures obedience and love leads to action. Our fellowship should be a foretaste of heaven—welcoming, joyful, and Christ-centered—shining brightly in a darkened world.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank You for the transforming power of the gospel, rooted in the resurrection of Jesus and confirmed by the fellowship of Your people. As Paul longed for mutual encouragement among believers in Rome, stir in me the same longing for fellowship that strengthens faith, confirms hope, and deepens love. Teach me to cherish the Church as a gift of Your grace; not merely a place I attend, but a people I belong to. May our gatherings reflect heaven and our unity display Christ's love to a watching world. Help us live out our faith together, where Your truth is seen in practice and love becomes action. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Questions for Reflection

1. Do I see Christian fellowship as essential to my growth in Christ, or do I treat it as optional? Why?
2. How has hearing another believer's testimony helped affirm or strengthen my own walk with Jesus?
3. What practical steps can I take to help make my church a place of genuine, Spirit-filled fellowship?

Personal Reflection

Romans 1:14-17

Read pages 13-16 in the accompanying PCF Devotional Commentary.

Devotional Reflection

In these foundational verses, Paul boldly proclaims the power and glory of the gospel—a message that rescues humanity from sin, not by works but by faith. The truth that salvation comes by grace through faith set Paul’s soul on fire and later ignited the heart of Martin Luther, whose rediscovery of this very passage launched the Protestant Reformation.

Luther’s joy in this gospel shines through the words of his hymn, *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, where he declares that God’s Word, not earthly power, endures forever. At the core of the gospel is this: Salvation is God’s free gift. Even the faith that reaches out to receive this gift is itself a gift from God. We cannot earn it, deserve it, or boast in it—only receive it with humility and thanksgiving.

This truth is not just theological; it’s deeply personal. The same gospel that transformed Paul and Luther is the gospel that saves us today. We are sinners in need of grace, and God has lovingly provided all we need through Christ. In a world filled with striving, the gospel bids us to rest in what Christ has done. That is the message we must never be ashamed to proclaim.

Prayer

Lord God, thank You for the gospel—the good news that salvation comes not by my efforts but through the gracious gift of faith in Jesus Christ. Just as You opened Paul’s heart, and later Martin Luther’s, open mine anew today. Let me stand unashamed of the gospel, trusting in its power to save and transform. Help me to rest in Your grace, to rejoice in Your justice, and to boldly share the truth that Your kingdom is forever. In the Name of Jesus, Amen.

Questions for Reflection

1. Am I resting in the gift of salvation by grace, or am I still trying to earn God's approval through my efforts?
2. Why is it sometimes difficult to proclaim the gospel boldly, as Paul did? What fears or doubts get in the way?
3. How can I allow God's Word to shape my daily life with the same conviction that transformed Paul and Luther?

Personal Reflection

Romans 1:18-25

Read pages 17-26 in the accompanying PCF Devotional Commentary.

Devotional Reflection

In Romans 1:18-25, Paul confronts us with the reality of God's righteous wrath against ungodliness and unrighteousness—specifically, those who suppress the truth even though God's existence and divine nature are clearly revealed in creation (vv 19-20). The tragedy is not ignorance, but willful rejection: Although they knew God, they did not honor Him or give Him thanks; instead, their thinking became futile and their hearts were darkened. In refusing to glorify God and give Him thanks, humanity stumbled into idolatry, exchanging the Creator for created things. In response, God “gave them up” to follow the lusts of their hearts. This sobering passage reminds us that the gospel is necessary: Without Jesus, we remain under God's judgment, blinded by our own desires.

Prayer

Holy and righteous Father, forgive me for the times I have suppressed Your truth, neglected to honor You, or failed to give thanks for Your goodness. Thank You for revealing Yourself to me through creation and most clearly through Jesus Christ. Grant me a humble, grateful heart that willingly glorifies You, not exchanging Your truth for lies. Bring me back from the darkness of my own thinking into the light of faith, where I worship not created things but the Creator. In the Name of Jesus, our Creator and Redeemer, Amen.

Questions for Reflection

1. Which sins listed in this passage am I tempted to excuse or downplay in my own life? Why?

2. Do I find myself more troubled by the sins of others than by my own? What does that reveal about my heart?

3. What does it mean for me to live today in joyful obedience, not as one abandoned by God but as one rescued by His grace?

Personal Reflection

Romans 1:26-32

Read pages 27-32 in the accompanying PCF Devotional Commentary.

Devotional Reflection

In Romans 1:26-32, Paul offers a sober portrait of humanity's descent when God's loving restraint is withdrawn. Because people rejected God's truth and exchanged His glory for falsehood, they were given over to dishonorable passions—women and men alike casting aside God's created order in pursuit of their own lusts. This passage reveals how rebellion against the Creator warps not only desires but also reasoning, plunging hearts into moral darkness.

The consequences compound. Minds become debased, unable to discern right from wrong, and deeds follow; a litany of sins fills human lives—envy, hatred, deceit, cruelty, and more. Note that Paul doesn't isolate one behavior, rather, he illuminates the comprehensive corruption of human nature when it discards its divine foundation. In this light, the gospel shines all the brighter and it alone rescues from the spiral of self-justified rebellion and restores hearts to their true purpose. Without such redemption, we are left with the stark reality of depravity. May we never take lightly God's patience or the price of turning away: hell.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I confess my tendency to substitute Your perfect truth for temporal pursuits, to follow my corrupt desires rather than Your will. Forgive me for the ways I mirror the world's moral darkness when my heart drifts away from You. Thank You that through Christ's redeeming work, I can be reclaimed, renewed, and restored to a life that honors You. Grant me clarity of mind, purity of heart, and faith that clings to You when the world tries to pull me away from You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Questions for Reflection

1. In what areas of my life have I exchanged a Creator-defined good for a human-devised substitute? What lies might I be clinging to?

2. In what ways has sin distorted not only my actions but my thinking and my heart's affections?

3. How does the gospel counter the spiral of corruption described here and anchor me to truth, transformation, and hope?

Personal Reflection