LIFE 425 church

ROMANS: THE GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING

WEEK 1 Notes: "Set Apart for the Gospel"

Scripture Passage: (Romans 1:1-7)

Big Idea: Our identity, calling, and mission are centered on Jesus. Because of His grace, our lives can be filled with purpose and hope.

Key Greek Word: Doulos — servant, bondservant, or someone who belongs completely to another.

1. Our Identity Is Found in Jesus

Our identity is not ultimately found in:

- Our jobs
- Our accomplishments
- Our failures
- Our past
- Other people's opinions

Our deepest identity is found in belonging to Jesus.

2. God Gives Us a Calling

Paul was "called to be an apostle." Paul did not appoint himself. Jesus called him by grace. Paul's past did not disqualify him from God's purpose.

Every Christian is called to:

- Follow Jesus
- Live a holy life
- Love God and others
- Serve people
- Make disciples

3. We Are Set Apart for a Purpose

Paul was "set apart for the gospel of God." Being set apart does not mean hiding from the world. It means living for Jesus in the world. God has placed us in our families, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and communities for a reason. Ordinary places can become places of ministry.

4. The Gospel Is About Jesus

The gospel is not primarily a moral code, philosophy, political system, or self-improvement plan. The gospel is about Jesus.

Jesus:

- Came into the world
- Lived without sin
- Died for our sins
- Was buried
- Rose from the grave
- Offers forgiveness and new life

5. Grace Comes Before Obedience

Paul received grace before he received an assignment. We do not serve Jesus to earn His love. We serve because He has already loved us. We do not work for God's acceptance. We work from God's acceptance.

6. Our Mission Is to Make Jesus Known

Paul lived "for the sake of his name among all the nations." The gospel is for every person, every nation, every culture, and every generation. There is no person beyond the reach of God's grace.

We can make Jesus known by:

- Praying for others
- Encouraging someone
- Inviting someone to church
- Serving someone in need
- Sharing what Jesus has done in our lives

What This Means for Us

Our worship is more than singing. It is surrendering every part of our lives to Jesus. Grace helps us forgive, serve, love, and show patience to others. The church exists to glorify Jesus and help people discover the hope of the gospel. God has placed people around us who need encouragement, prayer, kindness, and hope.

Our Next Step

Remember who you are. Surrender the burdens you have been carrying. Look for an opportunity to bring hope to someone. Trust that God is not finished with your story. Begin each day by praying: "Jesus, I belong to You. My family, work, time, and future belong to You. Use my life for the sake of Your name."

Main Takeaway: Because of Jesus, we are loved, forgiven, called, and given a new purpose.

Our identity, calling, and mission are all centered on Christ