

The Only One Worthy
Paul highlights the impact of Christ
Blueprint for Breakthrough Series – Part 1
Romans 1:1-7
March 7-8, 2026

Introduction

- The Importance of a Christ-Centered Identity – I cannot imagine a more transformational Truth after the theology of who God is, than understanding our Identity in Jesus Christ. That's not hyperbole. Our actions and behaviors are dictated by our beliefs. What we believe about God indicates our level of worship and alignment. What we believe about ourselves indicates how we steward this life we've been given.
 - So many opinions – since the Garden... We have voices around us telling us what they think of us, and we have even more voices in our heads telling us what we SHOULD think of us. Unfortunately, all voices, except God's are tinged with dysfunction and bias. Even the most well-intentioned, loving voices in our lives cannot see or communicate who we are or what we are designed for.
 - The bias of placement – every generation and location is swimming in biased waters. When we are born, the place we live, colors everything. We are told that we are better or worse, more or less valuable, based on how we fit within our context. Wartime = toughness; peacetime = enlightenment; attractiveness standards. We are swirling with confusion and disappointment as we cannot be everything for every situation, nor please anyone fully at any time.
 - How false identity traps us – In this year of breakthrough let me take a moment to explain how a false or insufficient identity can hinder us from God's best. Adapt the analogy to your situation:
 - Value – if we believe that we are here for other people and they don't value us, we determine that we don't HAVE value. Thus...
 - Arrogance – if we believe ourselves to be gods, then we have full reign to do whatever we want. Thus...
 - Meaning – if we believe ourselves to be scientific accidents, cosmological happenstance, then what purpose can there be for us in this life?
 - BUT, what if something else is true? – but what if something else is true? What if those are false narratives we've been taught and embraced? What if we have deep value, have a proper place between safety and meaning? What if we were built by love and filled with purpose? How then shall we live?
 - Creator dictates – where would we go for the final word on our identity?

Jesus Tells Us Who We Are

- Brand New 27-part series begins TODAY!
 - Romans Series Theme – If we are going to experience breakthrough, we must know what Christianity really teaches...

- Live as if it's true - for breakthrough.
- Today's Theme – Paul knows who He is, whose He is, and what he's here on the planet to do. Do we?
- The Importance of the Book of Romans
 - Author – Paul
 - Circumstance of writing – Paul, near the end of his third missionary journey, is heading to the financially challenged Jerusalem church, then to stop by the church in Rome, then on to Spain if the Lord allows. Paul seems to have been on a 3-mth layover in Greece (specifically Corinth) when he wrote this letter, before setting out for Israel.
 - Date of writing – c. AD 57 – later in his ministry.
 - What do we know about the church in Rome? – founded by those who scattered there and not by an apostle at all. Jewish Christians, after Pentecost moved here. AD 49 = friction between Jews and Christians so that the Roman Emperor Claudius (ruled AD 41-54) expelled the "Jews". Those left would have been more Gentile Christian = Gentile ethos. Eventually Jews (and Jewish Christians) were allowed to return but the shift was done.
 - What do we know about the city of Rome during this period? - one million (the largest city in the world). Nero's reign as Caesar just begun.
 - Purpose of the epistle – no one knows: mission support? Unity? Judaism thru Christ view? Paul had never been here but had friends here.
 - Interesting bits – longest of Paul's letters. quotes the O.T. 57 times, more than any other N.T. book.
- Let's read our total section up front.
 - Romans 1:1-7 – *"Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."*
 - Now, let's break it down...

Lesson

- Slave of all
 - Paul's identity in Christ
 - Romans 1:1a – *"Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus,..."*
 - A word on Paul's introductions – speaks of his identity so effortlessly and naturally

- Paul – **had to rework everything** that he thought he knew. He **shifted everything in his life**. And when he made that change he went **ALL-IN**.
 - a servant – **'slave' = whatever God wants**. No fights for personal rights
 - of Christ Jesus - **'Christ' = Messiah**. The Son of God, Anointed One, as **Jesus**, the Middle-Eastern man.
- Application: Do we know who we are? – **Paul seems to flow with self-definition** that is in alignment with God's perspective. **Where did He get that?** From Christ Himself.
 - Traction – so much about being stuck in this life is **spinning our wheels due to lack of either direction or ability to get there**. A clear identity in Christ **not only sets our compass, but provides the traction to rise up out of the hole we are in and move forward into breakthrough**.
 - Once we know – **once we know who we are and what we are here for in the big picture, then we can ask the Lord to reveal our specific assignments within the greater story**. When we know our assignment, we can do two things: 1.) **pour our energy into the right things**; 2.) **let go of things that hinder that mission**.
- Floor (foundational) and Ceiling (authority)
 - Paul's role in the Church
 - **Romans 1:b – "called to be an apostle,..."**
 - called - **it was not his idea** to come out here and do this. **the Risen Christ** called him out and set him on mission.
 - to be an apostle – in a leadership context he is talking about **a specific foundational role in the church of authority**.
 - Application: What's our calling? - We all have a purpose. Calling and assignment are **two steps in the same concept**. **Calling is our big WHAT, assignment is our detailed WHAT**. Once we establish our identity and are grounded in who we are in Christ, **then we can talk about what we DO**. Our **calling** is usually found in **analyzing how God built us, what He's revealed about us specifically, and looking to see how that design fits into His greater kingdom plan**. For example: people-person, = relationally-related. intellectual = brain, thoughts, and ideas to influence the world.
 - What's our assignment – **Determining our calling helps us set a general compass direction but it can still leave us wondering what to do TODAY**. Discovering our **specific assignments**, helps us get traction and **do something right now**. **Assignments are usually discovered by looking practically at the world around us** and looking for fit. For example: studying and sharing our revelations OR, Midas Touch = invest into Kingdom initiatives.
- Purveyor of Good News
 - Paul's assignment in the world
 - **Romans 1:1c – "set apart for the gospel of God,..."**

- set apart – God gave him a **specific role. gospel preacher**
 - for the gospel of God - **be transformed** by the good news of Christ's offer of salvation and then give his life over to the conveyance of that message to the world that **others would be transformed by it.**
- A Long Time Coming
 - The release of the Gospel was planned long ago
 - **Romans 1:2-3a** – *“the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son,...*
 - which he promised beforehand – **big picture** whereby both Jews and Gentiles fit into it. **a promised message** in the Old Testament that included Gentiles today.
 - through his prophets in the holy Scriptures - 332 **Messianic references.**
 - concerning his Son - The good news is not just news, **it's someone, it's Jesus Christ.** He's the reason.
- Son of David
 - Jesus was in the Messianic lineage
 - **Romans 1:3b-** – *“his Son who was descended from David according to the flesh...*
 - who was descended from David according to the flesh – a very specific family lineage, that of King David. **Why? Messiah prophecy.** Mt 1, Luke 3 = **Both of Jesus' parents,** were descendants of David
- He's Alive!
 - The Resurrection vindicated Christ
 - **Romans 1:4** – *“and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,...*
 - and was declared to be the Son of God – marked out as...
 - Son of God – **son of God doesn't mean smaller God,** or once there was not a son – God. **It means that in relation to their roles in the Godhead (Father, Son, Holy Spirit), they line up for effectiveness, each playing a different part of the fulfillment.** In the lineup of engaging with humanity (whether that be creation, salvation, or glorification), **the Father is the initiator and the Son flows from that initiation. The concept of Son simply puts things in order of flow.** But it additionally connects the Father and Son in essence. **They are both fully God.** Dogs beget dogs, cats beget cats, and God begets God. In other words, **it's a claim of divinity of Jesus Christ. There is no 'lesser GOD'. There is God or not God.**
 - in power – **although the Son of God was always** the Son of God, when He went to the cross in obedience, fulfilling a role He was sent to do, and then raised in power, **He was even more the Son of God in one sense. He**

was now ruling in that role as Son = a shift in reality because the Son of God shifted into a different type of rule and role and it involved power.

- according to the Spirit of holiness – Holy Spirit presented JC in His new ruling status after the HS raised Him from the dead proving one and for all He is who He said He is.
 - by his resurrection from the dead, - that one single event, that changed everything.
 - Jesus Christ our Lord, - He is not only the leader of all Christians, but He is ruler of all the universe.
- Partners for Life
 - The mission of the church
 - Romans 1:5 – *“through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,...*
 - through whom – Whatever is going to be said next it’s going to be BECAUSE of and THROUGH Jesus Christ.
 - we have received grace – grace means we didn’t earn it. It was something that only Jesus could provide.
 - and apostleship – a designation of apostle – sent on purpose.
 - to bring about the obedience of faith – the good news will invite believers in to a relationship whereby they will believe by faith that Jesus Christ is Lord. This will inaugurate a new life that results immediately into obedience
 - for the sake of his name – He is glorified.
 - among all the nations - GENTILES.
 - Application: To make Him known – There is a personal Christian faith but not a private one. We are called and assigned to tell other people about Him.
 - The Chosen
 - Paul addresses the Roman church’s identity
 - Romans 1:6-7a – *“including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:...*
 - including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, - Roman church = They were partners. They belong to Christ for He bought them with His blood.
 - who are loved by God – OT designation of Israel applied to Gentile Christians. Paul never wants them to forget the motivation that started all of this saving plan. It was always love.
 - and called to be saints - OT designation for Israel used for Gentile Christians. saved, sanctified, and transformed into saints saved by grace through faith. This means that they are in a new status with a new identity. Paul uses ‘saints’ at least 38 times to designate Christians. It highlights

that it's not based on behavior but on status because we 'have been sanctified' by Christ. That's significant for us to consider in our identity.

- Foundational Blessings
 - The meaning of Paul's standard greeting
 - *Romans 1:7b – "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."*
 - Grace to you – **the game changer**. Why?
 - and peace – **Peace is the result of grace internalized**. Why?
 - from God our Father – **Who initiated**.
 - and the Lord Jesus Christ – **who was the person of the Godhead who went from the Father down to us to get it done?**

Conclusion

- What do we need breakthrough for? **Again, bring it to mind. What are we facing? What has been keeping us from God's best?**
- All breakthrough will happen on the foundation of who we are in Christ.
 - Miracles = **through prayer** from **children of God and partnership** with the Holy Spirit. (things only God can do)
 - Sin-based habit patterns = **meet a legitimate need by illegitimate means**. (addictions, toxic relationships, cravings)
 - Misuse of our bodies = **improper view of what our bodies are and how we should think of them**. In Christ we see that we are a temple for the Holy Spirit. (body image issues, weight, health, sickness, disease, etc.)
 - Self-control issues **must be handled by the outpouring of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit giving us power to take back control of our lives**. (finances, compulsions)