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October 9, 2022 Meeker Christian Church Romans Series #3 1:3-7

Today we continue with our study in Romans chapter 1 with this question: By what or by whose authority do you speak on any subject? The Jews took credentials of authorities very serious – to the point that if a prophecy proved false the prophet was killed. That is another reason behind the careful recording and identifying those 300+ prophecies we spoke of last week. They were credential for Jesus and His message!

But wait a minute, do you realize just how much importance you attached to the authority behind the resource for every counsel and for decisions in your life? For instance, I cannot imagine any of you asking me to repair a storm downed electric line, set a broken arm or even explain how to use a pesky telephone! We just intuitively seek counsel or help from persons known to us as qualified for that which we seek an answer.

A reason this is such a valuable reminder from Paul is because of the increase of the tool of deception satan is using in every aspect of our society. I will address that more specifically in an upcoming sermon.

Those first century Jews and the gentiles to whom Paul was set apart and called to proclaim the gospel, wanted to know the credentials of this Jesus whom Paul was speaking. They already had a list of Priests, the High Priest and political dictators of the so called “authorities” in their Jewish and Roman world with all their deceptive and outright lying tactics. So listen to Paul’s response to the question he knew was in their mind and must be in our minds as well: Romans 1:1-7 *Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— 2 the gospel **HE** promised beforehand through **HIS** prophets in the Holy Scriptures 3 regarding his Son, **who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, 4 and **who** through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: **Jesus Christ our Lord. 5 Through **HIM** we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name’s sake. 6 And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. 7 To all in Rome who are loved by*****

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God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

The unprecedented, impeccable, credentials of Jesus, the One whom we now know had all knowledge, all power, and all presence is really beyond Paul or anyone's ability to fully express. But Paul boldly and with supernatural inspired knowledge and understanding makes the statement we just read first for the Jews, then religious minded gentiles and finally to inquisitive persons receiving the message living then and for we who live today.

Examine with me verse 3 *regarding his Son, who as to HIS earthly life was a descendant of David.* This is extremely important to those of Jewish descent listening or reading Paul's message: At the time of Paul's writing there had been Jews in Rome for sometime. They knew the Old Testament prophetic promises of the Messiah and like their Jewish brethren were waiting in anticipation of His appearance along with suitable credentials to prove **He** was who **He** said **He** was. ///Now remember this explanation is in regard to JESUS' earthly life. Credentials for Jesus were not new, they had already been given to some to whom the Gospel of Matthew and whom the apostles had instructed as we see in Matthew 1:1 *The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:* That is one of many definitive proofs that Jesus was indeed of Jewish descent and fulfilling everything the Old Prophets had predicted. Verse 4 is the credentials for the gentile believers in Rome who worshiped alongside their now Jewish brethren who had become believers. Note again verse 3-4 *regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, 4 and who through the Spirit of holiness* ...From the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2 the Holy Spirit had been ever present in the lives of those who had understood the need for confessing and repenting of their sin, professing the acceptance of and faith in Jesus and following through with baptism. Look at Acts 2:38, Peter replied, *Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will*

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*receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.///* The Holy Spirit, the third essence of the trinitarian Godhead was made manifest on that Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus. It was the very presence of the almighty God reigning and receiving glory from the heavenly angels. The Holy Spirit was now empowering every God fearing, purpose driven, servant seeking, righteous living saint, endowed with the promised hope and eternal victory of heaven! The Holy Spirit was one of the credentials for verifying Jesus to the Jews and gentiles but was especially satisfying for the gentile believers.

Again, Romans 1:3-4, *regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, 4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Listen to another version of those two verses: ~~International Children's Bible version~~ Romans 1:3-4 *The Good News is about God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. As a man, he was born from the family of David. But through the Spirit of holiness he was declared to be God's Son with great power by rising from death.*

What Paul is saying to the Jews, the gentiles, and now even the idle curious is that the power source of Jesus' raising from the dead was God in a cosmic demonstration as the credential of Jesus being who He was prophesied, Holy Spirit emphasized, and crowned with the presentment of Himself to a multitude of eye-witnesses many of whom were alive at the time of Paul's writing, known by him, and recorded the event for the rest of us.

All that is yet a further declaration of the supernaturally planned and presented Savior to a lost and searching world population deceived, confused, bewildered, and tricked by the evil forces roaming and totally committed to corrupting and destroying any vestige of Holiness from the planet! Jesus' credentials were and remain perfect and unshakably reliable for application in our lives.

Looking back at our Roman 1 verses now, I draw your attention to Romans 1:5

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5 Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake.

Did you notice the term “Through Him” and consider it’s ramifications? The credentials/authority, knowledge, passion, understanding of sharing the gospel message with others is a result of and comes ONLY through and because of Jesus! **Without “Through Him”**/// the human existence on earth would be akin to the animal kingdom for which we have plenty of examples through the ages and into our own age as sometimes described a “dog eat dog” survival of the fittest resulting from the deception starting in Genesis 3. /// And history has proven that is exactly what has been done in many Godless cultures and in every war. IT IS ONLY, SINGULARLY, AND COMPLETELY BECAUSE OF JESUS CHRIST THAT CIVILIZATION HAS AND CAN CONTINUE TO EXIST. If you need more clarification spend some time in the book of Revelation in chapter 6 and following and see what will happen after the believers and consequence of Jesus are removed from the surface of the earth.

Now Back to Romans 1:5 Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake.

Paul moves from the credentials of the Savior to his own credentials that he received by appointment from the Savior. Some translation appear that the “we” in the verse was a singular reference to himself as the one called, but the “we” **may** also infer those who became his disciples. And if by succession in this verse context inference,/// then “we” believers of today rightfully must consider ourselves as workers alongside Paul with the same calling and credentials// for the same purpose of presenting the gospel to others. Notice how Paul characterizes the “we;” 5b received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience: grace= unmerited favor, apostleship = one called, all= everyone. That call does not provide time to waste in judging who should hear, but that call means=go tell others, all others everywhere!

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What is Paul instructing? The rest of verse 5 explains it; *to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake.* The theological revelation of the call to tell others is a combination source and purpose of obedience: *5c obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake.*

FIRST. Obedience comes from faith, not the other way around. Faith in KJV Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen.* Or in the English Standard Version *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

And in the ICB *Faith means being sure of the things we hope for. And faith means knowing that something is real even if we do not see it.*

I further reinforce that New Testament record with this from Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV  
**5** *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;*  
**6** *in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Now set back and do a little deductive reasoning about it for just a moment: The greater our faith, the greater our obedience. If we are having trouble being obedient to righteousness, then we must need check our faith growth and maturity! It is like a balanced diet and exercise, the more correct diet and exercise, the better our health. Obedience that comes from faith enriches our faith and increases our obedience so that our earthly life grows in being joyfilled and praise to God our Father no matter the circumstances because we have an eternal heavenly perspective to always focus on.

SECONDLY. the second theological revelation in that 5c verse: *obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake.* Doesn't that sound just like the importance that used to be attached to "the family name," in our culture? In other words Paul is saying – be obedient so the trinitarian name of Jesus and His instruction for the life He created you for because that will magnify HIS name and verify HIS credentials through your life. ///The alternative is a life becomes a stain on the name and reputation of Jesus by ones inattention or outright ignorance, whether intentionally or unintentionally.

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/// Credentials are settled, and in this next verse the mandate for the righteous adherents to Jesus is also settled. You my fellow believers are called! Romans 1: 6 And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. ///And so they could not miss the point, Paul adds verse 7 To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul clarifies to whom his letter is prepared, which are those in the Rome church of his generation. But that epistle has been saved and protected through the ages for all believers until the Lord returns. I find especially comforting that final sentiment: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

In these first 7 verses we have identified the Holy Spirit in the Trinity, and in closing Paul let's us know that grace (unmerited favor) and peace (acceptance of life circumstances by grasping the promises of eternal life) is the plan and provision of the Creator for His people.

For your wise consideration I leave you with a compelling application of today's verses in our everyday language:/// If you're looking for Christians to mess up, THEY WILL. If you're looking for pastors to say something wrong, THEY WILL. If you're waiting for that person that goes to church to look like a hypocrite, THEY WILL. If you're looking for dirt to dig up, YOU'LL FIND IT. The shortcomings of Christians are not proof that God is a sham. They're just proof that GOD is infinitely, powerful, patient and forgiving. Written by someone named Blake

You already know the only difference between any of us trying to be Christians and anybody who has not received Jesus is that we said "yes" to an invitation to accept Jesus and God's mercy and are growing in faith and obedience. If you need to make a decision or statement for Jesus or become a member of Meeker Christian Church as a co-laborer with Christ, then come forward and speak to me as we stand and sing our invitation song...