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THE MESSENGER AND THE MESSAGE

Romans 1:1-5

I. Messenger: Who is Paul and Why Should We Listen to Him? (v.1)

A. Paul's Attitude: Servant of Christ Jesus

- ο δούλος= "slave"
- "servant of the LORD" used regularly for Moses, David, Joshua, etc.

B. Paul's Authority: Called to be an Apostle

- The role of apostles in early Christianity
- Key characteristic of an apostle: they have seen the risen Lord

C. Paul's Purpose: Set Apart for the Gospel

- Ἀθωρισμένος = "set apart" as a tribute to God (e.g., Ex 13:12)
- Paul introduces theme of his letter: "Gospel of God"

II. Message: What is the "Gospel of God" All About? (v.2-5)

A. Promised Beforehand (v.2)

- The Gospel is not so much something new, as it is the completion of something old
- "through the prophets in the Holy Scriptures": God's redemptive plan was promised in the OT!

B. Concerning His Son (v.3-5)

- Humiliation: Who was descended from David
γενομένου= "who has come"
- Exaltation: Who was declared Son of God in Power
- Application: Through Whom We Receive Grace
 - So that we might obey
 - So his name might be spread among the nations

Discussion Groups

1. What would it look like for your life to be “set apart” for the Gospel like Paul’s?

2. What characteristic of Jesus stood out to you from this passage? How did it encourage you?

3. How should Jesus’ position of power and exaltation change/affect your everyday life?
