

# Grace, Peace

## A Commissioning Message

Romans 1:7

**Rock Hill Baptist Church**  
**605 Rock Hill Road**  
**Lexington, Tennessee 38351**

**Pastor David Buffaloe**  
**731-845-6104**  
online at [bibleteacher.org](http://bibleteacher.org)



**FOCAL Read Together** Romans 1:7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Have you ever heard of an architect called Christopher Wren? He lived in England in the eighteenth century, and virtually built the entire city of London. His most famous achievement was Saint Paul's Cathedral, a beautiful structure that I and my family visited when we were stationed there several years ago.

One day Wren visited the construction site of Saint Paul's. He saw a stonemason at work and asked him "What are you doing?" The man replied, "I'm cutting stone". He asked a carpenter working not too far away what he was doing. That man replied, "I'm breaking my back for five shillings a day". Wren kept walking around the construction site and saw a lowly, untrained man sweeping up debris. Wren asked him, "What are you doing?" The man looked up and smiled, saying, "I'm helping Sir Christopher Wren build Saint Paul's Cathedral".

Of the three men, only one – the lowly sweeper – was able to look beyond what he was doing and see something greater. The Apostle Paul was like that third man. Though Paul was imprisoned for his faith he did not let his imprisonment be the main thing in his life. Paul looked beyond the immediate and saw eternal things. When Paul was warned by the Prophet Agabus not to enter Jerusalem the Apostle said:

**Acts 21:13 ... I am ready not to be bound only, but**

**also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.**

His focus was on Jesus and on serving Him. Though Paul often went on missionary trips with Barnabas, he separated from him when his friend wanted to bring his unfaithful nephew John Mark along. Paul wanted nothing hindering the great work of Christ set before him.

In our day we might be tempted to call people like Paul “fanatics” or “zealots”. Call him what you will, but we need more fanatics like Paul in the Christian Church. I and my wife enjoyed a New Year's Day lunch with some dear friends while we watched the Tennessee Vols play Wisconsin in the Outback Bowl. While I watched the television cameras panned the crowd and, to my amazement, I saw a woman wearing a wedge of cheese on her head. That image stuck in my mind. I have often seen people paint their faces, their bodies, and put on strange outfits to be worn in public while supporting their favorite football team.

What if Christians “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” like that woman put that cheese hat on her head? What if we just didn't talk about our faith, but what if we lived it for all to see? If we did then we could change our world. We have a message of “**Grace and Peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**”. If we could share that message in both word and *deed* we would see America return to its godly roots. We would change the world – one person at a time – and bring many more into a right relationship with God. But we cannot do this while our focus is anywhere *but* on Christ.

You who are God's Beloved are people of purpose. You who are **called to be Saints** have a divine message to share with the world, that “**whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved**” (Romans 10:13). This is God's work that we are engaged in. Be like the lowly street sweeper and look beyond the immediate and into the eternal.

For we are helping Jesus Christ build a Kingdom, for the glory of God forever. Amen!

### **1. Saved People Are “Beloved” of God**

**FOCAL** Romans 1:7 **To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints ...**

The Apostle loved to call God's people “**Beloved**”. *Eight times* in this letter Paul speaks to the “**Beloved**”, the people of God. God's people are much loved. There was a time when we were not “**Beloved**”, but there was never a time when we were not loved. Even when we were dead in sin, not knowing nor even caring that God loved us, the Bible said:

**John 3:16** **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

This is the message that God wants us to carry into the world, that **God loved us enough to sacrifice Himself for us**. God was willing to step away from eternity and, in an astounding act of charity, allow our sins to be

poured out on Him. Jesus Himself:

**Isaiah 53:12 ... poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**

There are many people in the world today who need to know the difference between the love that God has toward Peter, and the love that God has toward Judas. Judas was loved of Christ but would not love Him back, and died in his sin. Peter was loved of Christ and, responding to that love, was saved.

We who are saved are called “**Beloved**” because we have *accepted that love of God by faith*. Those of you who are **Beloved** heard the Gospel preached, heard that Jesus Christ died for your sins, and *you believed on Him unto salvation*. You are in the world, but not of the world.

## **2. The Beloved Share A Special Calling**

**FOCAL** Romans 1:7 ... beloved of God, **called to be saints**<sup>1</sup> ...

If you are “**Beloved**” you are also “**called to be saints**”.

1 G40, ἅγιος, hagios, *hag'-ee-os*, From ἅγιος hagios (an *awful* thing) compare G53, [H2282]; *sacred* (physically *pure*, morally *blameless* or *religious*, ceremonially *consecrated*): - (most) holy (one, thing), saint.

The word **saints** literally means “those who have been set apart”.

**ILLUSTRATE** Some believers from the beginning have taken the “set apartness” or sainthood of the believer to extremes. Some believers retire to monasteries and live secluded lives behind walls or chain link fences. Some believers, like rare birds, wear special clothing and only make themselves known at certain times during the week. I have heard of nocturnal creatures that only come out and feed when they cannot be seen by others. I have also met creatures that call themselves “Christian” that only speak of Christ when sitting in a Church building.

If you are the Beloved of God then you are set apart, just as a Bride is set apart for her Groom. You have all seen the Bride, lovely and adorned, walk the aisle to her Groom. She is “**set apart**” unto this one man for life. Even so you, dearly Beloved, are set apart for One Man. Jesus said of us:

**John 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.**

Though we are in the world, we are set apart by our Beloved relationship with Jesus. Just as He is **not of the world, neither are we of the world**. We are God's Beloved, His people. The world is yet bound in darkness.

**1 John 5:19 ... we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.**

We who are **Beloved set apart ones** have been given a Great Commission by our Savior. We obey not a Good Commission, but it is a **Great Commission**.

The love of Christ within us causes us to recognize the whole world must be told of Jesus. As **Beloved Saints** we bond together in our mission to reach the lost in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and in the uttermost parts of the world. You have a special standing with God, dearly Beloved.

**FOCAL** Romans 1:7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, **called to be saints**:

You are **called to BE Saints**. The **Be Loved are called to Be Saints, to be Set Apart Ones**. Being a Saint means that we must step outside of our comfort zone and do *whatever it takes to reach the lost*. Five of our men will go into the International Mission Field next week to tell others about Jesus. We will be our Lord's hands and feet, Ambassadors for Christ. And yet, dearly Beloved, though we go outside to the mission field, God has truly called *each and every one of you to be missionaries*. Though today we will pray for the five men who go – and their families – we also need to pray for every believer in this Church. If you are Beloved, you are set apart to Christ. If you are set apart to Christ, you are called to tell someone about Jesus Christ and the love He shared with you.

### **3. The Beloved Share A Special Message**

**FOCAL** Romans 1:7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, **called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ**.

What is the message every Christian should share with the world? “**Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**”. The greatest missionary who ever lived shows us what our focus should be. Paul told the Church at Corinth:

**1 Corinthians 1:3** **Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ**.

and the Church at Galatia:

**Galatians 1:3** **Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ**,

and the Church at Ephesus:

**Ephesians 1:2** **Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ**.

And to Phillipi:

**Philippians 1:2** **Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ**.

Paul spoke this beloved phrase to the Beloved of God at Colossae, Thessalonica, to Timothy and Titus, his sons in the Lord, and to his friend Philemon.

Here is the message that every believer, Beloved of God, set apart as saints *must carry* into the world. We must share with all the need of **God's Grace**. A person must call upon God the Father in the Name of God the Son if he will have grace.

It is the Grace of God that saves the sinner. It is the Grace of God that empowers the saint. It is the Grace of God that gives us peace with God. It is the Grace of God that will take us to Heaven.

Grace does not make us lazy, nor apathetic, but true saving Grace drives the believer to labor for Him Who loves us.

Paul said:

**1 Corinthians 15:10** But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

It is the **Grace of God that bringeth salvation to all men (Titus 2:11)**. We must go and tell others about this Grace. Jesus Christ tastes death for *all men* so that all could be saved.

**Hebrews 2:9-10** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace

**of God should taste death for every man. {10} For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.**

It is His will that we bring many **sons unto glory** through the sharing of His Gospel message. The Beloved want to share this message. This is a Great Commission, telling of a Great Salvation that our Great God offers to all. You've got to tell somebody! The work we are going to do is being done for the glory of God. I ask you all who are Beloved to join us in the task set before us. Tell others, while there is yet time.

May God touch your hearts with His Word.