

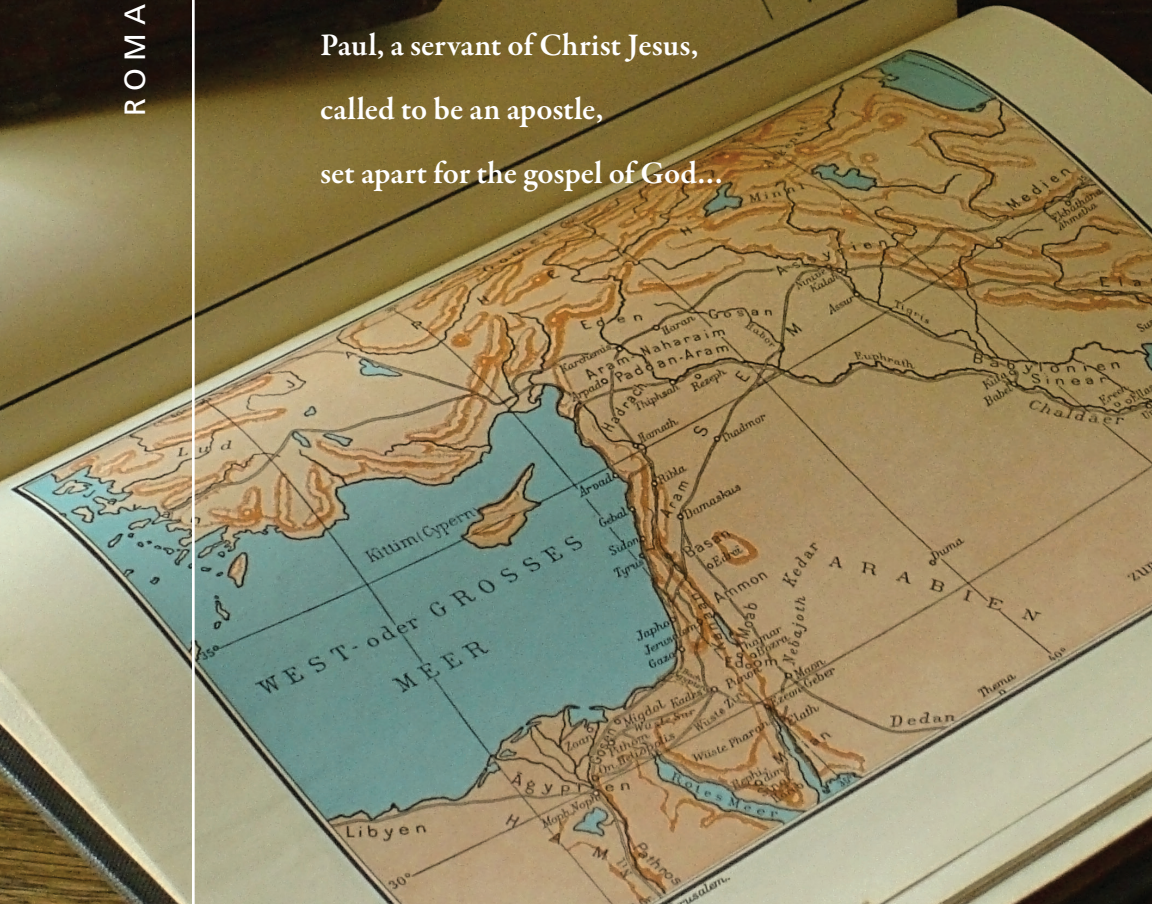
I

ROMANS CHAPTER 1

The Heart of the Gospel

ROMANS 1:1

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus,
called to be an apostle,
set apart for the gospel of God...



READ | ROMANS 1:1

THINK ABOUT

Calvary Church's Articles of Faith state, "We believe the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments to be verbally inspired by God, inerrant in the original text, and the supreme and final authority in faith and life." Human writers were led by God to write down the very words He wanted in each book. There's no book like it. It's unique.

God used Paul to record 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament. Paul wrote Romans as a letter to the followers of Jesus in the city of Rome. And just like every book in the Bible, it points people to Jesus and the good news of salvation. Hundreds of years before Jesus took on human flesh and entered the human race, prophets foretold His coming. We find over 300 specific references to the Christ as we read the Old Testament, even of His resurrection from the dead (the greatest news of all) in Psalm 16:10 and Acts 2:31. The Bible is unique, but so is Jesus. He is the Son of God.

APPLY

Romans should be read and studied because God led Paul to write it down. When we read the Bible, we are listening to God. Romans is a very clear explanation of the Gospel. God intended for us to understand His great love in rescuing us from our sin. It's a simple message of salvation, and yet it explores the riches of God's grace, mercy, and sovereignty. What a great privilege and joy to know the Gospel and grow deeper in the Gospel. Read and study this letter!

ASK

How did we get the book or letter of Romans?

Why is the Bible unique?

What is the primary message of Romans?

THE BIG IDEA

As the Apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Spirit of God, sets sail in his writing of this magnificent letter to the Romans, he first presents a three-fold introduction of himself. This was important since many of the believers in the church at Rome had not met Paul. Note that Paul's resume does not seek to attract attention for himself. It is primarily about the calling that God has placed upon his life and his response to that call.

KEY POINTS

- He presented himself as a **servant** of Jesus Christ (v. 1a).
- He presented himself as an **apostle** (v. 1b).
- He presented himself as a **preacher** of the Gospel (vv. 1c–4).
- He presented himself as a **missionary** to the Gentiles (vv. 5–7).

DOCTRINE

- The Calling of God (v. 1)
- The Gospel (v. 1)

LIFE APPLICATION

- What story does your life tell about your journey with Christ?
- What difference has the Gospel made in your life?
- Are you living for Christ and calling others to do the same?

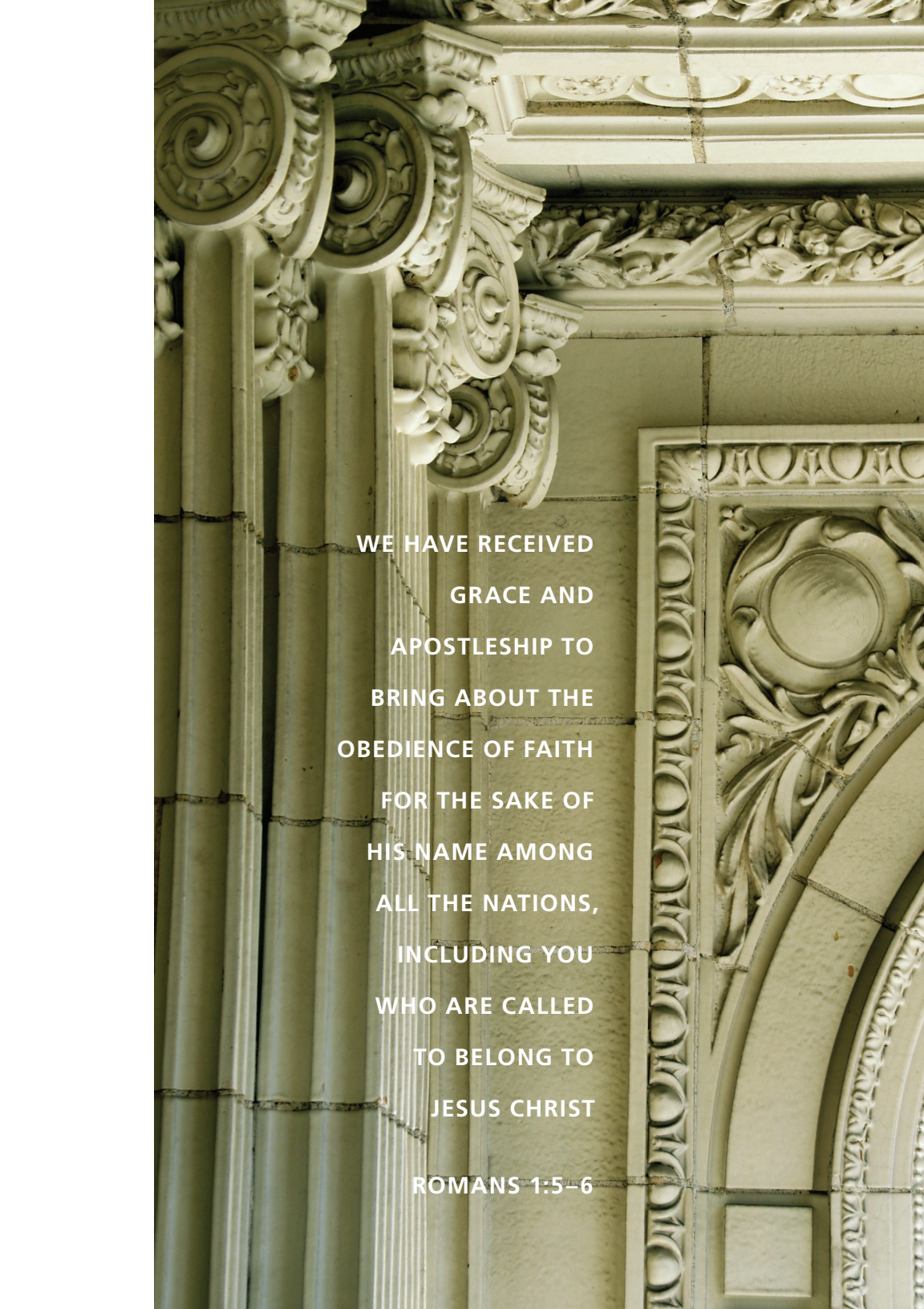
DISCUSSION

- How would you introduce yourself in writing to a group of believers you had not met previously?
- How could Paul simultaneously be a servant of Christ, apostle, preacher, and missionary to Gentiles?
- How did Paul explain the good things that happened to him and through him? See 1 Corinthians 15:3–10.

“THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL”

An Introduction to Romans, Chapters 1-4

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WE HAVE RECEIVED
GRACE AND
APOSTLESHIP TO
BRING ABOUT THE
OBEDIENCE OF FAITH
FOR THE SAKE OF
HIS NAME AMONG
ALL THE NATIONS,
INCLUDING YOU
WHO ARE CALLED
TO BELONG TO
JESUS CHRIST

ROMANS 1:5-6