

**Belonging to Jesus: “How to Make a Difference”**  
**Romans 1:1-17**

I would like to spend the next few months focusing on “belonging to Jesus.” There is a sense of security in these words. They provide a clear description of my identity. They also help to focus my eyes on a mission. Why is this important? I find myself in a world attempting to entice and seduce me (Proverbs 1-9) and I need help to live in a “counter-cultural” fashion. I need to know what it means to be a “Christ follower” and what it means to actually follow Christ. Romans 1:1-17 provides an overview of how we can do that.

## Day by Day in the Word

“Day by Day in the Word” is a tool we use to help us in the process of becoming more and more like Jesus and ultimately to bring glory to God. The biblical principle is: The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to bring about Christlikeness.

### **Monday-Tuesday**

- Read Romans 1 today and focus on 1:1-7. Read the Introduction to Romans in a good Study Bible or in a Bible Dictionary. This should help establish the date and place of writing, the recipients, the major themes, the occasion for the letter, and a good outline of the letter, among other things.
- What do you find out about Paul: who he was, what he was called to do, his relationship to Christ, etc.?
- What do you find out about Christ? This is the essential content of the gospel.
- What do you find out about yourself (all believers)? How does this help you understand your identity as a Christian? How would verse 7 help you become stronger in your Christian life? If I buy into the fact that “God loves me” and “I’m called to be a saint,” how would I act differently? Identify two ways you could apply this verse today. Be sure to share what you are finding with someone else.

### **Wednesday-Thursday**

- Read Romans 1 today and focus on 1:8-15. What evidences can you find that reveal how Paul was concerned for the believers? If people are called to an “obedience that comes from faith,” what did this obedience look like in Paul’s life?
- What is actually being reported when Paul writes that their “faith is being reported all over the world”? If you could have your faith reported around the world, what would you like to have reported? If the faith of your church could be reported, what would you like to have reported? Determine today to develop one key area that could be reported around the world in order to encourage others to follow Jesus in a closer manner.
- What does Paul say about his prayer life? How would that impact your prayer life?
- What does Paul say about mutually encouraging one another? How would that impact your life?

### **Friday-Saturday**

- Read Romans 1 today and focus on 1:16-17. What does it mean when Paul says that he isn’t ashamed of the gospel? Why isn’t he ashamed? Look at 1:16b.
- Why do you think we get ashamed about the gospel? What can we do to overcome this? Determine one way for you to grow more confident in what God is doing so that you would be more eager to share about Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection.
- What thought impacted you this week as you read Romans 1?