

According to Romans 1:4, Jesus' resurrection was the final proof of His Sonship and right to reign. 1Corinthians 15:12-19 also speaks of the power of Jesus' resurrection. Yes, Jesus "*was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead*" (Romans 1:4). The Father confirmed that Jesus was His "*beloved Son*" both at His baptism (Matthew 3:17) and His transfiguration (Matthew 17:5), but He "*was declared the Son of God with power*" through His "*resurrection*" (Romans 1:4). The resurrection has attracted so much attention for the past two thousand years, for no other "religious leader" has come out of the grave. Jesus not only arose from the dead, but "*appeared*" to many in His resurrected body before ascending to the Father (1Corinthians 15:1-8). The event was real and in no way fabricated by the mind of man.

Through Christ, Paul "*received grace and apostleship*" (Romans 1:5). Thus, God's "*grace*" did more than save Paul after he exercised repentance and faith while depraved. God's "*grace*" also empowered Paul as he served as an apostle, as verified by 1Corinthians 15:10:

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. (1Corinthians 15:10)

By receiving God's "*grace*" on a consistent basis, we are empowered to function in the area of our calling (gifting) as well. According to Romans 1:6 every New Testament believer is "*called*" to an office, which is received in conjunction with being made new subsequent to exercising repentance and faith while depraved:

among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; (Romans 1:6)

Choosing to reject God's "*grace*" causes one to withdraw from the battle. Paul realized that God's daily provision of "*grace*" in his own life would be sufficient "*to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles*" (Romans 1:5). The book of Acts verifies that God's grace empowered and sustained Paul throughout his three missionary journeys and his trip to Rome.

According to verse 7, New Testament believers "*are beloved of God*" and "*called as saints*":

to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints:... (Romans 1:7)

Because "*God is love*" (1John 4:8, 16), He is capable of loving His own. Hence, Paul viewed his readers as "*beloved of God*," for God's boundless love is showered on everyone who repents and believes. "*God*" also loves the "*world*," every human being (John 3:16)—even those who reject the salvation offered through the gospel. He can display such compassion on the unbeliever and believer alike because He loves with *agape* love, unconditional love, desiring that "*all*" be "*saved*" (1Timothy 2:4; 2Peter 3:9) even though all will not.

New Testament believers are also "*called as saints*" (Romans 1:7). We learned earlier that we were "*called*" to a specific office just as Paul was "*called as an apostle*" (Romans 1:1). This calling occurred once we were placed in Christ subsequent to

repenting and believing while depraved. To properly function in this office, we must understand what God made us into the moment He made us “new” (2Corinthians 5:17). Are we lowly sinners saved by grace, or are we “saints” who sometimes sin? We are “saints” who sometimes sin according to Romans 1:7 and 1Corinthians 1:2, a topic that will be covered in greater depth when we study Romans 5:1.

“Grace to you and peace” (Romans 1:7) is a phrase used by Paul in a majority of his epistles. He does not say, peace and grace because grace must be received before peace can be experienced, as verified by Paul’s words to the church at Corinth:

And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me — to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.
(2Corinthians 12:7-9)

That “power is perfected in weakness” is demonstrated when Jesus submitted to the cross. His enemies said, “we win”; yet the resurrection forever confirmed that they lost. Paul realized that God’s grace sustained him in his ministry as an apostle. We must come to the same realization as we function in our unique calling (gifting—1Peter 4:10).

No verse in the New Testament is more convicting than Romans 1:8. Paul states that the “faith” of the Roman believers was “being proclaimed throughout the whole world.” As I read this verse, I wondered if my faith is being proclaimed in my city, county, or state. However, I’m certain it won’t happen if my faith is not maturing and being enlarged—a wonderful benefit of studying and praying through the Scriptures. Through knowing and applying God’s Word, our faith is broadened.