

“Our Inheritance” - Romans 1:7

Rome was a great church, even under severe persecution, because the Roman church was made up of a great people

Paul describes the congregation in Rome...

Romans 1:7 “To all who are in Rome...”

- Rome was the capital and most important city of the Roman Empire; some have compared it to modern day N.Y. City or Washington D.C.
- It was founded in 753 BC but is not mentioned in the Bible until the New Testament.
- In Paul’s day, Rome had a population of over one million, making it one of the largest cities on the Mediterranean and the world at that time.
- It is believed that more than one-third of Rome’s population was made up of slaves.
- Paul’s primary reason for writing Romans was to teach the great truth of the gospel of grace to believers who had never received Apostolic teaching and bring unity the of the church between both the Gentile and Jewish Christian.
- We have been given a wonderful spiritual inheritance in Christ...

Paul continues in vs. 7, “...to all who are in Rome, **beloved** of God...”

1) Our Inheritance as Followers of Christ: We are Beloved

- **John 15:13-15** “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”
- God’s love is pure and holy. The Bible says, “God is love.”
- Jeremiah 31 “I have loved you with an everlasting love.”
- **1 John 3:1** ”Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!”

Next, Paul says we are called to be saints.

2) Our Inheritance as Followers of Christ: Called by God

- What does it mean but that God has reached out to you and called you by name.
- Jesus said, “Many are called but few are chosen.” (Mat 22:14)
- Meaning that the invitation had gone out to the whole world, but few receive it into their hearts.
- In **Matt 13:1-9...18-23**, Jesus told the story of four kinds of soil, that signify four kinds of hearts or four kinds of responses to the message of Christ.
- If you are a disciple of Jesus, you have been called out of death into life; out of darkness into light.
 - Called up from the earthly grave of sin and given a ‘new heart’, and a ‘new mind’ – no longer you living as *you* but Christ living in you.

Next Paul says that we have been called saints.

3) Our Inheritance as Followers of Christ: We are Saints

- Note we are not called **to be** saints, but **called** saints.
- Just as we are called...just as we are loved of God...we are also called saints.
- Your old name was *sinner*, your new name is *saint*.
- The difference between a sinner and a saint is a Savior.
- **Colossians 1:26-27** “...the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory...”
- The word **saint** comes from the Latin, *sanctus* and means **holy one**.

- **Romans 12:1-2** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Our inheritance in Christ means that we are loved, that we are called, that we are called saints, and that we have received grace and peace.

4) Our Inheritance as Followers of Christ: We have grace and peace

- The grace of God is the kindness and undeserved love of God.
- Day by day we are the recipients of God’s mercy and love...our very breath today is because of God’s grace.
- After receiving grace, we have been given apostleship.
 - All of us are called to be apostles.
- Let’s distinguish the position from the function...most of us will never be in the position of a pastor or missionary, but still we have all been **called** by God to be apostles (small a).
- All of us have been sent out to be a witness.
- **Acts 1:8** “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me...”
- Your mission field is your job, your family, and your city.
- The result of flowing in God’s grace will be peace! If you want God’s peace, flow in God’s grace!
- That’s what Paul means by *grace and peace*.

Lastly our verse says that all of this inheritance comes “from God, our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

5) Our Inheritance as Followers of Christ: We have a Father

- **Ecclesiastes 3:11** - You are made in His image and because of that...”He has planted eternity in the human heart. “

- **Romans 8:15** “For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” “
- **Galatians 4:6** “And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!””
- The cry of our heart is for a *daddy*.
- God has answered that cry and He is your eternal Father.
- **Galatians 4:7** “We are no longer orphans (slaves) but adopted into His kingdom with all the full rights of inheritance.”
- The one who knows you best, loves you the most!