

## **Parson to Person**

### **ROMANS 1 (PART 4)**

*“Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*

*Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; to all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 1:1–7 NKJV).*

Many look at the history of man and its documentation in the Bible seeing redemption as a “Plan B” in the work of God. This perception is a failure to see and understand what God has known from eternity past. The fact that man would fail and need redemption was no surprise to God. In fact, it was all a part of His original plan—His desire to reveal Himself to His creation.

If man had not fallen, we would never have been enabled to see God’s grace, mercy, and forgiveness. These attributes of His person are all part of His glory—glory He intended to share with man.

Many accuse the Lord of cruelty and evil as the result of His allowing man to fail and therefore suffer sin, death, and judgment. However, they are wrong! God has not left man hopeless and in the condition resulting from sin. He has provided all men the hope of redemption. He has provided grace, and forgiveness, with the promise of complete restoration—a redemption provided all mankind. *“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works” (Titus 2:11–14 NKJV).*

The promise of mankind’s regeneration was promised by God and referenced by Paul in his letter to the Romans. Of God he said, *“He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” (vss. 2–4)*

The whole of Scripture records the problem of sin and death, alongside the story of redemption—moreover, the Redeemer Himself: Jesus Christ.

Paul declared that the throughout the Old Testament Scriptures the prophets declared (1) the coming and work of Jesus, (2) that the Redeemer would be a genetic descendent of King David, (3) that by miraculous interaction with a virgin woman He would be born into this creation as the Son of God, (4) that He would suffer and die for the sins of men—thus taking upon Himself the penalty due, (5) and, by the power of God, that Jesus would be raised up from the dead—never to die again. These facts, coupled together with the gracious mercy of God, provided men the redemption needed simply by faith alone, in Christ alone—not of works. This is the Gospel of God.

May it never be said that God is a cruel and merciless Creator. He is (to the contrary) more merciful and gracious than man will ever fully realize this side of eternity.

Don’t believe the lie! Receive all God has provided (all of us) in Jesus. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and prepare for glory beyond human description.

I love you all, Pastor Paul