

## Romans Verse-by-Verse

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Romans 1:5a

Student Notes:

### Summarization of 1:3-4

Christ's two natures and two roles: As the "Son of David" he lived out his humiliation; as the post-resurrection Son of God, his exaltation is evident for all to see. His exaltation has introduced a new age of the Spirit.

Paul caps off this discourse with, "Jesus Christ our Lord." Both natures and both states are brought together in this title.

Verses 5-6: *Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.*

- **Grace and Apostleship:**

Paul somewhat returns from his description of the gospel to present his credentials. He notes he has received from Christ both "grace and apostleship".

A very important order; the order of gifts. The first gift is grace; the second is apostleship. As one scholar put it, "It's conversion first, vocation second". While some insist Paul means "The grace of apostleship" it is not necessary to limit it to the enablement to carry out the duties of an apostle.

Grace is what Paul found on the Road to Damascus (See 1 Timothy 1:13-16)

It wasn't until much later that Paul was given apostleship. So the correct ordering is "grace and apostleship".

- **The Etymology of the word "Grace":**

English New Testament: "Grace" is always a translation of the Greek word "charis" (Some 170 times in definite form). Used in a secular sense in Greek culture and is a very common word in both Biblical and secular Greek.

- Charis as "pleasant external appearance": "gracefulness" or "loveliness". (See Luke 4:22; Colossians 4:6.)
- Charis as an attribute: "graciousness" or "favor." (See Luke 2:52)
- Charis as "gratitude": See Luke 17:9
- Charis as an act by which graciousness is expressed: See 1 Corinthians 16:3:

New Testament writers took the meanings of Greek words and used them for their own purposes. This is the case of Paul and the word "Charis-Grace":

- **A Gift:** 1). 1 Corinthians 16:3 and 2 Corinthians 8:19: The money given by the Corinthians to the Jerusalemites. 2). 2 Corinthians 9:8, The increase of worldly goods that God grants for charitable purposes. 3.) 2 Corinthians 1:15: The benefit received by the Corinthians from a visit by Paul.
- **A Spiritual Enablement for an Office: 1.)** Ephesians 4:7-8; Romans 15:15; Ephesians 3:7
- **An Active Expression:** Paul uses the word "charis" in an active sense. God's grace is never passively applied – it is an active

power. "Grace is God's power towards us – not just unmerited favor." See: 1 Corinthians 15:10; 2 Corinthians 12:9; 2 Timothy 2:1; 1 Peter 4:10

In the above verses, "grace" is used almost as a synonym for the Holy Spirit. This is where phrases like, "full of the Holy Spirit" and "full of grace and power" meet in verses like in Acts 6:5,8. See also, Hebrews 10:29 and Zechariah 12:10 --- "The Spirit of Grace".

Paul's primary use of "Charis" -- Favor given through the Holy Spirit; undeserved favor. Romans 11:5, 6: "If it is by grace, it is no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace."

"Grace" is God's attitude towards believers that emanates entirely from within himself; it is not conditioned by those who receive it.

Grace is God's favor working on our behalf. Grace is undeserved favor. Grace is God's power in our lives. Grace is God's enablement for us to serve him. Grace is the emotional sense that all is well between us and our Savior. Grace is gratitude working in our lives.

Paul says, "I received grace and apostleship". He tells the Ephesians,

*It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. – Ephesians 2:8-10*

Dr. Donald Barnhouse put it this way: "Love that looks upward is worship. Love that looks outward is affection. And love that stoops is grace."

Paul: "We have received grace and apostleship." He received conversion before vocation; new birth before apostolic ministry.

