



Presence

GRACE THAT REIGNS

Romans 1:1 – 4

February 1, 2026

Jon Field, Lead Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

- **His grace saves us**

... concerning His Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ...
– Romans 1:3 – 4 (ESV)

“The whole transaction of religious conversion has been made mechanical and spiritless ... Christ may be ‘received’ without creating any special love for Him in the soul of the receiver. The man is ‘saved,’ but he is not hungry or thirsty after God.” – A. W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

And He said to all, “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.” – Luke 9:23 (ESV)

- **His loves leads us**

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ... – Romans 1:1 (ESV)

“... But if he says to you, ‘I will not go out from you,’ because he loves you and your household, since he is well-off with you, then you shall take an awl, and put it through his ear into the door, and he shall be your slave forever ...” – Deuteronomy 15:16 – 17 (ESV)

... including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ... – Romans 1:6 (ESV)

You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
– 1 Corinthians 6:19 – 20 (ESV)

- **His hope carries us**

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, ... – Romans 1:1 – 2

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, ... – Acts 9:1 (ESV)

Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.
– Acts 9:3 (NIV)

And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”
– Acts 9:4 (ESV)



Presence

And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." – Acts 9:5 – 6 (ESV)

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine to carry My name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel." – Acts 9:15 (ESV)

... So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. – Acts 9:28 (ESV)

*Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord ...
– Philippians 3:8 (ESV)*

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Salvation isn't just a theoretical or mechanical experience; it transforms our lives. True grace rescues us not only from sin but into a life of discipleship, surrender, and hope. Paul's life illustrates this: once a persecutor of the church, he met the risen Christ on the road to Damascus and was radically transformed. He became a devoted servant, even through suffering and opposition. Following Jesus as Lord isn't about obligation; it's a response to His love and nature.



Presence

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use as many or as few of these questions as are helpful for your group or family discussion.

- Discussion Starter: If someone made a movie about your faith journey so far, what would the title be, and why?
- Read Romans 1:1. What does Paul mean when he calls himself a servant of Christ Jesus? How does this shape your understanding of what it means to follow Christ as Lord?
- How might you practically surrender an area of your life this week to Christ's lordship—relationships, work, family, or fears?
- Read Philippians 3:8. Paul says he counts everything as loss compared to knowing Christ. How does this verse challenge the way we think about cost or sacrifice in following Jesus?
- Romans 1:6 says we belong to Jesus Christ. What does it mean to truly belong to Him, twice over, through creation and redemption?
- Romans 1:2 talks about God's promises. How does hope in the lordship of Christ give you confidence to face difficulties or uncertainties in life?
- Based on what you've reflected on today, what is one way you need to surrender more fully to Jesus as Lord? Take a moment to pray for one another to trust His grace, love, and hope in that area.