

# - WEEK 1 -

## Chapter 1, Verses 1-7

Consider the ways Paul describes himself. What do all of these terms have in common?

- \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ Jesus
- \_\_\_\_\_ to be an apostle
- \_\_\_\_\_ for the gospel of God

How does Paul define “the gospel of God”?

- What is he referring to when he says it was “promised beforehand”?
- Who is Paul referring to when he says it was through “his prophets”? How do you think he would define a prophet?

*See Deuteronomy 18:15-19. Who is a prophet in that text?*

*What about Acts 3:22-26? How broadly did Peter describe prophets?*

In verses 2-6, Paul packs a lot of doctrine about Jesus Christ into a single sentence. (The sentence is actually verses 1-7.)

- Jesus has dual sonship, “according to” two different witnesses. What does he mean when he says Jesus is:

*“Descended from David, according to the flesh” ?*

*“Declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit”?*

- How can Jesus be *both* the Son of David and the Son of God?

*That question has been debated almost from the time that Jesus ascended to heaven, and it has been the issue that has birthed a number of movements considered to be heretical:*

- Adoptionism – Jesus was a human being who *became* God.
- Marcionism – there are two gods, an angry OT God and Jesus of the NT.
- Arianism – Jesus is “a god” created by God and is divine.
- Docetism – Jesus did not have a physical body and was not human at all
- Monophysitism – God has only one divine nature, so he had a human body but no soul.
- Apollinarianism – Jesus’s human spirit was replaced by a divine spirit
- Nestorianism – Jesus’s human divine natures were unified, with the divine in control
- Eutychianism – Jesus’s human nature was “swallowed up” in the divine to make a third hybrid nature.

Why does Paul says that he has been given grace and apostleship?

- Based on what Paul says here, what is the *scope* of the gospel? Who is it for?
- Can you provide additional Scripture that reinforces Paul’s statement here?

There are *two* foundational truths in this passage that are important for the entire book.

1. The power and sovereignty of Jesus in all things, but especially in the work of salvation.

*What does this mean? Everything in the gospel is about Jesus.*

2. The gospel is universal, for all of mankind.

*What does this mean? Everything in the gospel is for everyone.*