

Chapter 1

1. “Paul a slave of Christ Jesus, called an apostle, having been separated unto the gospel of God,”

Paul refers to himself here as a slave who belongs to Jesus Christ. He has been called to fulfill the office of an apostle (*αποστολος*), one who is sent forth with the gospel (cf. 11:13; 1 Cor. 9:1, 2). As a slave of Christ and an apostle, Paul has been set apart unto the gospel of God. The phrase “the gospel of God” (*εναγγελιον θεου*) is used only in Paul’s early epistles (cf. 15:16; 1 Thess. 2:2, 8, 9). It is also interesting to observe that it is used in Mark 1:14. As used in the context here it seems to refer to the gospel of salvation, the good news that “Christ died on behalf of our sins according to the scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3).

2. “which was previously announced through his prophets in the holy scriptures,”

The gospel referred to here is one that had been previously announced, or previously promised, through the Old Testament prophets. It is the prophesied good news that the Saviour would “be wounded for our transgressions” and “bruised for our iniquities” (Isa. 53:5). Since the fall sin has been man’s number one problem. God has both promised and provided a remedy for man’s sin, and this remedy is found in the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ: “the one not knowing sin, He made sin on behalf of us, in order that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor 5:21). The issues of sin and redemption are universal, they are common to all dispensations, and the remedy is the gospel of God, good news prophesied in the Old Testament and pertinent to