

Elder Bobby Willis



Romans 1:5, **“by whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:...”**

Have you ever received anything from someone that was to be used for a specific purpose, or to use in building something, or just were given a pencil so you could use it to write a letter? If so, then you can understand the meaning of Paul’s writing in Romans 1:5. God had given Paul and the other apostles the grace to sustain them in traveling about to preach the gospel and to help small bodies of believers in strengthening their faith. We know that their apostleship did not come from themselves, they were called of God to be apostles. That’s what verse five is saying in the middle part of this paragraph - **“for obedience to the faith among all nations”**. The word **“for”** is not used here to mean *“because of”* but rather *“in order to”*. Meaning? God gave the apostles (Paul included) the grace to do the work they had been called for in teaching obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ rather than obedience to the old law. For example: my dad was a plumber and there were times when a ditch needed to be dug. He would give me a shovel to use in digging the ditch. The shovel was given *“for the purpose”* or *“in order”* to use it in digging. God gave the apostles everything they needed. Why did God do so? Because of the latter part of verse five, **“for his name.”** Notice what John said in III John 1:7, **“Because that for his name’s sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.”** Those who had gone forth were the apostles who were preaching and teaching the Gentiles as they did the Jews, of how they were to walk faithfully in the truth of Jesus Christ (III John 1:4-5). They were doing the work of apostles and disciples for Jesus’ name’s sake just as we are to be good disciples (followers) of Christ for His name’s sake. Jesus himself told those who doubted His Sonship, **“I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father’s name, they bear witness of me”** (John 10:25). Jesus did these works because of His love for His children and because it was given unto Him of God (God’s Will) to do so. In like manner, we are to be disciples of Christ for the glorifying and edification of the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Men of God

have **“hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”** (Acts 15:26). I trust we all would be willing to stand for the truth of God **“for His name”**. *Think About It!*