# INTRODUCING THE THEOLOGY OF PAUL

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#### **GETTING STARTED**

- Introductions
- Discuss your findings for questions 2–5 on study sheet I
- ▶ Notice Acts 9:20
  - 'and immediately [Saul] began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

# WHO IS JESUS FOR PAUL!

CHRISTOLOGY

- Israel is God's true humanity
  - ▶ 'God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

    Gen 1:28
  - transferred to Abraham and his family
    - ▶ Gen 12:2-3 'be fruitful and multiply'
    - ▶ Gen 17:2, 6, 8 I will multiply you exceedingly…I will make you exceedingly fruitful…I will give you, and your seed after you, all the land of Canaan'

- Israel is God's true humanity
  - As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed...[18] But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever—forever and ever.'

Dan 7:13-14, 18

- Israel is God's true humanity
- the Messiah represents and embodies Israel
  - Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, "Look, we are your bone and flesh. For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The LORD said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel." So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. 2 Sam 5:1-3

- ▶ Israel is God's true humanity
- the Messiah represents and embodies Israel
  - 'Then all the people of Israel came to the king, and said to him, "Why have our kindred the people of Judah stolen you away, and brought the king and his household over the Jordan, and all David's men with him?" All the people of Judah answered the people of Israel, "Because the king is near of kin to us. Why then are you angry over this matter? Have we eaten at all at the king's expense? Or has he given us any gift?" But the people of Israel answered the people of Judah, "We have ten shares in the king, and in David also we have more than you. Why then did you despise us? Were we not the first to speak of bringing back our king?" But the words of the people of Judah were fiercer than the words of the people of Israel.' Now a scoundrel named Sheba son of Bichri, a Benjaminite, happened to be there. He sounded the trumpet and cried out, "We have no portion in David, no share in the son of Jesse! Everyone to your tents, O Israel!" So all the people of Israel withdrew from David and followed Sheba son of Bichri; but the people of Judah followed their king steadfastly from the Jordan to Jerusalem.' 2 Sam 19:41–20:2

- Israel is God's true humanity
- the Messiah represents and embodies Israel
  - royal promises transferred to people of Israel as a whole
    - "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.
      I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.
      See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.
      See, you shall call nations that you do not kn
      - See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.' Isa 55:3-5

- Israel is God's true humanity
- the Messiah represents and embodies Israel
- 'Messiah' as a corporate category
  - 'in the Messiah/Christ'
    - Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.' Rom 8:1-4

- Israel is God's true humanity
- the Messiah represents and embodies Israel
- 'Messiah' as a corporate category
  - 'in the Messiah/Christ'
  - 'into the Messiah/Christ'
    - Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?' Rom 6:3

- Israel is God's true humanity
- the Messiah represents and embodies Israel
- 'Messiah' as a corporate category
  - 'in the Messiah/Christ'
  - 'into the Messiah/Christ'
  - 'with the Messiah/Christ'
    - ▶ 'But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.' Rom 6:8
    - For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. Rom 6:5

- in OT, Israel's king is God's son
  - '[7] I will tell of the decree of the LORD:
    He said to me, "You are my son;
    today I have begotten you.
    [12] kiss his son,
    or he will be angry, and you will perish in the way;
    for his wrath is quickly kindled.
    Happy are all who take refuge in him.' Ps 2:7, 12
  - I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings.'
    2 Sam 7:14

- in OT, Israel's king is God's son
  - and Israel as a whole too
    - 'When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.' Hos 11:1

- in OT, Israel's king is God's son
  - and Israel as a whole too
- Jesus' close relationship to God
  - 'sending his own son' Rom 8:3
  - ▶ 'For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.' Rom 8:29
    - Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness..." Gen 1:26

- in OT, Israel's king is God's son
  - and Israel as a whole too
- Jesus' close relationship to God
  - God was acting in the coming of the son
    - For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.' Rom 5:10
    - The one who did not withhold his own son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?' Rom 8:32

## LORD

#### LORD

- very frequent in Romans (and elsewhere in Paul)
  - derived from use of kurios for YHWH in Greek OT
  - kurios also used in Romans for God
- Jesus is Lord by virtue of his resurrection
  - 'and was declared to be son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord' Rom 1:4
  - '[righteousness] will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead' Rom 4:24
  - 'if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.' Rom 10:9

#### LORD

- very frequent in Romans (and elsewhere in Paul)
- Jesus is Lord by virtue of his resurrection
- prayer offered to Jesus
  - ► '12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. 13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." 14 But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?' Rom 10:12-14
  - 'if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.' Rom 10:9

- the gospel concerning his son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord' Rom 1:3-4
- For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and as a sin offering, he condemned sin in the flesh' Rom 8:3
- b 'But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.' Rom 8:9-11

- ▶ faith in God
  - 'Abraham believed God' Rom 4:3 (also vv 5, 24)
- faith in Jesus
  - the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ' Rom 3:22 (also v 26)
  - Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD...Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.' Jer 17:5, 7
  - God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us' Rom 5:8

- God/Father, Son and Spirit together
  - Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God...and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.' Rom 5:1, 2, 5

- God/Father, Son and Spirit together
  - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, as a sin offering, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.' Rom 8:1-4

## PAULARIO THE NEW AGE

ESCHATOLOGY

#### PAUL AND THE NEW AGE

Work through the study sheet in a group

- national hope
  - return from exile Isa 40
  - resurrection: valley of dry bones Ezek 37
  - personal hope of resurrection
    - I At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. 2 Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.'

Dan 12:1-3

THE DAY OF YHWH

**THIS AGE** 

THE AGE TO COME

- not the end of the space-time universe
  - Matt 24:29: Immediately after the suffering of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken.'
  - cf. Ezek 32:7 'When I blot you out, I will cover the heavens, and make their stars dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give its light.'

- not the end of the space-time universe
- this-worldly transformation
  - Matt 12:32 'Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.'

## THE NEW AGE HAS COME...

#### ...THROUGH JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION

- ▶ I Cor I5:20, 23 'But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep...But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.'
- ▶ I Thess 4:14 'For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.'
- ▶ Col 3:1-4 'So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.'

### ...EXPERIENCED THROUGH FAITH AND THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT

- ▶ Rom 10:9 'if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved'
- ▶ Joel 2:28-32 'Then afterward I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days I will pour out my Spirit. I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved'; cf. Acts 2:17-18

### ...EXPERIENCED THROUGH FAITH AND THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT

- Rom 10:9 'if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved'
- ▶ Joel 2:28-32 cf. Acts 2:17-18
- ▶ Rom 8:23 'and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.'

# LIFE IN THE NEW AGE

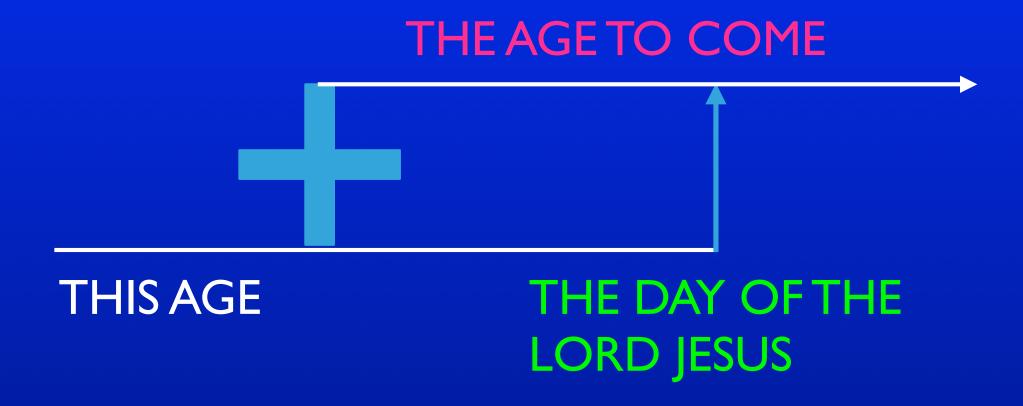
### LIFE IN THE NEW AGE

- 'in Christ'
  - ▶ Rom 8:1 'Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.'
  - ▶ Rom 12:5 'we, who are many, are one body in Christ'
  - ▶ I Cor 15:18 '...those also who have died in Christ'
  - ▶ 2 Cor 5:17 'So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!'

### LIFE IN THE NEW AGE

- 'in Christ'
- baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ Rom 6:1-11
- blessing for gentiles
  - ▶ Gal I:15-16 'But when the one who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the gentiles...'
  - ▶ Zech 8:20-23 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: Peoples shall yet come, the inhabitants of many cities; the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, "Come, let us go to entreat the favor of the LORD and to seek the LORD of hosts; I myself am going.' Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD. Thus says the LORD of hosts: In those days ten men from nations of every language shall take hold of a Jew, grasping his garment and saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."

### LIVING BETWEEN THE AGES



### LIVING BETWEEN THE AGES

▶ 2 Thess 2:1-2 'As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here.'

### THE FULLNESS YET TO COME

### THE PAROUSIA OF CHRIST

I Cor 15:23-24 'But each in its own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power.'

### THE PAROUSIA OF CHRIST

- ▶ I Cor 15:23-24
- Christ is now in heaven and will return to establish his kingdom on earth
  - Phil 3:20-21 'our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.'

- judgement comes when Christ appears
  - ▶ I Cor 4:5 'Therefore do not pronounce judgement before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive commendation from God.'

- judgement comes when Christ appears
- judgement is based on deeds
  - ▶ 2 Cor 5:10 'For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.'
  - ▶ Rom 2:6 'For he will repay according to each one's deeds.'

- judgement comes when Christ appears
- judgement is based on deeds...
- ...and on relation to Jesus now
  - ▶ 2 Thess 1:10 'when he comes to be glorified by his saints and to be marvelled at on that day among all who have believed'

- judgement comes when Christ appears
- judgement is based on deeds...
- ...and on relation to Jesus now
- outcome of judgement is being in God's presence or exclusion from it
  - ▶ 2 Thess 1:7-9 'when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might'
  - ▶ 2 Cor 5:8 'Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.'
  - ▶ Rom 6:23 'For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

- believers who sleep in death are raised
  - ▶ I Thess 4:14-17 'For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever.'

- believers who sleep in death are raised
  - ▶ I Thess 4:14-17 'For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever.'

- believers who sleep in death are raised
  - ▶ | Thess 4:14-17
  - ▶ Eph 1:10 'as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth'
- raised to new bodily life
  - I Cor 15:47-49 'The first man was from the earth, made of dust; the second man is from heaven. As one of dust, so are those who are of the dust, and as one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one of heaven.'

- believers who sleep in death are raised
  - ▶ I Thess 4:14-17
  - ▶ Eph 1:10 'as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth'
- raised to new bodily life
  - ▶ I Cor 15:47-49
  - Phil 3:20-21 '...from [heaven] we await a saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body so that it will conformed to his glorious body'

### WHAT IS PAUL'S GOSPEL?

SALVATION

### WHAT IS PAUL'S GOSPEL?

- Discuss your findings from study sheet 2 on 1 Cor 15:1-11
  - Was anything surprising to you?
  - What's most crucial to Paul's gospel here?

I Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, 3 the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name...'

- 'the gospel of God'
  - ▶ the origin of the gospel—it comes from God
  - ▶ the subject of the gospel—it is about God

- 'the gospel of God'
- 'which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures'
  - ▶ a Jewish message—Rom 3:21–4:25
  - So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you, and arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you promised beforehand' 2 Cor 9:5 [my translation]
  - 'his prophets'
  - Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith' Rom 16:25-26

- 'concerning his son'
  - ▶ the gospel is a story about a person cf. Rom 1:9
  - 'son' used in Romans of close link between God and Jesus
    - For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and as a sin offering, he condemned sin in the flesh' Rom 8:3
    - been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.'

      Rom 5:8-11

- 'concerning his son'
  - the gospel is a story about a person cf. Rom 1:9
  - 'son' used in Romans of close link between God and Jesus
    - ▶ '[Jesus] said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." Mark 14:36
    - I will tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have begotten you." Ps 2:7

- 'who was descended from David according to the flesh'
  - messianic
    - '...the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.'
      - 2 Sam 7:11-14

- 'who was descended from David according to the flesh'
  - messianic
    - ""Moreover the Lord decl[ares] to you that He will make you a house," and that "I will raise up your offspring after you, and establish the throne of his kingdom [fore]ver. I will be a father to him, and he will be My son" (2 Sam 7:11c, 12b, 13b-14a). This passage refers to the Shoot of David, who is to arise with the Interpreter of the Law, and who will [arise] in Zi[on in the La]st Days, as it is written, "And I shall raise up the booth of David that is fallen" (Amos 9:11). This passage describes the fallen Branch of David, [w]hom He shall raise up to deliver Israel.' 4QFlor 1:10-13

- 'who was descended from David according to the flesh'
  - messianic
    - '[And] the one who sits on the throne of David [shall never] be cut off, because the "ruler's staff" is the covenant of the kingdom, [and the thous] and sof Israel are "the feet," until the Righteous Messiah, the Branch of David, has come.' 4QpGen 49
    - 'Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel' 2 Tim 2:8
  - real humanity and mortality
    - perhaps hint of pre-existence

- 'and was installed as son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness'
  - 'installed' only here in Paul
  - 'son of God with power'
    - contrast with weakness of his earthly life (Cranfield)
    - 'source of power' (Fitzmyer)
  - 'according to the spirit of holiness'
    - new phase of Jesus' life characterised by the Holy Spirit

- b 'by resurrection from the dead'
  - basis and time of his installation as son of God with power
  - resurrection as bodily
  - now living in the first days, not the last days!

- 'Jesus'
- 'the Messiah'
- ▶ 'our Lord'—use of Greek kurios for Hebrew YHWH in OT
  - 'Who will separate us from the love of Christ?' Rom 8:35
  - '...nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord' Rom 8:39

- 'Jesus'
- the Messiah'
- ▶ 'our Lord'—use of Greek kurios for Hebrew YHWH in OT
  - For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom 10:13, quoting Joel 2:32
  - believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.' Rom 10:9

- 'Jesus'
- 'the Messiah'
- 'our Lord'—use of Greek kurios for Hebrew YHWH in OT
  - 'so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth' Phil 2:10
  - ▶ 'By myself I have sworn, from my mouth has gone forth in righteousness a word that shall not return: "To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear." Isa 45:23
  - implied critique of Caesar as Lord of all

We take it that, for Paul, the confession that Jesus is Lord meant the acknowledgement that Jesus shares the name and the nature, the holiness, the authority, power, majesty and eternity of the one and only true God.

C. E. B. Cranfield

- 'through whom we have received grace and apostleship'
- 'in order to bring about the obedience of faith among the gentiles'
  - the Messiah is king of the world
  - a call to obedience

### ROMANS 1:1-5—THE GOSPEL

- a story about God's purposes
  - which began in OT times through the people of Israel
  - which was focused in one person, Jesus of Nazareth
    - he is the Messiah of Israel
  - he decisively dealt with evil in his death
  - God declared Jesus' victory by raising him to new life
  - ▶ God gave Jesus the title and designation 'Lord' by raising him

- For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.'
  - for' connects back to v 15
  - 'not ashamed'
    - Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the son of man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels' Mark 8:38

- 'for it is the power of God'
  - the one who is its author is powerful
  - ▶ the one who is its content is powerful—Jesus
  - the gospel transforms because it is powerful

- 'for it is the power of God'
- 'for the salvation'
  - past 'For in hope we were saved.' Rom 8:24
  - In the future 'Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.
    - 'Rom 5:9-10; cf. Rom 8:17-25; Phil 3:20-21

- 'for it is the power of God'
- 'for the salvation'
  - past Rom 8:24
  - future Rom 5:9-10; cf. Rom 8:17-25; Phil 3:20-21
  - present
    - For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.' I Cor 1:18
    - the message that I proclaimed to you' I Cor 15:32
    - For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing'
       2 Cor 2:15

- 'for it is the power of God'
- 'for the salvation'
- 'of all who believe'
  - faith as response required
    - 'So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ' Rom 10:17; cf. 10:9
    - 'who believe' in present tense in 1:16
  - 'all' has polemical thrust, including Jews and gentiles
    - The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." Rom 10:11 quoting Isa 28:16

- 'for it is the power of God'
- 'for the salvation'
- 'of all who believe'
- 'for the Jew first'
  - For in the first place the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.' Rom 3:2; cf. Rom 9−1 I
- 'and also for the Greek'
  - 'catch all' term for non-Jews

### ROMANS 1:16—WHAT THE GOSPEL DOES

- it changes people
  - their past is dealt with
  - their future is secure
- they live in the present
  - by trust in God, known through Jesus
  - in a community which breaks down racial barriers

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