

## ***Eleutheros Newsletter***

March 2022

### **News of Interest**

Eleutheros Books is dedicated to offering literature and course offerings that will help believers to think Biblically.

Feel free to check out the following:

[\*The Ramifications of Our Salvation\*](#) explains what happens Biblically when a believer is saved by God's grace.

[\*Bible Translations: A Closer Look\*](#) explains the challenges translators face and gives reasons why the wording in some versions is so much different from that of other versions.

[\*Spiritual Gifts Verse by Verse: A Commentary on I Corinthians 12-14\*](#) deals with every phrase in these three chapters which are key to understanding the blessings and challenges of the gifts God gives to every believer.

[\*A Portrait of Jesus\*](#) looks at our great Savior for Who He is and what He has done (and will do) from eternity past to eternity future.

[\*The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ\*](#) presents clear and important evidence for our Lord's resurrection, the greatest event in all of history.

[\*19<sup>th</sup> Century Influences on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christianity\*](#) gives insights into many factors from the past that are still influencing the Church today.

All these books can be purchased by going to the website: [www.eleutherosbooks.com](http://www.eleutherosbooks.com)

**Is there anything more important to you than your eternal salvation?**

Here is your invitation to understand salvation.

**You Can Learn at Your Own Pace and Choose the Course of Study**

(CURRENTLY OFFERING)

**[The Ramifications of Our Salvation 101](#)**

**[The Ramifications of Our Salvation 102](#)**

Very soon a course on I Corinthians will be available!

## Thoughts from Romans

**1:1** *Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the Gospel of God.*

Paul, a man who was born free as a first century Roman citizen but redeemed to become a bonds slave (**δοῦλος** in the Greek, pronounced *doulos* in English), was called by Jesus Christ to be an Apostle.

Biblically speaking an Apostle is one who has seen the risen Jesus and called to preach the Gospel (*Am I not an Apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are not ye my work in the Lord?*—[I Corinthians 9:1](#)).

Jesus had changed everything in his life! He was now a bonds slave apostle! He had no other master but Jesus, but he also had a wonderful experience in seeing His Resurrected Savior and ministering in an important position as an Apostle in the early church.

We do well to take into account what Paul said in his second epistle to the Corinthians regarding all believers (*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new* ([5:17](#)). God wants all believers to become aware of the amazing transformation that takes place the moment they are saved and to become submissive to His will in all matters, as was the Apostle Paul.

The Apostle was *separated* (**ἀφοριμένος**, *aforismenos*) unto the gospel of God. The word “separated” is in the perfect tense in the original. The significance of a perfect tense verb is this: it is an action that took place at *one* time in the past and yet has long term significance afterward. Paul recognized that he was saved while on the road to Damascus (all in a miraculous moment!) and *separated unto the gospel* (all in a miraculous moment!).

This separation unto the Gospel became the Apostle’s lifestyle until God called him home to heaven (*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing* ([II Timothy 4:8](#)).

The verb **ἀφορίζω** basically means “to mark off by boundaries” (see [Acts 19:2](#); [Galatians 2:12](#)). On the one hand Paul recognized that there were certain boundaries that he should not cross (*But I keep under my body, and bring it unto subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway—*[I Corinthians 9:27](#)); on the other hand, he felt free to do what God had called him to do (*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek* ([Romans 1:16](#)). Paul had been called to preach the glorious message of the Gospel and felt free to present that message to all people for the remainder of his life on this earth!

[1:2](#) (Which He had promised afore by His prophets in the holy Scriptures,)

Throughout the Old Testament God was in various ways revealing man's need to understand the need for salvation and His remedy to such a seemingly impossible dilemma.

When Adam sinned, God pronounced a curse upon him and all mankind ([Genesis 3:17-24](#)). Some might say that God was "unfair" and "unloving" to react in such a way to Adam's sin.

Such is surely not the case! If God were "fair," He would treat everybody in the same way. Since we are all sinners and deserve eternal punishment, we would all be doomed to an eternity in an awful place called hell. God pronounced the curse because He is holy and cannot tolerate sin. There are consequences to our rebellion!

But it is actually a good thing when we realize that we have sinned and are willing to admit it. Why would anyone want to hear about faith, repentance, grace, the blood of Christ, His resurrection, and His power to save if they believe they have something else to depend on (church membership, baptism, confirmation, a man-made religion, education, political ties, family relations, or any other thing that ignores His need of God's grace)!?

When people realize their need (as revealed in the Scriptures) and when the Holy Spirit works in amazing ways in their minds and hearts, THEN the miracle of the new birth takes place!

Here is a good way to look at man's need:

### **The Savior is Waiting**

Ralph Carmichael

*The Savior is waiting to enter your heart—  
Why don't you let Him come in?  
There's nothing in his world to keep you apart—  
What's your answer to Him?*

*If you take one step toward the Savior, my friend,  
You'll find His arms open wide;  
Receive Him and all of your darkness will end,  
Within your heart He'll abide.*