

Jesus' Followers were Servants

Serving God

Foundation

Bible passage : Romans 1:1-6

In the Bible we see how the first disciples learned from Jesus' example and humility. For example John, in his gospel, never names himself. That book is all about Jesus. Whilst his later book is "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" given to "His **servant** John" "to show His **servants**" Rev 1.1) It is to help His servants to live in this world until Jesus comes again in order to bring an end to sin, death through judgment. Then they will rejoice and "His **servants** will **serve** Him" forever (Rev 23.3).

"Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus ... set apart for the gospel of God ... concerning His Son... Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom 1.1-4)"

We also see examples of the first disciples serving others but the use of the word servant is particularly clear in the New Testament letters of Paul. In the opening verses of most of them he describes himself and his fellow workers, as servants, bondservants or slaves of the Lord.

Paul describes his service in terms of prayer and preaching the gospel, which sounds quite tame. But we also see it in practical ways, such as gathering and then taking gifts on a long and



Serving God, and others, by telling people about Jesus.

dangerous journey to people suffering far away (Rom 15.31 - he call the gift "his service for Jerusalem")

In the opening verses of Romans we see many of the themes we have looked at so far in this unit. Paul was a servant of Christ (v1) - like all who are followers of Christ.

He had been set apart for the gospel of God (v1). Paul had a particular ministry and was specially equipped God. But all followers of Jesus are called to make Him known, whatever their circumstances.

We have seen how these things were promised beforehand through God's prophets in Holy Scripture (v2) (in fact the gospel is the power of God to salvation of all who believe (1.16)).

Therefore, Paul was serving God by proclaiming this gospel to others.

He, like other disciples, was willing to suffer and die for Christ. In fact Paul, James, Peter, Thomas and others, did die for Christ. They were inspired by Christ, they wanted others to come to believe in Him, and so to worship and serve the living God.

Words and Bible Translations

Beware that Rom 1 different modern translation use different words. The quotations here are from the ESV.



Disciple of Jesus, inspired by Christ, want others to trust in Him, and come to worship and serve the living God.