

Title: Choose To Be A Slave - Romans 1 1-12

Read:

¹I, Paul, am a devoted slave of Jesus Christ on assignment, authorized as an apostle to proclaim God's words and acts. I write this letter to all the believers in Rome, God's friends. ²⁻⁷The sacred writings contain preliminary reports by the prophets on God's Son. His descent from David roots him in history; his unique identity as Son of God was shown by the Spirit when Jesus was raised from the dead, setting him apart as the Messiah, our Master. Through him we received both the generous gift of his life and the urgent task of passing it on to others who receive it by entering into obedient trust in Jesus. You are who you are through this gift and call of Jesus Christ! And I greet you now with all the generosity of God our Father and our Master Jesus, the Messiah. ⁸⁻¹²I thank God through Jesus for every one of you. That's first. People everywhere keep telling me about your lives of faith, and every time I hear them, I thank him. And God, whom I so love to worship and serve by spreading the good news of his Son—the Message!—knows that every time I think of you in my prayers, which is practically all the time, I ask him to clear the way for me to come and see you. The longer this waiting goes on, the deeper the ache. I so want to be there to deliver God's gift in person and watch you grow stronger right before my eyes! But don't think I'm not expecting to get something out of this, too! You have as much to give me as I do to you.

Think:

A slave to Jesus and an apostle authorised to proclaim Gods word. Can we rightly say these same words as Paul? Can we say I Julie am a devoted slave to Jesus, I Dave am a devoted slave to Jesus. Can you put your name in that place and say; I ... am a devoted slave to Jesus? What does it take to be a devoted slave to Jesus? Does it take an hour a week at the school Christian union? Does it take a morning at church once a week on a Sunday? Or is there more to being a devoted slave to Jesus? Paul explains how pleased he is with the people he is writing to, and he tells everyone he meets about their lives of faith. Wouldn't it be incredible to have Paul the apostle write to you? Would he say, I can't stop telling people about your faith filled life that you lead at school? Would Paul say I tell all my friends about how you to spread the fantastic news of Jesus at college? To be a slave to Jesus, to live a life that has Jesus at the centre means looking at how Jesus effects our every day actions. If aftershock is about anything, it is about learning how we become a slave to Jesus. Are you up for the journey?

Pray:

Father please help me become a true slave to Jesus and put you at the very centre of my life. Amen.

Action:

OK did you commit to the journey? Decide on one thing that you are going to change and tell someone about it. Do it now. Bye.