



Tues 24/ 25 January 2023 ~ Romans 1:1-7 ~ You are Loved

Starter for Ten:

Victor Hugo, the author of the play *Les Miserables*, wrote that, "The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved". Do you think he's right?

Read Romans 1v1-7

If you have time/ want to discuss the context in v.1-5:-

In a nutshell, what would you say are the essentials of 'the gospel'? It's interesting to see the things that Paul lists as the essentials about the gospel in v.1-5.

According to Paul, the gospel:

~ is of, or from, God (not a human idea); ~ is the promise of the Old Testament (not out of nowhere);

~ it's about God's Son (not about us); in particular it's about what Jesus has done and who He is (the Spirit-enabled resurrected One);

~ and, in response to all this, God invites us all to faith and obedience.

Which bits of this do we tend to focus on...or neglect?

Verse 6-7. Identity

1. Jago said that these Christians, are "...in Rome, but not defined by Rome."
In what ways is it easy for London-, or work-, or home- life, or other things or people, to give us our deepest sense of identity?
2. These Christians' primary identity in v.7 is that they are "loved by God" – without needing to prove themselves loveable.
In what ways does our culture suggest you have to perform or earn other people's love or approval? Do you feel that too?
3. If we really deeply believed, each day of this week, that Christians are those who, first and foremost, freely "loved by God," – what difference would that make? How could we rest in that truth more this week?

Calling

4. In v.6, what is it we are called to? How is that reassuring?
5. In v.7, what else are we called to? Do you see that as a daily calling? What would holiness (becoming more like Jesus) look like in the details of life for each of us this week?
6. In your experience, does knowing that we are freely loved by God (and by faith he sees us as holy in Christ) either dull your pursuit of holiness, or deepen it? How could we better hold both our Identity and our Calling together?



Do pray for one another to know more how loved we are, and that we'd respond to the call to live for God in response.



Maybe find a way to remind or show to another Christian this week that they are "loved by God."

