

Eleutheros Newsletter

July 2022

News of Interest

Eleutheros Books wants to announce that *The Ramifications of Our Salvation* has been translated into Spanish. To this point it has not been printed, but efforts are being made to make it available in print throughout the Spanish speaking world. Updates on this project will be provided as things develop. Please pray for this potential outreach ministry!

Would you or anyone you know be interested in learning more Bible? How about learning more about salvation? Or a course that deals with many issues the Church still faces today?

Currently offering: Soteriology 101, 102, and I Corinthians

Study at your own pace!

<https://eleutheros-seminars.thinkific.com/>

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.

[*19th Century Influences on 21st 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.

Thoughts from Romans

1:6 *Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ.*

In verse 1 Paul made it clear that he was called (**κλητός**) to be an Apostle. He uses the same word here to describe the spiritual condition of the believers in Rome.

There is a difference as far as ministries are accomplished in the Lord's work: God gives different gifts to His own; we all have different backgrounds; and we all have different experiences. When it comes to God's accomplishing our salvation, however, there is no difference. Every believer has been called by Jesus Christ!

In verse 5 the Apostle pointed out that the work God had called him to do was "among all nations." Obviously, the church at Rome was a part of his ministry!

1:7 *To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Paul had never been in Rome (see [1:11](#)), but he wanted to convey heartfelt sentiments to the people there.

He emphasizes that they are "beloved of God." What an amazing truth! The One God Who is holy, eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, immutable, and so creative loved all the people in Rome! How many "important" people in this world care for many others? Unfortunately, such is not the case many times. But God loves with **ἀγάπη** love, and nothing can separate us from it (see [Romans 8:38-39](#))!

The Apostle described the believers as "saints" (**ἅγιοι**). A "saint" is one who has been made holy *positionally* by God's grace at the moment of salvation. At the same moment a believer is also *declared* holy by God the Father: this is the idea conveyed by **δικαιόω** in [Romans 5:1](#). God's holiness produces holiness in us!

One last point about this word "saints": sainthood is something God confers, not something a church confers hundreds of years after one has passed away!

The word **χάρις** (literally "gift, grace") was the way to greet a Gentile in the ancient world. **Εἰρήνη** is the Greek translation for "peace" and was the way to greet Jews in the ancient world. It is clear, then, that there were both Jews and Gentiles in the church at Rome in Paul's day.

The wording at the end of verse 7, "from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" are worthy of comment. If the wording in the original Greek were slightly different, Paul would be saying that God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ are the same Person.

That is certainly not the case! Paul was very careful, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to word things in such a way as to indicate they are both God, but they are different Persons!

Simply stated, the doctrine of the Trinity is the fact that there is one God Who exists in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

There is a fairly common misconception about the Trinity that deserves comment. Some teach that God's Trinity is like water. When it's hot, it becomes steam; when it's cold, it become ice; when it's a normal temperature it is water. That is *incorrect!* God is not Who He is with three properties!

This author was asked to explain the Trinity when he was about six or seven years old. He made a guess by explaining that perhaps it was like his earthly father: he was an engineer, a husband, and a father. He meant well, but was *incorrect!*

God is not One with three properties or One with three positions! He is One in three Persons, and there is no analogy to explain that!

To all three Persons be the glory forever!

We will continue these thoughts from Romans in next month's newsletter.