

DECEMBER 23, 2007
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT A
Is 7: 10-14
Psalm 24
Rom 1: 1-7
Mt 1: 18-24

In today's Epistle of Romans 1: 1-7, the first sentence is "Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus is *called* to be an apostle for the gospel of God." This is all foretold in the Old Testament and it concerns Christ. The prophets and apostles all bear witness to Christ and he is the true treasure.

Paul (and the rest of us in salvation history) has received the grace of apostleship for our obedience to the faith. This act of faith is the obedience to the will of God in the spirit of holiness, mercy and love. In the end, the gospel of salvation is a common salvation of all those called to Jesus Christ.

This epistle is written to all those believers who are beloved by God and whose identity only God knows. The duty of Christians is to be holy – and to be a saint. As Advent draws to a close please take some time to pray for your own sainthood.

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