

# STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

# 1

## ***STUDY INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE BOOK OF ROMANS***

### **Please Read Carefully**

- Remember that all Home Bible School studies are **FREE** and pre-denominational. You will never be asked for money.
- This is study Part number one of the “**Studies in the Book of Romans**” series. When you finish this course, you should begin Part number two. At the conclusion of your study of Romans, choose which of the following studies you’d like to continue with:  
**Survey of the Old Testament, Making Sense of the Bible,, the Life of Christ, the book of Acts, Romans, the book of Revelation, The Church of the Bible or a Home Bible Study Curriculum**
- **YOUR INSTRUCTIONS FOR “STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS” LESSON ONE:**
  - The King James Bible is the text for these Bible study courses, but you may use your own Bible.
  - \* Please read the lesson very carefully and make notes in your notebook. then complete all the test questions at the end of this lesson. **All answers to the test questions are found in the lesson.**
  - **Send the** test questions back to the address below.. **Please do not send back the entire lesson.** It is yours to keep.
  - **Please make sure your name and address are on the test questions before you mail them back.**
  - Your lesson will be graded and the results sent back to you and when you finish each of these lessons and the rest of the courses, you will be sent a **Certificate of Completion.**

God blesses those who sincerely study the Bible and we pray his blessings on you as you study.

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Why is the book of Romans even in the New Testament? It's a long book with sixteen chapters, sometimes the language is really deep and who in the world are all those people listed in the back of the book? Romans causes a lot of folks to scratch their heads and say, "**What is going on with this book?**"

*"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"* (2 **Timothy 3:16,17**). **Romans is a part of the Bible and that's the** best reason it must be studied.

There's another very good reason to give the book of Romans a good and close look. It's not only to change the "What is going on with this book?" into "**So that's what's going on!**", but it's to make sure that Christians understand fully what the absolute bedrock of our salvation and belief is.

When you complete your study, you will not only have a good understanding of the book of Romans, but you'll have a good handle on **why** Christians believe as we do. .

The beating heart of Romans is salvation and Paul spends the first half of the book talking about such things as grace, faith, sin, obedience, law, justification, propitiation, conversion, etc. But what good is knowing about salvation, when what we know is not applied to our lives. Romans not only tells us about the heart of salvation, but about putting it into practice in our lives.

Incidentally, about salvation, some folks say "grace, plus nothing, minus nothing" or "faith, plus nothing, minus nothing" which may sound pretty good, but Romans teaches us the **completeness** of grace through faith. Romans also teaches us what grace did, what **faith does** and how we **become one with God through Jesus**, God's Christ and our savior. So, let's get started

### Who Wrote Romans?

*"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God"* (1:1) tells us plainly that the apostle Paul wrote Romans. Earlier in his life, Paul persecuted the church terribly, but was converted to Christ in the city of Damascus, Syria, as recorded in Acts 9, 22 and 26. Of the other apostles, Peter worked especially among the Jews, but we don't know exactly what the other eleven did. Paul was the "apostle to the Gentiles" (Galatians 2:7-9; Romans 11:13). He was also the last of the apostles (1 Corinthians 15:8,9), but was equal with the other twelve (2 Corinthians 11:5; 12:11). Let's remember a couple of facts about one of the apostles' duties..

- **God used the apostles and the New Testament prophets to be the means by which the Holy Spirit brought the gospel truth from heaven to earth.** There are no apostles and prophets alive on the earth today (with heaven's blessings at least), so Romans is part of a complete Bible-- and there will be no more Bible revealed to men. The Bible is enough to give us all of the spiritual equipment we need to stand against the devil and go to heaven when we die, if we die as faithful Christians.

That's why John said in Revelation 22:18,19, "*For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book, and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*" Don't mess with the Bible!

- The second thing we need to remember is that **the Jews thought of people in only two categories:** Jews and Gentiles. Whenever the Bible uses the word "Gentile" or "Greek" or "barbarian", it's talking about anyone who was not a Jew.

### **Who was Romans written to?**

*"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"* (1:7). Rome was the capital of the world in the New Testament days. Roman armies had brought a kind of peace and order to the world, had built roads throughout the empire and most everybody spoke the same language, Koiné Greek. ("Koiné" is pronounced "coin ay" and was the common language spoken everywhere in the world.)

Acts 2:10 mentions "strangers of Rome" being present at Pentecost when the church was established. Possibly some of these were among the "about 3000" (Acts 2:41) who were baptized on that day, a first day of the week. And also possibly some of these may have taken the gospel into the capital city and established the church in Rome. Chances are Peter did not establish the church in Rome. The Catholics believe so, but remember that Peter's main mission was to preach the gospel to the Jews. He may, or may not, have ever been in Rome – we just don't know, but the chances of his establishing the Roman church are from pretty small to non-existent.

### **Where was Romans written from?**

Read 2 Corinthians 9:1-5 and you'll find out that on Paul's third missionary journey he passed through Macedonia on his way to Corinth to collect money from the churches to take to the poor in Jerusalem. Acts 20:3 says he stayed in Corinth for three months before going back through Macedonia and then to Jerusalem. In Romans 15:25,26, he talks about being ready to take this money to Jerusalem, so he probably wrote Romans while in Corinth about 58 AD.

### **Paul and the church in Rome**

When Paul wrote Romans, he had never been in Rome because he had only heard of their faith (1:8). He may have heard this news from Aquila and Priscilla, a godly couple he had lived and worked with when he first went to Corinth, for they had "lately come from Italy" (Acts 18:2,3). He prayed for the church often and wanted to come to Rome to give them some spiritual gift (1:13) and he tells them his plans were to stop and visit when he made his trip to Spain (15:24,28) after he took the money to Jerusalem. Jesus had told him he would go to Rome in Acts 23:11 and finally he arrived in Acts 28:14 where he was a prisoner for two years in his own rented house, free to teach the gospel to anyone who would listen (Acts 28:30,31).

## The theme and brief outline of the book of Romans

The gospel is God's power to save everyone – Jew or Gentile. The theme is stated in Romans 1:16,17, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”*

People want to be saved from their sins and Romans is a gold mine full of how salvation comes about, both from God's side and man's side. Basically, Romans talks about man's need to be saved (chapters 1-3:23) with the rest of the book discussing both God's and man's part in salvation. A brief outline goes like this:

- **Chapters 1-11: Paul discusses the doctrine of salvation**
- **Chapters 12-16: Paul discusses practical application of what it means to be saved**

First, read each chapter at least three times and then read the Lesson comments. Have an underliner ready and a notebook by your side so you can ask any questions you want and makes any comments.

Let's now enjoy a detailed look at the book of Romans

### CHAPTER ONE There are sinners in the world

**Comments:** Everything that God-fearing people believe is based on the power of God (v 4): Christ was the son of God with power, Paul was an apostle with power (v 5) and we have grace through faith and obedience in the Bible because of God's power. God's power is in the gospel, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”* (1:16). When people do not believe and obey the gospel, they are putting their authority against the power/authority of God! That's the reason Paul devoted his whole life to preaching the gospel (v 15). The righteousness of God is in the gospel as Paul quoted from Habakkuk 2:4 in verse 17.

If faith is so important, let's start out by taking a quick look at what faith is. We must have it because Hebrews 11:6 says, *“without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

When men do not believe the truth of God, obey it and stay with it, his wrath comes upon them because they **“hold the truth in unrighteousness”** (v 18). “Holding the truth in unrighteousness” is another way of saying, **“I know the Bible says this, but I'm going to do what I want to do.”**

People can even look at the world itself to find God (v 19) because he created all things from nothing as we are taught in Genesis 1:1 (v 20). That's why David wrote in Psalms 97:6, **“The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.”**

People today who do not believe in God have not looked around his beautiful world and seen his glory in it. *“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good”* (Psalm 14:1)

## THE FAITH THAT SAVES

The word “faith” appears thirty-four times in the book of Romans and the word “believe” occurs eight times. The first time the word “faith” appears in Romans is Romans 1:5 and the last time it appears is Romans 16:26. Paul mentioned faith so many times it must be important.

If you ask someone what “faith” is, they’ll probably answer, “**It’s what I believe**” or “**It’s what my church teaches**” or “**Well, it’s just one of those words that describe itself!**” There is a passage in Hebrews that gives a description of faith and there is a passage in Romans that gives more of a definition of faith.

Hebrews 1:1 says, “**Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**” We have never met Abraham Lincoln, but we know he was the president of the United States during the Civil War. We believe the testimony and that gives us conviction he was an actual person. That’s what “evidence of things not seen” means. “Substance” means something concrete and actually refers to that which is under us (sub) on which we stand (stance).

Romans 4:19-22 says about Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation, “**And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb, he staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.**”

The definition of faith is **trust in God that he will keep his promises**. The description of faith is **that which is under us which gives strength and substance to us**.

Romans 5:2 teaches how important faith is to the grace of God. “**By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**”

And “**faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God**” (Romans 10:17).

In old days, as now, we have people who refuse to see all the real evidence God has given to man to show forth God’s majesty and righteousness. The next verses talk about how men have always rejected God throughout history:

- They became foolish because they were ignorant of God (v 21)
- They left God and became worshipers of idols (v 22)
- God surely still loved them, but he gave up on them because they had made the decision to go with their feelings rather than be humble before God (v 23)
- Their ignorance changed the truth into a lie and they worshiped nature instead of God (v 25)
- Their religion was immoral with women lusting after women (v 26)
- Their men lusted after each other and received painful rewards in their bodies (v 27)
- They filled their lives with evil (vv 29-31)
- They knew God would judge them, but they still had pleasure in doing evil (v 32).

All these horrible things came from refusing to know God and to believe the testimony of nature.

### Paul’s Points:

- All power is with God
- God has given the gospel, the New Testament, to man
- The power of God to save is in the gospel

## CHAPTER TWO

### Even God's chosen people, the Jews, were sinners too

**Comments:** We saw in chapter one that sinners in the world make themselves a sorry lot because they have refused to believe in God and know him. But, what about people who are religious?

Do religious people sin too? Well, they did in Paul's day and they do in our day too.

Paul uses chapter two to talk about the religious Jews and we learn some good lessons from Paul that even religious people sin. The Jews sinned in the first century and religious people still sin today. Now, the Jews were real harsh toward those rotten sinners in the world, but they were doing some of the same things (v 1)! This is what the Bible calls **hypocrisy!**

God judges every person according to the truth (v 2) and even those religious people wouldn't get away with looking down their noses at the terrible sinners in the world, if they're guilty of the same things (v 3). They were hard in their religion (v 5) and by being hard-nosed, they didn't have any room for God's goodness and patience with them, which should lead anyone to repentance (v 4).

**Every human being who does wrong in the sight of God will be judged by God (vv 5-9), but those who seek the will of God and obey him will be blessed (v 10).**

God knew that human beings would be sinners and because of his great love for us, he revealed his grace through the Bible so we could really appreciate what heaven has done for us. But, what is grace? Before we go further, let's take another quick look at this wonderful Bible subject.

#### WHAT IS GRACE?

Titus 2:11,12 says: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." **The grace of God brought salvation to sinful men, but what is it?**

The word "grace" means "a gift" and Ephesians 2:8-10 teaches, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." **Grace brought salvation which is God's gift to sinful men.**

And the way we plug into grace is found in Romans 5:1,2, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." **Faith in Jesus plugs into the grace of God.**

James 2:20 says, "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" **When a sinful person wants to plug into the grace of God, he learns what God wants him to do (Romans 10:17), has faith in God, then obeys what the Bible teaches.**

**God's love and grace gave us Jesus, through whom we have salvation (John 3:16) when we believe and obey his word.**

Why will those who obey God be blessed? Because "*there is no respect of persons with God*" (v 11). Have you ever thought about what that means – no respect of persons with God? Remember that truth is truth and it can be nothing else. **What the Bible says is true and nothing else will satisfy God.**

So, if God wants us to obey the truth, but we think we can get away with disobedience (like sinners did back then and now) or get away with just being religious but not righteous (like the Jews did), **God will still use his word to judge everyone and will respect no one's disobedience!** Think about that because that's a very sobering thought.

Now for the first time, beginning in verse 12, Paul mentions something called "law" and we want to look at "law" for just a minute. "Law" is not a bad word because **law is what keeps us straight and gives us regulations to live by.** "For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law" (v 12). This means that people sin who never even know about God and people also sin who know about God, but don't follow his teachings.

Not all the people in the world in Paul's day were rank sinners because some of them "**do by nature the things contained in the law**" and became "a **law unto themselves**" (v 14). Let's explain this. In every society in the world, it isn't right to murder. It is also part of the Law of Moses because Exodus 20:13 says "thou shalt not kill (murder)." Without a written law from God, these good, moral Gentiles did things which were contained in God's written law and that's what Paul means here. I think we can call this the **LAW OF MORALS** or **THE LAW OF THE CONSCIENCE** (v 15).

But the world is going to be judged by the gospel of Jesus Christ, the New Testament (v 16) and not by morals or conscience. Paul then says the Jews too are going to be judged by the gospel of Christ (v 17). The Jews were religious people who were proud of being God's chosen people and they thought they were guides to the blind and full of light (v 19) as well as instructors of ignorant people (v 20).

**BUT.** These Jews weren't practicing God's righteousness (v 21,22). They used only their mouth in serving God and by their actions they were dishonoring God (v 23). It reminds us of what Jesus said about those folks in Matthew 23:3, "**All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.**"

What made these Jews proud? It was their covenant of circumcision with God which began when God told Abraham in Genesis 17:10-14, "*This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed. He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.*"

We're pretty familiar with what circumcision is because it's a common practice in our society. After a boy baby is born, the doctors will cut off the foreskin off his male member. The Jews did it on the eighth day of a baby's life because of God's command to do so. NOTE: It turns out that on the eighth day the K-factor (natural blood clotting agent) is at an all-time high, meaning the child would bleed little if at all.

So, the Jews called themselves "The **Circumcision**" and they called the Gentiles (anybody who wasn't a Jew) "The **Uncircumcision**" and that's what Paul is talking about in verses 25-29. As a matter of fact, he uses the Jews' own language to make some points with them:

- If they broke the law, they were no better than the “uncircumcised” (v 24)
- And if good, moral Gentiles kept the things contained in the law, it would be like they were circumcised because they were following God (v 25)
- The good Gentiles were practicing what the Jews should have been practicing (v 26)
- Being true to God comes from the inside out and not from the outside in (vv 27-8)

These are some great lessons for us today. We change ourselves with the power of the word of God in our lives from the inside out.

Paul’s Points:

- Religious people must not only believe, they must practice what God wants
- People that do what God says will be right in God’s sight
- People who don’t do what God says will remain in their sins

### **CHAPTER THREE**

#### **Nobody can save himself: Man needs Christ**

**Comments:** The Jews were blessed in their history because God chose them to be the vehicle through whom Christ would come into the world and, toward that end, “the oracles of God” were committed to the Jews (v 2), which gave them an advantage over the Gentile world (v 1). They were still sinners even though they didn’t think they were (v 3, 4). Did God owe the Jews righteousness even though they were sinners (v 5)? No.

**NOTE:** Let’s look at this word “**righteousness**.” The Jews had their own righteousness which was by the law of Moses. The Gentiles had a kind of righteousness which came from their own morals and conscience. But what was God’s righteousness? Or what is God’s righteousness? Paul has already told us that in the gospel “**is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith**” (1:17). When we use the word “righteous” to refer to God, it is not referring to the fact that God is righteous, but it is referring to what David said in Psalm 119:172, “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for **all thy commandments are righteousness**.” In the book of Romans, this word “righteousness” is mostly talking about that which makes people righteous like God – the **gospel** of Jesus, the truth of the New Testament.

When a person sins, God will punish him, but does that mean God is unrighteous (v 5)? No, because only a perfect God can judge the world (v 6). But what does God use to judge the world? He uses the gospel as we’re taught in John 12:48, “*He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*” Folks, “**It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God**” (Hebrews 10:31) and people do that when they put the Bible aside for their own opinions.

**NOTE:** God gave his truth to man through his son because of his wonderful love for us and it was the evil that mankind did that caused God to want to show his love by giving his son to die for our sins (John 3:16). The critics of Christ in the first century said, “Aha. If you believe that God’s love was caused by sin, then the more we sin, the more God loves us (v 8)!” Nonsense. Skipping ahead to Romans 6:1-4, Paul comes back to this silly nonsense and says, “*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*”

Beginning in verse 9, Paul comes back to this sin problem we human beings have which existed among both Gentiles and Jews (v 9). His description of sinners is very powerful and, when we look at rank sinners today, we can see exactly what he's talking about. When we look at some religious people, we can also know exactly what he's talking about.

- The religious Jews didn't understand about God and didn't seek after him (v 11)
- The religious Jews didn't profit anyone because doing good is something they don't do (v 12)
- The religious Jews spoke dead words, they **deceived** people, their words were like **poison**, they were **bitter**, they **cursed** and they were quick to be **violent** in the pursuit of their religious zeal, even to the point of shedding blood (vv 13-15)
- The religious Jews were **miserable** and would be destroyed because they didn't know peace and didn't fear God (vv16-18)

God used the law of Moses to convince the world of guilt (v 19) and no one could be made right in the sight of God through just the law (v 20). The religious Jews thought that they could be justified (made right) only through the law of Moses and one reason Paul is writing this book is to show them that the law of Moses has been taken away by the law of Christ, the gospel (v 20).

The law of Moses could not save people from sins, but Jesus Christ can (v 22,23) and he makes sinners right in God's sight by his grace and redeeming blood (v 24). ***“Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God”*** (v 25). What is a **propitiation**? It is a “covering” like the mercy seat over the ark of the covenant and it means Jesus covers our sins with his blood. Another meaning of “propitiation” is to “settle the wrath of God.” **The only way a human being can escape the wrath of God in judgment is through the blood of Jesus.**

Verse 25 also teaches that Jesus' blood covered all the sins in both the Patriarchal and Mosaic ages of Bible history. The Patriarchal age lasted from Adam to Moses; the Mosaic age lasted from Moses to the cross and the Christian age started at the cross and will last until Jesus returns.

So, what did the Jews have to be proud of? Nothing (v 27) because the way they looked at the law of Moses was not of faith and we are made right in the sight of God by our trust in him that he will keep his promises (v 28). God is no respecter of persons (v 29) and he expects all, both Jew and Gentile, to approach him by faith (v 30), understanding that “faith without works is dead” (James 2:20).

Paul's Points:

- Only God can tell us through the Bible what sin is
- All have sinned
- Without God, there is no righteousness
- The law of Moses could not make all men right with God
- The gospel makes all men right with God if they believe and obey it
- Without the gospel, no person can be saved

## CHAPTER FOUR

### The faith of Abraham, who was the friend of God

The Roman church had both Jews and Gentiles in it. The Jews were raised to believe that the law of Moses was the best law that God had ever given because he had given it to the Jews first. Now, how in the world do you teach these believing Jews that the law of Moses and the religion of Judaism was totally replaced by the gospel of Christ and the religion we know of as Christianity?

You start with the father of the Jewish people, Abraham, and that's exactly what Paul does in chapter four.

Someone might also ask, "Well, I believe in the gospel of Christ and I believe in the New Testament, so why is all this discussion about Abraham and the Jews so necessary?" Here are a few reasons why:

- Some people today teach that parts of the Old Testament (the law of Moses) are still what we ought to be practicing in religion today and we ought to be doing these things because God had never taken away the law of Moses.

**So Paul is proving in Romans that God did indeed take away that law to replace it with the gospel of Christ**

- Paul wanted to prove that the gospel of Christ was God's permanent law and that the law of Moses was only temporary in order to bring us to Christ as Galatians 3:24,25 "*Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.*"

**So Paul proves that even keeping the sabbath day, a part of the law of Moses, was only temporary and never intended to be permanent.**

- Some people ignore the Old Testament, but Paul teaches in Romans 15:4, "*For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*"

**Christians today need the Old Testament to fully understand the New Testament. The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.**

Now, let's listen to what Paul teaches about Abraham, the father of the Jewish people.

**Comments:** Paul is proving that we are under a law of faith and not a law of works. The Jews' father, Abraham, was a good example in that he was not justified by his own works (v 2), but it was his faith which worked that God counted (v 3). Besides, those who believe they are saved by their own works have no room for God's grace, but God would owe them salvation (v 4). God does not owe mankind anything!

Even David in Psalm 32:1,5 said that people who had their sins forgiven (v 7) will not have those sins counted against them (v 8) and this heavenly blessing comes upon anyone who has obedient faith, both Jew and Gentile (v 9).

In verse 10, it's as if Paul is saying, "Aha! Abraham believed God before he was circumcised!" It's true: Abraham was circumcised to seal the covenant God had made with him that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed (vv 11-14). This is what Paul means in Galatians 3:16 when he says, "*Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.*"

**It was through Abraham's family (seed) that Christ would come and Paul is proving that, now that Christ is come, we had better listen to him. Abraham was justified (made right) with God because his faith caused him to obey. So should ours.**

About law, Paul says it tells us when we do wrong (v 15), but grace through faith is how people, both Jew and Gentile, take hold of God's promises (v 16), which is exactly what Abraham did. Now comes some guidance for those of us who "*walk by faith and not by sight*" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

- Abraham's faith was full of **hope** (v 18) that God would keep his word
- Abraham's faith and hope were **not weak** even though he was about 100 years old when Isaac was born (v 19)
- Abraham's faith did **not fail** but was strong (v 20)
- Abraham believed God, was **strong in hope** and that's what counts (imputed)
- Abraham's obedient faith is a **pattern** for us. If we have faith in God, it must be obedient, strong and laced with hope (vv 23-25)

**NOTE:** The definition of faith is given in verse 21, "*And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.*" **Faith is trust in God that he will keep his word.**

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **Made right in God's sight with faith**

Let's talk about what it means to be "**justified.**" This is an old word which means "**to make right**" and mankind surely does need to be right with God. As a matter of fact, don't you hear a lot of preachers telling you to get right with God? In these first four chapters Paul has taught us that we are all sinners (chapter 3), even religious people (chapter 2) and that the gospel is what makes us right with God (chapter 1). Abraham is the "father of the faithful" because he took God at his word and God counted that to make Abraham justified (chapter 4). Here in chapter 5, Paul really starts getting down discussing **how to get right with God** and his discussion goes through chapter 8. Let's start.

**Comments:** Christ gives us peace through our trusting in him to keep his promises (v 1) and we stand in the grace of God through our trusting faith (v 2).

**NOTE:** Grace is God giving us something that we don't deserve. We didn't deserve Christ, but he died for the sins of men. We didn't deserve God's goodness, but we got it anyway. And, when we obediently trust in God, we plug into his grace. Justification isn't grace alone; it isn't faith alone; it isn't works alone – **it's obedient faith plugging into the grace of God to receive his free gift of salvation.**

When Christians stay faithful to God in spite of all kinds of problems, it gives us experience which gives us patience and shores up the hope we have in God (vv 3,4). We know absolutely nothing about the love of God without the Bible, which was inspired by God through the Holy Spirit (v 5).

Paul talks about the importance of the death of Jesus Christ for our sins and it's a good study to check out what he says in the next few verses.

- Without Christ, we are still in our sins (v 6)
- We might give our lives for some other good person, but Christ, the most perfect one who ever lived, died for all of us ungodly people and this is the goodness of God (v 7,8; Romans 2:4)
- We are made right in the sight of God (justified) by the blood of Christ (v 9) and in chapter 6, he tells us how to get the blood on our souls
- Without Christ, we are enemies of God (v 10)
- With Christ, we can be happy (v 11)
- Adam brought sin and death into the world (v 12) but Jesus brings salvation and life

**NOTE: Is a baby born a sinner?** Some religious folks teach that, when a baby is born, it is born a sinner and the sin they have on their souls is Adam's sin. Verse 12 does not teach that false doctrine, because it doesn't say sin passed from Adam to his children, but **death** passes from generation to generation because of our sin..

- The knowledge of the law of God brings a knowledge of sin and that's important (v 13)
- But the law of Moses, which pointed out death, has been taken away by the gospel of Christ (v 14)
- And our sins (offenses) are taken away by the grace of God, which is Jesus and his blood (v 15)
- Man can't earn salvation (v 16); Adam couldn't, but salvation can be ours because it is a free gift (v 17).

**NOTE:** Salvation is a free gift because we can't earn it, but that does not mean we do not have to obey God. It takes obedient faith to please God, not just faith only.

Adam's sin brought death into the world, but the righteousness of Christ, the obedient son of God, has brought the gift of salvation so we can be right with God (v 18,19). We wouldn't know anything about sin without God telling us and because we know so much about sin, we have a more wonderful appreciation of what the free gift is (v 20). The free gift that God has given us is life eternal (v 21).

## **CHAPTERS SIX, SEVEN AND EIGHT**

### **Getting out of the world of sin into the world of God**

Remember we said that Paul starts talking about being really made right in God's sight in chapter 5 and he continues his discussion through chapter 8? Well, it's time for us to get to the very heart of the book of Romans which is these very three chapters. Let me sum all three chapters up quickly for you.

**CHAPTER 7 is the world of sin and the flesh**

**CHAPTER 8 is the world of salvation of the spirit and living in the spirit.**

**CHAPTER 6 tells us how to get from chapter 7 to chapter 8, from the world of sin into the world of being spiritual.**

## CHAPTER 6: The Transition Chapter

What do we mean by “transition?” It’s a change that happens between two things. A caterpillar spins a cocoon and becomes a butterfly; it has made a transition from one thing to another. As far as spiritual transition goes, it’s illustrated in John 5:24, “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is **passed from death unto life.***” Those who hear the word of Jesus, obediently believe on what he has heard will “pass from death unto life” – the spiritual transition most important to all of us. Romans chapter 6 tells us how to pass from death in sin unto life in Christ.

**Comments:** People who have made the transition from death to life are dead to sin (v 7), but how does a person become dead to sin? The answer is in verse 9-11, “*Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*”

When a Christian is dead to sin, that means he doesn’t have sin as the main thing in his life (vv 12-13) and none of this comes by the law of Moses, but through the gospel of the grace of God (v 14). When sin is not the main thing in a person’s life, they become the servants of righteousness (v 18). Sin is a terrible thing and death comes to the sinner who is not in Christ (v 23).

But, how in the world does a person pass from certain sinful death to life? Does he just say, “**I believe in Jesus**” or does he say “**I’m sorry for my sins**” or does he say “**I was baptized as a baby**”?

This is why verses 1-7 are in this chapter because they tell us how to pass from death to life. “*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are **dead to sin**, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were **baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?** Therefore we are buried with him **by baptism into death**: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the **likeness of his death**, we shall be also in the **likeness of his resurrection**, knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the **body of sin might be destroyed**, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.*”

When a person is baptized into the death of Christ, his sins are “destroyed” or taken away. When a person is baptized into the death of Christ, his obedient act of faith pictures the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus in his obedience to the Lord. After a person is baptized into the death of Christ, he is freed from sin.

This is not some church’s doctrine – it’s Bible truth. **The only way to get into the death of Jesus is to be baptized into his death.**

When a person is baptized into the death of Christ, he **passes from death in his sins to life in Christ**. If a person is not baptized into the death of Christ, he is **still in his sins** and will be lost when he dies.

Baptism is not for babies because “*he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*” (Mark 16:16) and babies can’t believe. Baptism is not for people who think they just need to get wet because Acts 2:38 says, “*Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.*”

## CHAPTER 7: The Law of Moses and The Sinfulness of Our Flesh

Remember, there were many Jews in the Roman church and they still had problems with what to do with the old law of Moses. In this chapter, Paul tells us how those Jews had misused the law of Moses and also how we don't need to be bound to the law of Moses anymore. Also, remember the law of Moses was taken away when Jesus died on the cross. "*Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross*" (Colossians 2:14).

People are not married to the law of Moses just like a woman is no longer married to her husband if he dies (vv 1-3). Being "*loosed from the law of her husband*" (v 2) means that he is no longer the head of their household because he's dead. Moses is also no longer the head of the house of God; Jesus is!

**NOTE:** One of the biggest problems we have in America is so many people are not getting married and just living together or they get married and divorce for any reason. Children from these kinds of arrangements and marriages always suffer and that's why there is so much juvenile crime in our country. **When homes fail, the nation fails.**

Notice the strong teaching Paul gives in verse 3: "*So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.*" There will be more women -- and men -- who will be lost in the day of judgment because of this scripture than they want to admit. God's law for marriage is: **One man, one wife, for life, except for death or fornication.**

So, the law of Moses is still inspired of God (2 Timothy 3:16,17), but people are not under the law because we have been freed from it (v 6). Religious people today who try to make the law of Moses binding on people But, the law is not sin because it came from God (v 7) -- it has just been taken away by the death of Christ so that the New Testament could be heaven's law for all time. The law of Moses served its purpose (v 8) by showing what sin is and when people found out what heaven's will was (v 9), it showed them they were wrong (v 10). God gave something holy, just and good (v 12), but it's sinful man that is the problem, not God.

**NOTE:** Sometimes people sin because they don't know any better. Sometimes people sin when they know better, but just do what they want to do in spite of the Bible's teachings. They think that whatever their minds come up with and whatever their bodies want to do, it's all right. They need the word from heaven to get their lives right. Heaven gave the word to the Jews and they knew what to do, but didn't do it. Heaven gave the New Testament to us so that we'll know what to do. Man's problem is we often don't want to do what we know is the right thing to do.

So, what does the word "**carnal**" mean in verse 14? It means "according to the flesh" and it's Paul's way of saying that our minds know what to do, but sometimes we just do what our old fleshy nature says to do. We may really love God and want to do what's right, but we're still in our old fleshy bodies and sometimes our fleshy lusts win out (read verses 17-224 for a full explanation of this fact).

*"I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin"* (v 25). Christ has the answer for all of man's problems.

## CHAPTER 8: What the Holy Spirit Does Through the Gospel of Christ

**Comments:** Christians walk after the spirit (v 1), but what does walking after the Holy Spirit mean? Does it mean that we can still do miracles today? Does the Holy Spirit tell us to do things that the Bible does not approve? Do we wait for a “still small voice” inside of us to tell us which way to go, or do we study the Bible to learn what that way is? Many religious people claim to have the Holy Spirit, but do things exactly opposite from what the Bible teaches. Who’s right? Romans chapter 8 tells us how to walk after the Spirit and it’s not a matter of who’s right, but a matter of what’s right!

Every walk with the Holy Spirit is based upon “**the law of the Spirit of life**” (v 2), another title for the gospel truth of the New Testament. The Old Testament couldn’t provide us that walk, but Jesus can (v 3). He died so that the law of Moses might be fulfilled (v 4), so that we do not have to walk according to our flesh (vv 5,6) because, when we do things according to our flesh (what we want to do), we’re doing something against God (v 7) and God is not pleased (v 8). John 4:23 tells us, “*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*”

### Walking in the Holy Spirit

**1. God, Christ and the Holy Spirit dwell in Christians and only in Christians.** Notice three scriptures which teach us this wonderful fact:

Revelation 21:3: “*Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and **he will dwell with them**, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*” The tabernacle of God is the church. 1 Timothy 3:15, “*But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the **house of God, which is the church of the living God**, the pillar and ground of the truth.*”

Ephesians 3:16-19: “*That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may **dwell in your hearts by faith**; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be **filled with all the fulness of God.***”

Acts 5:32: “*And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom **God hath given to them that obey him.***”

God, Christ and the Holy Spirit dwell in our hearts by faith when we obey the word of God. “*So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God*” (Romans 10:17). No religious person can claim to have the Holy Spirit without walking according to what the Bible teaches.

**2. Christians walk by the Holy Spirit by living the Christian life (vv 10-14) and only those people who have Christ in them (v 10), can walk by the Holy Spirit.**

Galatians 3:27,28 tells us how to put on Christ: “*For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ have put on Christ**. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*” Colossians 1:27 says, “*To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.***” Christians are the only people in the world who have hope beyond death.

### 3. Christians who walk by the Holy Spirit are the children of God.

This is why 1 Peter 1:23-25 say, *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away, but the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”* A person is born again “by water and the spirit” (John 3:3-5; Acts 2:38) when he obeys the word of God’s teachings on salvation.

### 4. Christians who walk by the Holy Spirit may suffer, but heaven knows about their sufferings.

Suffering here on earth is endured because heaven is waiting for the faithful Christ (v 18). Even when Christians suffer so much that we can’t even put our hurts into words, the Holy Spirit takes our hurts to heaven’s throne (v 26).

**Note:** Remember, the Holy Spirit and Jesus intercede for us, but 1 Timothy 2:5 says there is *“only one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.”* An intercessor pleads a person’s case, but a mediator solves the person’s problem.

### 5. Christians who walk by the Holy Spirit show their walk by living after the fruit of the Spirit (v 23)

Galatians 5:22-25 explains what the fruit of the spirit is, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”* Law regulates us but there is no regulation against these spiritual things – **we can do as much of them as we want to do.**

### 6. Christians who walk after the Holy Spirit are the only ones who have hope (vv 24,25)

Hebrews 6:18,19 tells us more about hope. *“That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us, which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast...”*

### 7. Christians who walk after the Holy Spirit will have all things work together for their good (v 28).

“Called according to his purpose” refers to 2 Thessalonians 2:14, *“Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* Christians are people who believe the gospel, repent of their sins and are baptized into Christ, as the gospel teaches.

### 8. Christians who walk after the Holy Spirit know that heaven is prepared for them (vv 29, 30)

*“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”*

Let's not make anything out of this predestination teaching other than what the Bible teaches. God knew before the beginning of time that people who would obey his son would have their destiny in heaven and that these are the ones who answer the gospel call of salvation. These are the ones he makes right with him (justified) and will go to heaven when they die (glorified).

**9. Christians who walk after the Holy Spirit have God on their side.**

God and an obedient person make a majority (v 31). Jesus died for us (v 32) and God will take care of his people (v 31).

**10. Christians who walk after the Holy Spirit are loved by Christ in spite of all evil things the world throws against us (vv 35-39)**

Verse 27 teaches that, if we stay faithful to Jesus, nothing will separate us from his love. Even if we are unfaithful, he still loves us and waits for us to return back to him (vv 38,39).

This whole chapter contains wonderful promises to the faithful Christian. Are you a Christian?

This concludes your first study  
in the book of Romans

Now, please answer the following test questions  
and send them back for grading.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND THE ENTIRE LESSON BACK  
It is yours to keep

**TEST QUESTIONS**  
**Studies in the Book of Romans**  
**Part One**

**YOUR NAME:**

**YOUR ADDRESS:**

**CITY/STATE/ZIP:**

**WHERE YOU GO TO CHURCH:**

**Multiple choice (Circle the correct answer)**

1. Who wrote the book of Romans? **A** Peter **B** James **C** Paul **D** Jude
2. How much scripture is inspired of God? **A** The Old Testament **B** The New Testament **C** Both of these
3. How many times does the word "faith" appear in Romans? **A** 12 **B** 34 **C** Only once
4. The power of God is **A** The gospel **B** The creation **C** A church's beliefs
5. The word "grace" means **A** A gift **B** Beauty **C** Speaking in tongues
6. The Jews called themselves **A** The Uncircumcision **B** The Circumcision **C** Hypocrites
7. Who was called "the friend of God?" **A** David **B** Abraham **C** Elijah
8. The definition of faith is **A** What I personally believe **B** What my church teaches **C** Trust in God that he will keep his promises
9. Another title for the gospel truth is **A** The law of the spirit of life **B** The New Testament **C** The Word of God **D** All of these
10. Of chapters 6, 7 and 8, the transition chapter is **A** 6 **B** 7 **C** 8

**True false questions on the Holy Spirit (Check the correct answer)**

- |  |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|
| 1. The Holy Spirit tells us to believe things <u>not</u> in the Bible          | T _____ | F _____ |
| 2. The Holy Spirit wants us to believe things <u>in</u> the Bible              | T _____ | F _____ |
| 3. God, Christ and the Holy Spirit dwell only in Christians                    | T _____ | F _____ |
| 4. A Christian can have the Holy Spirit, but does not have to live a good life | T _____ | F _____ |
| 5. Christians who walk by the Holy Spirit still can serve the devil            | T _____ | F _____ |
| 6. The Holy Spirit works through the "law of the spirit of life"               | T _____ | F _____ |
| 7. God is on the side of Christians  | T _____ | F _____ |

**True false questions on grace (Check the correct answer)**

- |   |         |         |
|---|---------|---------|
| 1. Grace is God's gift to sinful man                                | T _____ | F _____ |
| 2. Sinful man is saved by grace alone without faith or obedience    | T _____ | F _____ |
| 3. Sinful man is saved by grace when he believes and obeys the Lord | T _____ | F _____ |
| 4. We have access to God's grace through faith                      | T _____ | F _____ |
| 5. God's love and grace gave us the devil                           | T _____ | F _____ |

### True false questions on faith (Check the correct answer)

- |   |         |         |
|---|---------|---------|
| 1. The word "faith" appears only once in the book of Romans | T _____ | F _____ |
| 2. "Substance" means something we stand on                  | T _____ | F _____ |
| 3. Faith is what Christians stand on                        | T _____ | F _____ |
| 4. Faith is trust in God that he will keep his promises     | T _____ | F _____ |
| 5. My faith comes from my church                            | T _____ | F _____ |
| 6. My faith comes from my own personal beliefs              | T _____ | F _____ |
| 7. My faith comes from the word of God                      | T _____ | F _____ |

### Other true false questions (Check the correct answer)

- |   |         |         |
|---|---------|---------|
| 1. God used the apostles to bring the truth from heaven to earth          | T _____ | F _____ |
| 2. Rome was the capital of the world in those days                        | T _____ | F _____ |
| 3. The gospel is <u>not</u> God's power to save sinful man                | T _____ | F _____ |
| 4. Religious people do not sin  | T _____ | F _____ |
| 5. Even though we sin, God still loves us                                 | T _____ | F _____ |
| 6. Every person who sins will be judged by God                            | T _____ | F _____ |
| 7. Those who seek the will of God and obeys his word will be blessed      | T _____ | F _____ |
| 8. We are saved by our own consciences and nothing else                   | T _____ | F _____ |
| 9. Jews called themselves "The Circumcision"                              | T _____ | F _____ |
| 10. The law of Moses was replaced by the New Testament when Jesus died    | T _____ | F _____ |
| 11. Christ was born through Abraham's seed, the Jews                      | T _____ | F _____ |
| 12. Babies are born sinners   | T _____ | F _____ |
| 13. Babies are <u>not</u> born sinners                                    | T _____ | F _____ |
| 14. God, Christ and the Holy Spirit dwell only in Christians              | T _____ | F _____ |
| 15. God, Christ and the Holy Spirit do not dwell in anyone                | T _____ | F _____ |
| 16. Religious people today can sin  | T _____ | F _____ |
| 17. Religious people today can <u>not</u> sin                             | T _____ | F _____ |
| 18. The word "law" means "regulations to live by"                         | T _____ | F _____ |
| 19. A sinner does not need Christ to be saved to be saved from their sins | T _____ | F _____ |
| 20. A sinner does need Christ to be saved from their sins                 | T _____ | F _____ |

### Fill in the blanks

- Romans 1;16, 17, "For I am not ashamed of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, for it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God unto \_\_\_\_\_, to everyone that \_\_\_\_\_, to the Jew first and also to the \_\_\_\_\_. For therein is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Go revealed from \_\_\_\_\_ to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by \_\_\_\_\_.'"
- The definition of faith is "\_\_\_\_\_ in God that he will keep his \_\_\_\_\_."
- Titus 2:11,12, "For the \_\_\_\_\_ of God that bringeth \_\_\_\_\_ hath appeared to \_\_\_\_\_ men, teaching us that, denying \_\_\_\_\_ and worldly \_\_\_\_\_, we should live \_\_\_\_\_, righteously and \_\_\_\_\_ in this present world."
- The Jews called themselves "The \_\_\_\_\_" and they called the Gentiles "the \_\_\_\_\_."

5. Psalm 119:172, "My tongue shall speak of thy \_\_\_\_\_: for all they \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_."
6. Romans 3:25, "Whom God hath set forth to be a \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ in his \_\_\_\_\_, to declare his righteousness for the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins that are \_\_\_\_\_, through the forbearance of God."
7. Christians today need the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament to fully understand the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament. The Old Testament is the New Testament \_\_\_\_\_ and the New Testament is the Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Romans 6:3,4, "Know ye not that so many of us as were \_\_\_\_\_ into Jesus Christ were baptized into his \_\_\_\_\_? Therefore we are \_\_\_\_\_ with him by \_\_\_\_\_ into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the father, even so we also should walk in \_\_\_\_\_ of life."
9. 1 Peter 1:23-25, "Being born \_\_\_\_\_, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, which liveth and abideth forever. For all flesh is as gras, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth and the flower thereof falleth away, but the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ forever."
10. 2 Thessalonians 2:14, "Whereunto he \_\_\_\_\_ you by our \_\_\_\_\_, to the obtaining of the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord Jesus Christ."

A REMINDER:  
PLEASE SEND YOUR TEST QUESTIONS  
BACK TO US FR GRADING.