

<b>Bible Reference:</b>	Book of Romans Chapters 1 through 16
<b>Study Text:</b>	The Normal Christian Life by Watchman Nee



**Bible Study**  
**Wednesday Evenings: 7:00 p.m.**

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# *Romans - Lesson 1*





# ***Romans - Lesson 1***

09/06/06

<b>Bible</b>	Book of Romans
<b>Reference:</b>	Chapters 1 through 16
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**Bible Study**  
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## **Background to Study Lesson 1: Three Messages**

There are three messages in the Bible. These three stories unfold simultaneously:

1. God's Creation Plan: He created all things for His glory. Due to the 'Fall' of humanity through Adam and Eve God could not allow sinful humans to stand in His presence. He required Redemption for us to be able to be restored to a pre-sin relationship.
2. God's Plan to put things back into His order: The call of Abraham involves the covenant with God. It also follows God's plan through Isaac, Jacob, and the prophets. The call of Israel through the apostles and the prophets. Finally the call of the church through the apostles, prophets, pastors, and teachers as part of God's plan.
3. Individuals who are part of God's plan.

## **Study Questions**

1. What should our world view be?

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2. What should our view be for our church versus our home and family?

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3. What should our view be of money versus family?

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4. Is your value system distorted?

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5. Is Jesus first in your life because of the blessings or because He is King?

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## ***Romans - Lesson 2***

(09/13/06)

### **Background to Study Lesson 2: No Sin or Hell**

Spiritually, there is something wrong with humans and the world that God put a plan in place to straighten out humans and the world. In order for the plan to work someone had to give up something – there was a cost.

Example:

There used to be a store that was quite far from my home, but I would pass up the closer stores just to go to this particular place. I went to that far away store because they gave special stamps (S&H Green Stamps). You pasted the stamps in books. When I had collected enough stamps I could turn them in and get toasters, lamps, cameras, or other goods. I was able to “redeem” some of the money I had spent originally.

It is the same with redemption through Christ. The human race leans toward sin. We violated God’s order. You have been “redeemed” by Jesus Christ. Your repentance and acceptance of Jesus Christ, and the price He has already paid for your sins, keeps you from the eternal consequences of sin.

**The Problem:** There is a lack of perception about sin today.

Today’s view is that these behavioral characteristics are	-- Brokenness
Synonymous with Sin	-- Failure
	-- Misperception
	-- Misunderstanding

We justify and rationalize our behavior so that we view our sins as mistakes or errors. We view our actions as anything other than what they truly are – sin.

We have adopted an attitude of cynicism about the ‘absolutist values’ of the biblical writers. Statements like “. . . *The wages of sin is death*” are viewed today as depressing.

The average churchgoer does not attend church out of remorse about their sins, but to receive blessings (new house, kids to act better, or a better job).

Hell, today, has disappeared from most religious talk and no one even noticed. No one talks about hell anymore.

The result of this new attitude of minimizing sin and looking only for the positive “spin” on the bible is the incorrect perception that there is *no sin*. If there is no sin, then redemption is not needed. This attitude says there are only mistakes and errors. You can get therapy for mistakes. You can be blessed and healed by the positive verses.

God’s plan lets you buy your way out of sin. But people are loving guilt over sin.

## Romans - Lesson 2



There is a severe misunderstanding of the Grace of God. For example, do you think God may not have blessed a relationship because it is a violation to God? Is your relationship out of God's order? You may be under His Grace so far. Remember, He can remove that Grace if it is His will.

Matthew 11:5: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

Why did Jesus equate the poor with the gospel? He gave the lepers cleansing. He gave the deaf hearing. He gave the dead life. Why did the poor receive the gospel instead of money or food or homes?

1. The poor were 'poor in spirit'.
2. People are poor because the 'systems of the world' need the poor.
3. The poor are a product of the greed and sinfulness of others and of the 'fallen systems of this world'.
4. The poor need a change in human make-up that only the gospel can deliver.

Paul brought the gospel to the Gentiles. He was so full he could not hold back. He wanted to tell the entire gospel in every discussion.

### **Key Study Concept**

We have the Good News. There is a hell, but you do not have to worry. Regardless of the misconceptions, misperceptions, and violations, God's plan frees you from guilt. You learn about it from the:

#### **GOSPEL**

The translation of the Greek word

**GO**

Good news

**SPEL**

Spelled out

**Key Concept Discussions: Paul's Parenthesis**

Many of Paul's statements in the book of Romans are full of parenthetical phrases. In verses 1 through 7 (Rom 1:1-7) he tells the basic story of the gospel in between a basic greeting to the 'beloved of Roman' to whom he is writing.

Paul,	A servant of Jesus Christ	
	called to be an apostle	
	separated to the	Gospel of God
		which He promised before
		through His prophets
		in the Holy Scriptures concerning His
		son
		Jesus Christ our Lord
		born of the seed of David
		according to the flesh

and declared to be	the son of God
	with power
	according to the spirit of Holiness
	by resurrection of the dead
	through whom we have received grace and apostleship

for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ. To all who are in Rome,	beloved of God
	called to be saints
	peace

Look at the words included in the parenthetical phrases.

*Servant/Bondservant* Paul defines himself to be whatever God wants. He will do whatever God wants.

*Saint* The word saint takes two forms: as a noun and as a verb. It comes from the word meaning set apart. To be sanctified. The key meaning of 'sanctified' is to be set apart for God.

The whole world was talking about the Christians in Rome. They were seen as 'rebels' because they set themselves apart for God. They did not follow the saying: 'When in Rome, do as the Romans do.'

Romans would have banquets lasting for weeks. There were all kinds of excesses. The eating was so extreme that special troughs were required so the people could purge and start eating again with empty stomachs.

## Romans - Lesson 2



Christians in Rome, even though invited to the banquets, would not attend because the behavior did not honor God. Paul knew that the influence of the Roman world was hard on Christians in Rome. He tells them: *“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established – that is, that I may be **encouraged** together with you by the **mutual faith** both of you and me.”* (Rom1:11)

So he offers them encouragement and hopes to be encouraged by their victories in the faith. The testimony of the Roman church was so strong that in A.D. 49, the emperor Claudius expelled all the Jews because of the influence of Christ.

Paul tells the Christians in Rome: *“Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles. I am a **debtor** both to **Greeks** and to **barbarians**, both to **wise** and to **unwise**. So, as much as is in me, I am also **ready to preach the gospel** to you who are in Rome also.”* (Rom1:13-14)

As a debtor, Paul had an obligation to God to fulfill His direction to minister to the Gentiles. The Gentiles encompassed a large and varied group:

- ◆ Greek - The many different nationalities who adopted Greek language, culture, and education.
- ◆ Barbarian - Greeks referred to non-Greeks and those Greeks who had not adopted Greek language and culture as barbarians.
- ◆ Wise - The elite of Paul's day were considered wise because their adoption of the Greek philosophy
- ◆ Wild - The uncultured were considered 'unwise' to the Greek elite society.
- ◆ Intellectual - The Greek elites who had adopted the Greek language and philosophy.
- ◆ Stupid - The uneducated masses

Paul was still ready to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. At that time Jesus was still talked about by many of these groups because he was killed as an 'Enemy of Rome'. Who, among you today, would follow someone who is about to be executed? This only added to the challenge Paul faced in taking the gospel to the Gentiles in Rome.

Paul reinforces his commitment by saying *“I am not **ashamed** of the gospel of Christ, for it is the **power** of God to **salvation** for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”* (Rom1:16)

What are some reasons why Paul might be ashamed?

- ◆ Fear for his life
- ◆ Christianity was not popular
- ◆ The doctrine was embarrassing compared to Roman social activities
- ◆ Christians were in a minority.

## Romans - Lesson 2

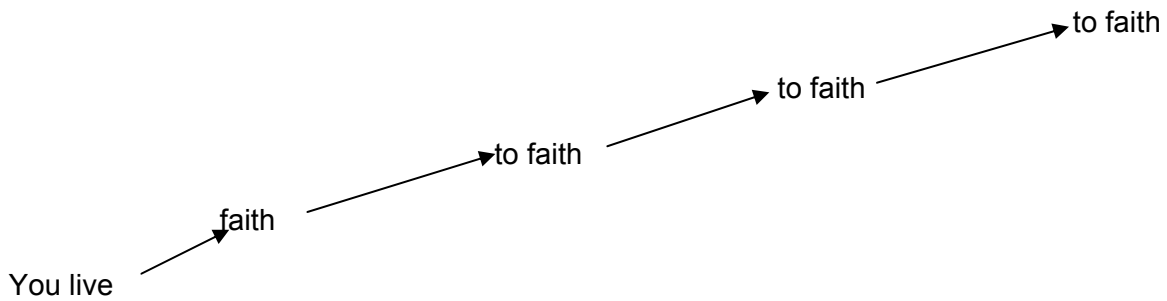


Paul had already been in prison, chased out of cities, stoned, laughed at in other cities, but was still determined to go to Rome which was the 'center of the world' at that point in history. He was NOT ashamed.

Paul believed the gospel of Christ was the power of God to salvation. The English word 'dynamite' comes from the Greek word for power. The power of the gospel can have a blasting effect to help us to overcome our sinful nature.

Paul preached the gospel because: ". . . in it the **righteousness of God** is revealed from **faith to faith**; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith'. " (Rom1:17)

To be righteous is to be Right with God. When you are focused on faith you get deeper and stronger with God. You begin to live by faith to get through one experience to faith to endure the next ordeal to faith that God will bring you through the next trial.





# *Romans - Lesson 3*

09/20/06

## **Background to Study Lesson 3: Righteousness of God**

There are two concurrent themes in Chapter 1 of Romans:

- 1) The Righteousness of God
- 2) The Gospel.

Today preaching is getting more complex for bibliocentric preachers. There is pressure from the pew for more immediate answers of life's issues such as paying their debts, how to keep a wife from being frigid, how to pull in a wayward child. They want to know "Is there any word from God on this?"

Many of us want to skip God and the bible. We want Him to do specific miracles for us, then we want Him to go on about His business – we think we can handle it from that point. In other words, there are personal issues that we want God to solve, but we don't want God.

This becomes an issue especially when God wants something from us. We want to know "What is it?" "How long will it take?" He wants us to bow. He may want us to stay that way until He tells us to get up. Then we begin to withdraw or rebel.

There are people who do not know that God does want something from them. In many cases:

- They feel church attendance alone will satisfy God's righteous demands, or
- They feel their tithes can take the place of church attendance, or
- They want to exchange working in the church ministries instead of giving tithes.

You cannot offset sin on one side with increased works on the other side.

There are two popular topics being preached in many churches today: 1) Arriving at your destiny; and 2) Receiving seed blessings.

The message that needs to be preached is: "How to Get Right with God"

**The Problem:** God sets a priority on His relationship with us. It needs to be right before He will begin to work on your requests to Him. This does not mean He will say "no" all of the time. It does mean that if you are not right with God, He reserves the right to refuse your blessings.

The relationship between God and Adam became frustrated. Something in His creation did not stay on its intended purpose. Let's look at how this happened:

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Gen 3:6  | Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit                |
| Gen 3:11 | God asked them, "Who told you that you were naked?" |
| Gen 3:12 | Adam blamed the woman                               |

## Romans - Lesson 3



- Gen 3:13      The woman blamed the serpent.  
Satan succeeded in making Adam and Eve unable to be in God's presence. God addressed the serpent. In punishing the serpent He is also punishing Satan.
- Rev 20:1-3    Satan is referred to as the dragon, the serpent, the devil, and Satan.  
At Calvary, Satan bruised Jesus on the heel.
- Rev 20        Jesus will crush Satan's head.
- Gen 3:15      There will be enmity between her seed and his seed.  
Satan's seed was sin.  
Eve's seed, her first born was Cain. His name means gotten from the Lord. She named him this way because she thought he would be the one to rectify her wrong against God.'  
It took a while, but God kept the promise through the Eve's seed. In Genesis 12, when the whole earth would not acknowledge God, he called Abram.
- Numbers      Numbers logs all of the tribes that came after Abraham to show how God kept His promise. The promise came down through Isaac to Jacob, to all twelve sons, through Judah, Ruth, Boaz, Jesse, David. The Old Testament shows their stories.
- Gal 4:4-5     God did fulfill His prophecy when the time was accomplished. He sent His son, born of a woman. God kept His promise.
- New Testament

### *Key Study Concept*

The Righteousness of God lets us know that He is the Right kind of God. He is always Right. He is always True. There is something in our nature that keeps us from doing what God wants us to do:

What does Right mean?

Right = True or False

Right = Correct

Right = Real

Paul outlines all of this in Romans 1:1-7. He sums up the entire gospel. (See the parenthetical phrases on page 6). Paul says he is three things: A bondservant, called out, and separated to the gospel. He knows that God kept his promises that He spelled out in Genesis, above.

In Romans 1:8-9, Paul says he is praying for you all the time. In verses 13-17 Paul tells us that God promised thousands of years ago that He would rectify what happened in

## *Romans - Lesson 3*



Eden, through Eve's seed. He kept His promise because when Jesus went to Calvary and got His head bruised God took the death of Jesus as payment for every failure and every wrong we have done.

God has tons of blessings for those who believe Jesus died, was buried, and rose again. The single word for this is the gospel. It shows that God is the Right kind of God because He keeps His promises no matter what.

In verses 18 through 20 of Romans, God is revealed. He is clearly seen because He has disclosed Himself. No one has any excuse for not knowing God.

Rom1:21 – 24 you may be threatened by the majesty. Some people express jealousy toward actors, singers, or athletes. They are critical because they are threatened by these types of people. Some even pass this type of jealousy on to God – because they do not want to bow to His majesty.

Rom1:25 – 27 Idolatry is a problem. God gave them up to their evil ways. Homosexuality is the punishment that happened when God gave them up. God allowed it because they would not acknowledge Him. By continuing this life they cannot have a relationship with God because of their uncleanness.

The healing is through a relationship with God. The good news is that God sets up situations in your lives so you can have a relationship with Him.



## *Romans - Lesson 4*

09/27/06

### **Background to Study Lesson 4: Hoping that His Goodness will Lead to Repentance**

We often confuse contracts with covenant.

A covenant is sensitive. A contract is black and white.

We have nothing that God wants. I cannot bring a *contractual* condition to Him. God brings *covenant* conditions to me. He says, "Here is what I am going to do for you if . . ."

In the Old Testament the conditions were in the form of the laws that God gave Israel. They expressed what He wanted from His people. If you follow them you will live. You will inherit the land. The desert will bloom like a rose. Things will be wonderful. It will be beautiful. If you do not do them, you die.

With a contract, you can refuse to sign unless/until a clause or a specific term is revised.

With God, He can say no "you do not even have to sign, you are already under covenant. So for God to make a covenant with you He can say, I will bless you, provide your needs, take care of your family and children, put them through school, and here is what I want you to do.

Since the day that the human race got in trouble, God works His plan with the people He chooses to rectify the violation of the human race against Him. He always uses a covenant. It is typically a conditional covenant. When it came to the testimony of Jesus and his blood, it was an "unconditional" covenant.

God's covenant is: 'If you have a committed, trusting, belief that Jesus died, buried, and rose again; God promises to give you eternal life regardless of how you get to that belief.'

Now, if you believe it, you ought to act as if you do. God is going to perform His end of the covenant. You will spend eternity with Jesus. However, He is also counting on you to be a paradigm of the life of a committed Christian for the watching world. A visitor to your home should be able to see how to love their spouse and their children. Even in the face of contrary behavior and speech. You should still show your Christian love for that family member.

You may have difficulty with this. God will be patient with your disobedience, but there may also be consequences. He may say, "I have to teach you an important lesson and His lesson may involve some hurtful examples. There is no telling how or when God will decide to exercise His lesson on you.

*If you are saved and, if salvation is once and for all; what is the benefit of living clean? Is there a benefit to others?*

They will first need to resent or dislike their own lives. Second, they will need to see something happening in your life and world that they want.

The lead benefit is that there is something in your life that appeals to them.

### EXAMPLE:

If you, as a committed Christian, ask God to save the soul of another person, He will make that person's life miserable. Then, every time that person is around you, your joy may be shining through your smiles and your words for that other person. The probability of God putting pressure on that person to seek salvation is great because of your prayer for that soul and because you are living right.

However, if you are walking around drunk and cursing all the time, God may say, "I need to show you the dangers of what you are doing." "It's going to hurt, but I am going to give you that soul you prayed for. Now, hold on tight, it may even hurt for a number of years, you might lose your house, your wife, oh yeah." That is the danger of not holding up your end of the covenant.

The scripture notes these types of behaviors, and acts of disobedience, even when you are a committed Christian, trying to bring others to salvation. However, there are no footnotes on your head to let others know what you are praying about, or to let others know about the consequences of your actions, or what is going on in your life.

We are taught to think of everything in human terms. 1Cor11:27-30 (NKJ) outlines this for you. *Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.*

You rarely think that a wrong disposition at the LORD's table (communion) can result in death or serious sickness. By bringing something that offends God to the LORD's table, you can do just that. You never think that someone has died because of a wrong disposition at the Lord's table. They may have actually died because God was insulted. We think of the medical or scientific explanation for a person's death.

God hears all of our words, but to some he pays special attention. In the scripture it says ". . . and the LORD heard it." That usually means God 'wants in on that conversation'. There may be consequences, as in the conversation between Miriam and Moses after he married the Ethiopian. She told Moses that he was not the only person that God spoke to in their camp. The scripture says '. . . and the LORD heard it' and it resulted in Miriam receiving leprosy. Then Moses even pleaded with God to heal Miriam. God still determined that she would remain unclean for seven days.

There are things that go on in our lives that do not carry a footnote, but the LORD will still hear our prayers.

Paul is talking about the gospel in Romans in an attempt to show how we are made right with God. He is writing about the benefit and what the covenant looked like and what is attributed to it so that we would understand our relationship with Him at a higher level than merely 'God forgive us sinners', now let's go home.

In Romans, Paul is talking about the gospel of Jesus, which is unconditional. God has promised to save you if you believe the gospel. You do not have to do anything, but believe. Once you believe, that is it.

- ♦ There may not be eternal consequences, but there will be some penalty. You will not go to hell for your sins.
- ♦ There are what we call rewards. Things such as ‘crowns of righteousness’ or ‘crowns of life’ are viewed as rewards. Failure to comply with the leading of God and the Holy Spirit can affect your rewards. There seems to be a program once you get to heaven, with responsibilities. It will not be everybody walking around all day singing Kum-Ba-Yah. The way you may be rewarded depends on your faithfulness regarding what He wants you to do.

There is not one saved person that God does not have an assignment for in eternity.

Unfortunately, many today emphasize destiny. Many allude to the destiny of wealth today. No one would be mad at being wealthy. But it is wrong to imply in a sermon that if you comply with God, your destiny will be wealth. Job’s destiny was to teach future believers how to suffer. Job lost His children, his money, and his wife was acting crazy. That was his destiny. His ultimate destiny was that he got it all back. But God interrupted his life of wealth and prosperity to suffer physically and emotionally more than any other man except Jesus Christ. The restoration did not come until after the suffering.

Romans 1:24, 26, 28 (NKJ) shows that as humans developed they gave up God and God gave them up. **24** *Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves;* **26** *For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.;* **28** *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;*

As the human race developed, they gave God up and what happened? God gave them up.

When God gives you up, you are lost. You cannot even perceive the bounty in your life. You may even create a new low level for life. When God gave up men and women who would not even acknowledge Him, they could not even figure out human sexuality. They lost perspective.

One illustration of this is a man enters a room with many beautiful female models, scantily dressed, and all he is concerned with is “where is Bill?”

Another illustration brings to mind are sins of omission and sins of commission. Sins of omission are when you fail to do something. Sins of commission are when you do something, but you go too far.

God says ‘you are to love your wife like Christ loved the church’. Sins of commission include loving your wife and making love to every other woman you meet. You went too far.

Omission God says tithe and you only give one percent. You did not go far enough.

Homosexuality is like preparing to shoot an arrow. You see the target, you pull the string back, but then you begin to turn in a direction away from the clearly marked target. What are you aiming for? What God is saying is that when He takes His hand away, you do not even know what to aim for!

## Romans - Lesson 4



As God began to move away from humanity, look at how the bible describes those humans in Romans 1:29. Notice the types of things described. They are malicious, crude, and hard-core. In verse 32, they know the right thing to do. They know that those practice these things are deserving of death, but what do they do instead. In verse 33 they 'cheered' them on, they encouraged orgies. There are things in our culture that tease.

An example, a young boy received a gift of a T-shirt with the picture of a rapper. Don't get me wrong, I think many of them can string some fantastic things together !! Genius ! ! It is the explicit lyrics that do not need to be on the television. One of them, the one on the boy's T-shirt, produced the largest selling pornographic film ever. He took a popular video, with the music and added the pornography. That did not represent that kind of thing that a young boy should look at as a goal to achieve. Christian parent's sensitivity should set off alarms. Where is the line? These are some of the battles that we must fight against the behaviors defined in verses 32 and 33.

Paul describes two types of sinners in Romans Chapter 2.

Down & Out	Up & Out (Upper/Outer)
Your sins have put you on the bottom.	You are an undiagnosed alcoholic.
You may be at Pacific Garden Mission.	You are hiding bottles in your car, taking 'nips' at different places around the house and at work, drinking during lunch.
You may be living on the street, just happy to get some heat.	Your wife is keeping your form being truly down and out.

An Upper/Outer feels that as long as they are not lying in street, showing that they are truly Down & Out, then they are in favor of God's people by observing the imperfections of someone else.

Paul is saying that God judges sin. Whether you are drunk on Wild Irish Rose is the same as being drunk on \$300 a bottle French wine. You are still drunk. An alcoholic in an AA program on Skid Row is no different from an alcoholic in a \$250,000 a year job and attends the biggest suburban church. If God judges alcoholics, you receive no favor from God just because your alcoholism is not as public. The public display of it has no bearing on God's decision to judge. Men who are Downer/Outers cannot get married. Men who are Upper/Outers can get married because they have money. God may say, "I am not going to let you marry any one!"

The Upper/Outers may feel better about themselves because of the way they analyze the social disadvantages of laying the gutter. The only thing it does is allow the Upper/Outer the ability to keep their sin a secret from the community and to maintain their self-respect.

**Q: The Bible says be not drunk. Is daily drinking the same thing?**

**A:** Drinking will distort your view. So, you need to take care. It does not say that you should not drink. It does say do not be drunk, so that if your daily drinking leads to drunkenness and a distortion of safely taking care of your daily activities you should evaluate what kind of drinking you are really doing.

## Romans - Lesson 4



**Romans 2:5** *But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God. If you allow your Upper/Outer situation to keep you from repentance, then you are adding to God's wrath.*

Paul also describes two kinds of life styles.

One life style in verse '7 *eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; . . .*'

He says to the Jew first. Why?

Because the Jews are the first people He made a covenant with. They get the first blessing AND the first punishments.

The second life style in verse '8 *but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness--indignation and wrath,*

Rom 2:11-15 outlines the history of God and humanity. He gave Israel 612 - 613 laws that showed them how to work and live. These laws did not give the Jews any special favor. He put another law in our hearts. This law in your heart is your conscience. Assuming your mind has not been 'messed up'; sin will result in the judgment of God based on your conscience and conviction.

Paul affirms that circumcision 'is in the heart'. If you live your life according to God, you 'walk a circumcised life'.

God told Abraham you have been good. You have defied your own needs of the flesh to do what I told you to do. I am going to make a covenant. I will have you remove the skin around the reproductive organ, which we call circumcision. That will be a symbol of a covenant between you and me; that you are a special person.

Here is the symbol: Here is a man who has "removed" the flesh.

The problem with us as humans is the 'nature' of the flesh, not the flesh itself. God made the flesh that it should be good. But when Adam disobeyed God something happened to the nature of the flesh to have a propensity to do wrong. God said I am going to do you a favor. I am going to make you a special person and my symbol of believing and counting on you is that every male born, on the eighth day, should have that skin removed, and that is called circumcision. You are going to become a nation of people who do not live according to the flesh. Every seed of people will be a people not guided by their flesh, but by their faith and trust in me. That is the purpose of circumcision. These circumcised people would be a special people who live separate from the rest.

Paul said this: "What if you are circumcised and still live according the 'flesh'?"

**Q. What have you done to the symbolism?**

**A.** It is worthless.

That is what he means in verse 25: If you do not keep the law, then you may as well not be circumcised. The circumcision does not make you right. Your behavior makes you right. The circumcision is a **SYMBOL**.

## Romans - Lesson 4



In Rom2:26 Paul concludes: If there is somebody who never knew Jehovah, and was not circumcised, but he lived according to the law, then he was a truly circumcised person; even though he has never been circumcised.

This also means that those who have been circumcised, and do know the law, but do not live according to the law; are not truly circumcised, because they are not circumcised in their heart.

The (physically) uncircumcised man living according to the law makes the circumcision look bad.

Circumcision is in the heart. Live the way God wants you to live. 'Walk a circumcised life'. It has nothing to do with the removal of the skin if you are not living right.

Paul asks in Romans 3:1, "*What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?*"

We may ask in modern times, "Why bother with circumcision?" Why do you need it? What advantage is the covenant going to have with you and me?

If you are not living it and doing it you have violated the covenant. They were under conditional covenant. Now Paul will explain the advantage the Israel had.

### *Key Study Concept*

God will do His part, even if you do not do your part because He is the right kind of God. He gets glory from the fact that He did what He said He would do. He blessed you when you do not deserve it. He is the right kind of God. Early in the second chapter of Romans, Paul says the goodness of God should lead you to repentance.

### Key Concept Discussion

Some say, since God is forgiving us to show how great He is, let's do a whole lot of things that we will need Him to forgive us for, and then see how great God will look.

**Romans 3:7 - 10:** *For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner? 8 And why not say, "Let us do evil that good may come"--as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just. 9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. 10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;*

Verse 19 answers the question Paul asked in Romans 3:1: **19** *Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

God wrote in His laws, how we should behave. Every one of God's chosen/elect people broke the law. He did that so everyone could see that no one can keep all of the laws. No one is 'right' before God by himself/herself. He also did it to show that

## ***Romans - Lesson 4***



every person will be accountable to God. No matter how hard you try, you will sin. It is only when you come to this point in your understanding that you realized you are NOT right with God.

However, because God knew you could not be right by yourself, He forgave us. He continues to forgive us.

Paul tells us that there IS a way to be right with God, without the laws. Beginning in Rom 3:21 he spells it out for us: **21** *But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,* **22** *even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;* **23** *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,* **24** *being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,* **25** *whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,*

God put it ALL on the cross when we believed. Our belief and faith in Christ Jesus makes it so simple and straightforward that you do not even need to know the scriptures for salvation.

All of the 'stuff' that God puts up with, from us, Jesus took it all.

**Q. Did you get 'right' by works?**

**A. No. You get right with God by faith.**

Some will say that Paul threw the law out by placing Jesus in the forefront. But Paul will say he showed the law for what it was designed to do. The law was designed to show you as the sinner that you are. As we noted earlier, no one can fulfill all of the laws everyday, all of the time. We will sin. Belief that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again and living with the faith that He took our place on the cross for our sins will make us right with God.



## *Romans - Lesson 5*

10/04/06

### **Background to Study Lesson 5: The Economy of God**

What do you think of when you hear the word economy?

It is a system of how prices, supply, and demand are handled. It means God's system and God's values.

What is the most you would pay for a non-electric toothbrush?

\$2.98, \$1.19, or \$3.00, or free/complimentary.

Why would one person pay \$.99, but another pay \$3.00?

Based on features another based on price.

How many buy firm, medium, soft.

Why soft?

It was recommended by dentist.

Why medium --

It was on sale.

Firm feels like it gets everything.

That is a system of how to clean your teeth. Each of us has a right, based on availability and access, to set up your own dental system.

God's system and God's values also include our tooth cleaning system. God feels that all rights in the universe are His. And He can set up whatever value system he likes. If you violate anything that He has declared, God calls that 'breaking the law'. He has set a certain order in the universe by that law. If you break that law you have become lawless. You are saying that the law does not govern you. Because you feel it does not govern you, you are sending God a message. The message you send is that you are not going to comply with His law, that you are independent. You are not mad at God and hope that God is not mad at you. In response, God says I cannot keep my universe in order as long as you cannot comply; I need to get you out of my universe. That order is **His economy**. Do you know what His way of removing people is called? **Death**.

Do you know another term the bible uses for lawlessness? That word is **sin**. Sin means you are not going to comply with the law. You are going to eat His food and breathe His air. You are going to take advantage of His gravity and absorb His sunshine, but you are not going to comply with His economy or comply with how He runs His system. He will remove you from His universe in His own time, will, and option. It is His world; everything in it is just passing through.

Something horrible has happened along the way. Certain angelic beings do not like humans. When you compile the scripture, they are jealous. Do you know what they are

## Romans - Lesson 5



jealous about? They see the Grace, sensitivity, and love that God has for us. They do not have that and they really want to turn God to them.

Have you ever seen jealousy turn a person into a horrible thing? They will deny it, but it is written all over their faces. Some people are so jealous they cannot even stay in the same room with who ever or whatever is the object of that jealousy. So these particular angelic beings will plot, and plan, and do anything they can to get us to violate God's law. They will use our children, our spouse, or other loved ones to make us inoperative. They want to keep us from God's law. They want to keep our children from His law. That takes care of the future. They hope a change in activity will keep future generations from God's influence. These things are meant to keep us from knowing or learning about a covenant relationship with God, meeting other committed Christians, joining and working for the church. This is part of Satan's plan and economy.

Most people do not see the world this way. They do not see that this is God's world and that they are just passing through. They do not see that there are angels (cast down) aligned against God and against human beings.

Most people see there is a world, there is a God, and when they get in trouble they just put their fingers in their mouth and blow and God shows up because you need Him. They need Him to pay bills, provide food, or heal them. They want God to handle their problems and then to go off to some other part of the world and handle things for someone else.

Here is what people do not see: You should bow, and you should stay down until He tells you to get up. We are servants. That is the biblical picture.

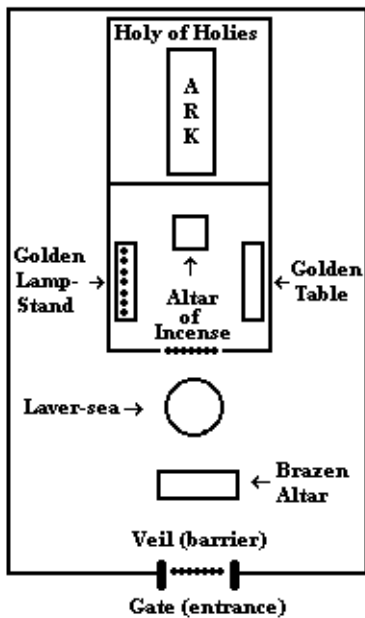
John says we are 'tabular writing'. We are an erased tablet and He writes on it, making us what He wants/needs us to be for Him. Somewhere along the line we have lost this concept. Our view, particularly in America, is one person with one vote. In God's economy YOU do not vote, you bow and serve. Now, here is the beauty of this. God understands us/our actions and He has a plan to get us to where we need to be.

Israel was taught to worship while wandering in the desert after they left Egypt (see [http://agards-bible-timeline.com/timeline\\_online.html](http://agards-bible-timeline.com/timeline_online.html) -- [1504 BC - 1254 BC Exodus](#)

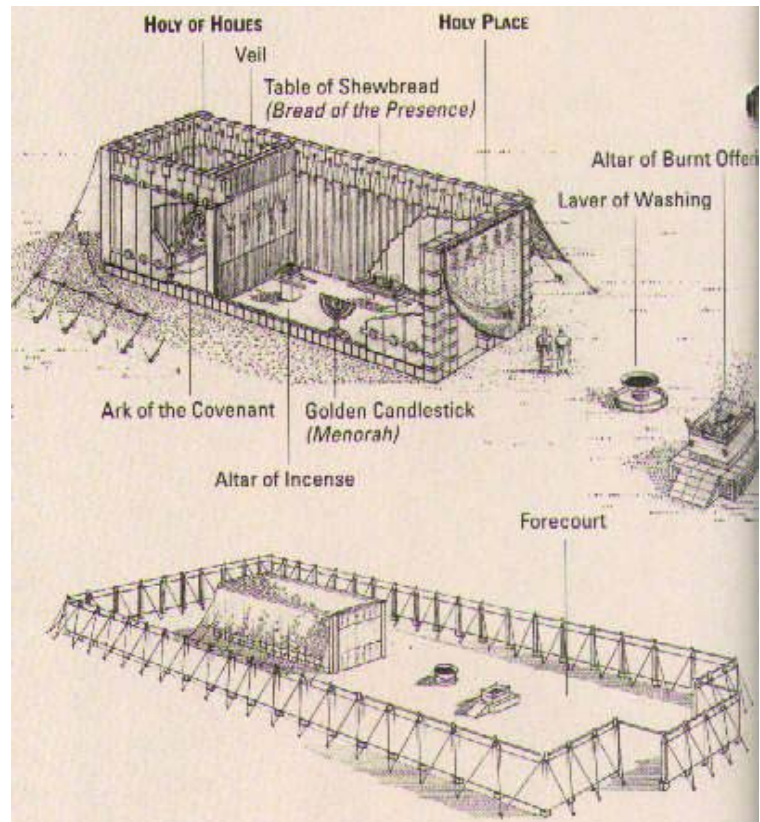
approx. 1446 BCE). A tabernacle was made according to God's specifications. It was the worship center for Israel.



The priests had to wash their hands frequently in the Laver of Washing (Laver Sea) before doing anything in the tabernacle. It was their job to keep the incense burning in the Altar of Incense day and night, 24/7.



**Earthly Tabernacle**



Do you know what the term I.O.U. means? 'I owe you.' In this situation it means, that when a person brought their animal for sacrifice, God would accept it as an IOU against the debt of sin they had committed.

The front half of the Holy of Holies (tent) contained the lamp stand, the altar, and the table. A veil separated the back half from the rest of the Holy of Holies. Nobody, but nobody could go in there.

In the Holy of Holies was the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark is a chest, built according to God's specifications and covered with gold. There are two angels whose wings cover the top.

There was an illumination that covered it all around. It was brighter than the day at high noon. It was called the Shekinah Glory.



## Romans - Lesson 5



Only one person was allowed on the other side of that veil. It was the high priest. After the Exodus, this person was Aaron, the brother of Moses. He was the High Priest.

The High Priest had a special outfit. He could not just walk in there wearing his jeans or cargo pants. He had a tunic with three dominant colors: lavender, blue, and red. On the bottom of the Priest's robes were bells. As he performed the burnt offerings they would jingle and tinkle.



Now, on the Altar of Burnt Offering, the Priest would place the bull for the sacrifice. It would burn in the fire and when God smelled that, it was called a 'sweet savor to the Lord'. He would know that His people were worshipping Him.

How often did he get to go in there? Once a year, on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) the High Priest would. He would pull the curtain and sprinkle blood.

All of that was a symbol of God's covenant. The Priest would put his hand on a goat. It symbolized him putting sin on the goat. They would take the goat out into the wilderness and let the goat go. The goat would get lost and never come back. All of that was a system of redemption that God designed, being mindful of who He was and of His covenant. You are to worship Him and to

live before Him and give Him glory. As He said, "You are to follow Him and do as He said."

All of these things had symbolism attached to them. The symbolism is:

- God said that the Altar of Incense that never stopped burning was a symbol for all the prayers going up to Him.
- The colors in the Priest's outfit were a strong symbol of Christ:
  - ♦ Red was for the Blood
  - ♦ Blue the Heavens where He came from
  - ♦ Purple to the Royalty of Jesus as King
- The hat on the priest's head contained words in yellow "Holy unto the Lord".

The word Holy on the priest's hat and in the King James Bible comes from the word 'wholly'. The translators had no spelling rules. Sometimes the word was spelled differently. When the bible was standardized they chose the word 'holy' for many of the references to the word 'wholly', meaning totally, entirely, or completely. In the instance of the Priest, it does not mean he is above, sacred. It means that he wholly and totally belongs to God.

## *Romans - Lesson 5*



All of this was a preview of what was to come. The Old Testament prophets kept saying "It's coming . . . the real thing is coming."

Anna, whose husband died seven years from her virginity, earned her living doing little things around the temple until she was 84 years of age. She kept reminding people that Messiah was coming. And guess what? Her reward was to see the baby Jesus.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century that is not a story that we can relate to. Something is different in the economy of God and something is different in the economy of America.

When you give on Sunday morning, it is the same thing as the priest presenting sacrifices at the Altar of Burnt Offering. It is a form of worship. When you give unto the Lord it is a 'sweet savor' to Him. The people of the tabernacle gave. They gave sacrificially as well, like Anna. You can too. You can give your time, but you should be serious. What if you were singing, or ushering, or preaching, and you were biblically illiterate. Wouldn't that be horrible? What if a person was doing all this work and someone said something about this to them. The person might ask, "where did you get all of that stuff"? They would reply, "It's in the bible". The person may say something like, "whoa, I better buy myself one of those things". That would be pathetic, almost demonic. They would have no idea of the economy of God. They would not know that Jesus, who did not have to keep going behind the curtain and presenting offering died, as the Hebrew writers said, 'once and for all'.

### **Key Study Concept**

The Economy of God was part of His plan from the beginning of Adam and Eve. Through His genetic highway, from Eve to Mary, He sent Jesus to pay the blood sacrifice. This was the 'real deal' that took the place of the many sacrifices in the tabernacle. And He did it for us.

### **Key Concept Discussion**

Christ paid and took care of our debt. That is the covenant made in His blood. We do not have an ark nor do we celebrate once a year. We do not offer animals as an IOU. What is the symbol of our covenant? Our symbol is **Communion**. That is the Christian aspect.

If Communion to you is grape juice and crackers, then you are in a wrong manner at the Lord's table. We do not know it because sometimes other things seem more important. That is why we are raising our children up so they will know.

It is how you are coming off in the Communion process, your disposition. Here is an example. Aaron had two sons who decided they were going to take a shortcut on burning the animals. They had other things they wanted to do. God allowed the fire to burn them up too. They had a wrong disposition, a wrong attitude.

Paul's subject in Romans is the rightness of God.

Beginning in Romans 3:19, the law told them to do certain things: **19** Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. **20** Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. **21** But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, **22** even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **25** whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, **26** to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. **27** Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. **28** Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. **29** Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, **30** since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. **31** Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

The system of the tabernacle was designed to deal with sin. So the death of Christ at Calvary, all of the blood sacrifice, all that Pilate and the Roman soldiers did was carry out what the blood sacrifice of the Tabernacle meant. They broke off from life, the Lamb of God and shed His blood all over the altar of the cross. God is saying He is the slain Lamb. Peter says "from the foundations of the Earth".

In other words, God planned this. Salvation did 'just happen'. God wasn't walking around heaven kicking rocks with nothing to do, lonely with nothing to do, then was surprised and said, "Okay, everybody's sinning". He designed a plan and executed that plan down through time. He built a genetic highway from Eve to Mary. He kept His promise with everyone He made a covenant promise to all along the way. All of this was designed as a plan to get Jesus to Calvary. Satan did not know the plan, and played right into God's hands. In his mind, he was getting rid of Jesus, thinking Jesus could not help us. God said, "Yup, it's on you Buddy, you can't out think me!" The angels see the church. The first ones of the new covenant, the scripture says the angels are amazed. They did not know what was going on either.

*The writer talks about the old Testament High Priest in **Hebrews 8:3**. **3** and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, **4** which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; **5** and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. **6** Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. **7** But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;*

***8** the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. **9** It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience-- **10** concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances*

*imposed until the time of reformation. 11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

*15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. 16 For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. 17 For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. 18 Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. 19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you." 21 Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. 22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.*

*23 Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another-- 26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.*

In verse 12, it was not just redemption, but **eternal** redemption!

Salvation was the plan! So you can begin to see a Pastor's frustration, when I plan to preach. Sitting in my small office, I say what I brought to them on Wednesday night how can I package all of this in 30 - 40 minutes.

As I stand and look, I wonder - do they really understand? I look in the faces of each person sitting there on Sunday and wonder, does she have a passion for this, does he really have the love of Christ, do they really get the picture, get the concept of this 'Plan of Salvation'. Are they playing church? If they don't see it today, I pray for God to let them see it next week. I ask Him to put the words in my mouth, and a meditation of my heart, to be acceptable in thy sight, Oh Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

And I preach and hope that one day someone will walk up and say Pastor, "this is deep. I never knew all of this." I pray they will leave here saying "Lord, I'm going to do just a little bit better. It might not be tomorrow that I'm going to be what you want me to be, but surely am NOT going to be what I was.

**Q What about the two who appeared with Christ?**

**A** God brought them back to life miraculously and as they came up out of the grave, and were seen by many, after Jesus rose. When He ascended He took them with Him and their bodies became glorified bodies like His.

*In 1John3:2 there is a reference that says we will be like Him: 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

**2Corin5:1-2:** *1 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,*

Absent from the body is present with the Lord.

Study of the Bible is eschatological, always looking to the future. The real hope is not that you will get enough money to pay your rent, get a husband, for your children are perfectly obedient. The real hope is not a new and bigger house. That is a deception. The REAL HOPE is that Eastern sky will roll back like a scroll with the voice of an archangel and the trump of God and the dead in Christ will rise. And with the command of Jesus, those who are alive and remain will be caught up with Him.

**1Thess 4:16-17:** *16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*



## ***Romans - Lesson 6***

10/11/06

### **Background to Study Lesson 6: We are Justified by Faith**

#### **Romans 4 continued.**

God has imputed to our record - He declared us right because He accepted the payment of Jesus' life, even though we were guilty. We will not experience the final penalty for our sins. It is so efficacious that whosoever believes that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again, he declares them as the judge of the universe.

Because of this I am Justified. The jury must say I am not guilty.

**Q: What about those who commit crimes, and do not acknowledge Jesus?**

A: They do not have appropriate faith. If they do not acknowledge Him, they will go to hell.

**Q: What if they acknowledge Him just before they die?**

A: God knows if they have an appropriate faith. He 'knows their heart'. The plan of Salvation is God's plan. We only have the privilege to accept the offer of His plan. It is not just the criminals who need to have appropriate faith. It is the 'nice people' too, who need appropriate faith. People who are not accepting that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again.

#### ***Key Study Concept***

Righteousness was not by law, by circumcision, or by works. You are **DECLARED** right (righteous) by God by your faith.

#### **Key Concept Discussion**

There are 2 kinds of righteousness:

- 100% Righteousness - never did wrong
- Declared Righteous by God - found not guilty

As humans, we are in a 'State' sin. We are Guilty before God because of this state. Once we become saved we are declared right by God. Our 'standing' is changed because we are justified by faith and cleared of our sins. We become righteous because of our faith.

## ***Romans - Lesson 6***



Paul says "I am crucified with Christ, yet I live."

Some religions preach that God has a dull axe, waiting for us to sin so that the punishment is not swift and clean, but slow and painful.

Some say you lose your salvation when you sin.

Some say you get it back by living according to the 600+ laws of Moses.

Paul says you do not even need to know the laws to be saved.

Q: What about Moslems who believe in God and just acknowledge Jesus as a prophet? Can they get salvation?

A: It is clear, they must believe that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again in order to be saved.

Abraham had faith that was appropriate:

While he was uncircumcised . . .

He was the first one God ever spoke to boldly about his belief, whom He declared righteous because of his faith.

You may wonder, when is God going to do some of the things I want Him to do? How about an unexpected \$2 million, or a new home?

Q: What if God knows those are not the blessings you really need?

A: The Answer is also a question. What if you need to become a different person before you can receive that blessing?

This isn't about YOU !!! This is about God !

How do I get God to make me an heir of the universe?

You have to have the kind of faith that Abraham had.

God blessed him. Rom 4:13-15

If you do not appropriately apply your faith, it will have no effect for you. Paul explains that for us, this is Trust In God.

# ***Romans - Lesson 7***

10/18/06

## **Background to Study Lesson 7: Death Cannot Hold**

### **Romans 4 continued.**

Think about how Christ's dying dealt with your sins. He paid the debt for our sins. Why didn't he stay dead?

He could not stay dead because he was sinless. Death could not hold Him. It was so effective, it covered all of us for all eternity.

God set the value of that payment. He determined what would appease Him. Now that we have the payment, death cannot hold us either. We are free to rise from the dead.

If you have a committed, trusting belief that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again, that is the only way to make your contribution to that debt.

In Romans 4, Paul says Abraham was righteous, because of his faith. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. You must first believe . . . diligently . . . be rewarded. God credited Abraham's faith to his account.

We are still in debt to God. When you don't owe God any more, you will be dead.

There are so many things that interfere with our focus on Jesus, and on His return. We will not even forgive our partner for a small infraction, but you can easily forget what God did. We forget about Jesus' payment for our sins.

***Romans 4:13:*** *For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.*

***4:17:*** *(as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations")*

When God told Abraham, "I am going to make you a father of many nations", He was not talking about babies or people. What did the 'many nations' pertain to? Was he talking about children and babies?

It was FAITH. If Abraham had no faith, God would not have made that promise to him.

**Q: Why are we the seed of Abraham?**

**A:** We are Abraham's seed because of our faith, not because of our heritage or ancestry. We cast all of our hope in what God said (like Abraham). That shows we have the some kind of Faith.

Paul further explains how the law is NOT faith:

***Romans 4:14:*** *For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect,*

There are over 600 laws contained in the 'Laws of Moses'. You cannot keep all of these laws. You owe God death as a result of not keeping the law. You owe God death because of the sin of the flesh.

In verse 15, Paul explains the transition. The Law made God angry at us. He put the curse of death on us. He can wait for you to come to Him in death.

If you jump off a cliff, what is the penalty for jumping? Is there any law broken that governs jumping off of cliffs? There is no penalty because there is no law.

### *Key Study Concept*

You are right with God because of Faith. There is no law to obey. Abraham did not have the 612 laws. Your relationship is based on your Faith, not on your obeying the Mosaic laws. Our problem is that we do not trust God with our lives.

**Romans 4:16:** *Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all*

### Key Concept Discussion

If there is no Law, how can you get wrong and end up with the wrath of God, losing that relationship with Him? You cannot lose that relationship with God, but you may get chastened. It is an eternal situation. God is not after particulars. He wants your whole life! ! Your salvation is not based on your ability to keep all of the 600+ laws.

We think of God in terms of give and take. You cannot think of God that way.

Those who say you can lose your salvation do not understand how *salvation happens* in the first place.

While we are yet sinners - while the woman at the well was still in sin, and still living in sin with a man who was not her husband she left her pots at the well and went back to the town to tell the men about Jesus.

**John 4:4:** *But He needed to go through Samaria. 5 So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9 Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?"*

**28** *The woman then left her water pot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, 29 "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" 30 Then they went out of the city and came to Him.*

**39** And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." **40** So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. **41** And many more believed because of His own word.

**Q: Why did she leave her water pots?**

**A:** She left her pots because her earthly needs were no longer as great to her, as they were before she met Jesus.

**Q: Why did she go tell the men, why not tell the women?**

**A:** Samaria was a village. She was well known. Her relationship with the men of the town was also too well known. The women would not speak to her. She was not a married woman. Her reputation was questionable at best. The men knew her because of her unmarried relationship and because of her reputation. She also went to the men because they were the authority figures.

This woman at the well had been through a lot. Her life had been a burden to her. However, Jesus told her about that life and she was comforted. In John 4 it is clear that Jesus must go through Samaria. He went just to meet this woman, so that she could find salvation and receive God's grace through her Faith. Because of her faith, she had to tell the other Samaritans. Many Samaritans believed in Jesus and received salvation after coming to hear Him speak.

Our problem is that we don't trust God with our lives. For example, we want wealth. Wealth to the point that we don't have to get up at 4:00a.m. to go anywhere to earn the money. But if we ask for that, God may put us in a car accident, confine us to a wheelchair, but allow us to collect 15 million dollars. We may not be *able* to get up every morning. We would rather tell God how to give us the wealth we ask Him for.

**Q: Are the Ten Commandments part of the 612 laws?**

**A:** The Ten Commandments are a summary of the religious, civil, and personal law. God isolated the ten as a symbol of what the 612 stood for. God isolated them and put them on the tablets as a symbol of the laws.

**Q: Can you lose God's grace?**

**A:** You cannot lose the grace of God, but you can fail. God can opt to bring you into full grace with chastening (bringing that baseball bat to bear on your head, your life, your family, and/or your finances). This can hurt your relationship with God.



## ***Romans - Lesson 8***

10/25/06

### **Background to Study Lesson 8: Paul Concludes the State of Sin**

#### **Romans Chapter 4 Continued.**

It is important to understand the difference between Sin and Sins. Sin is the state we were born into as a result of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Sins are that acts we commit, daily, that gives God "Road Rage" as we take wrong turns and perform improper acts on this 'road of life'.

God does not like our disposition because we are always trying to hustle God. God is a Class of One. However, we are not acting as if He is the only God. As a result He is offended. If God tells us "Look up!" we look down; which is the exact opposite direction from the direction God has told us to look.

In Romans 4, Paul is closing out his case about the State of Sin. He has defined three types of people that need salvation:

- The Crude (The crude element of humanity)
- The moralist (Like the Pharisees who rely on rituals and condemn others that do not 'do as they say')
- The Jews (Their insistence that only obedience to the Mosaic Law (612+) would get them to heaven)

He describes that the whole world is messed up because of this propensity toward sin. Paul explains that if you **believe**, God is so moved by your belief that even though you offend Him, he imputes grace to you and forgiveness of your sins.

This goodness is supposed to lead to your repentance. Paul continues to argue the case of Abraham and Abraham's belief in God.

Look at Romans 4:16. Abraham hoped **against** hope. Sarah was barren. She had never conceived any children up to this time in her life. In Rom 4:22 there was no hope of Sarah ever having a baby. She was past the childbearing stage of her life. But still, Abraham believed and it was counted/credited to him as righteousness.

Similar righteousness is credited to those today who believe that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again.

### Romans Chapter 5

Paul has proved, in his case against the state of sin, that the three types, listed above, are condemned to eternal separation from God.

He proved that even without the Law of Moses (Mosaic Law) that you can be redeemed to God. Abraham proved this even before the Law existed. Abraham believed God's promise and he was counted as righteous by God!

Since what we believe (Jesus died, was buried, and rose again) resolves sins (the actions) and forgives Sin (the state).

In our transgressions Jesus:

- Made salvation possible for us
- Gave us God's peace
- Gave us access to God's Grace (eternally).

Jesus did all of this for us before we were able to bring Him a peace offering, as they did in the temple. He did this for us even before we knew we should bring a peace offering.

Look at the key words in the verse to understand Paul's message:

**Romans 5:1** *Therefore, (In conclusion)*

*having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Jesus made it possible)*

**Romans 5:2** *through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Gives us access)*

**Q: Is that why God forgave David?**

**A:** Yes, because David loved God. Even though David set Uriah up to be killed, he paid dearly. The story in the book of Kings is based on how close David's walk and faith were with God. David should have been in the battle. Instead, he was at home walking on the roof where he spied Uriah's wife bathing.

### Key Study Concept

Hope against hope. Hope sustains. Hope does not disappoint.  
Jesus is hope.

You should feel a certain magnificence about tribulation.

## Romans - Lesson 8



He has not kept us from trials because trials are going to produce something. Hang in there!

- Trials produce perseverance
- Perseverance produces character
- Character produces hope
- HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT.

### **Key Concept Discussion**

The word tribulation is from a Greek word that means 'wine press'. Under pressure wine is produced. The best/most appealing qualities of wine/people are produced under great pressure. Faith is so dynamic we must trust God to produce the best that He wants us to show and to give.

**Romans 5:3** *And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

When we did not have strength, Jesus died for us. If God did all the work for us while we had a bad disposition, we would not be able to be thankful for the good that comes when we do right.

**Romans 5: 6** *For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.*

Check out the mechanics of this Sin Nature and the reconciliation to God:

Sin condemned Adam and Eve. (The wages of sin is death.) Through their reproductive systems, they passed the sin nature on through the human race. All humans now have the same consequences of sin, death. Even before the introduction of the Mosaic Law people still died because of sin. Sin was then, and still is, the state in which we live. But, Adam was a type of Jesus (a figure of Jesus), in that one man brought death through sin, and with Jesus (one man) came life eternal. Adam and Jesus are not alike, but they are each a 'type' because it only took one for the cause (sin) and one for the solution (redemption).

**Romans 5:12** *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned-- 13 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of*

## Romans - Lesson 8



the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. **15** But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

Death comes before life. Unless you shed this body, you cannot get eternal life.

**1Corinthians 15:36** Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. **39** All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds. **40** There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

**1Corinthians 15:42** So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

**1Corinthians 15:43** It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

Jesus is not the second because He is not a reproduction.

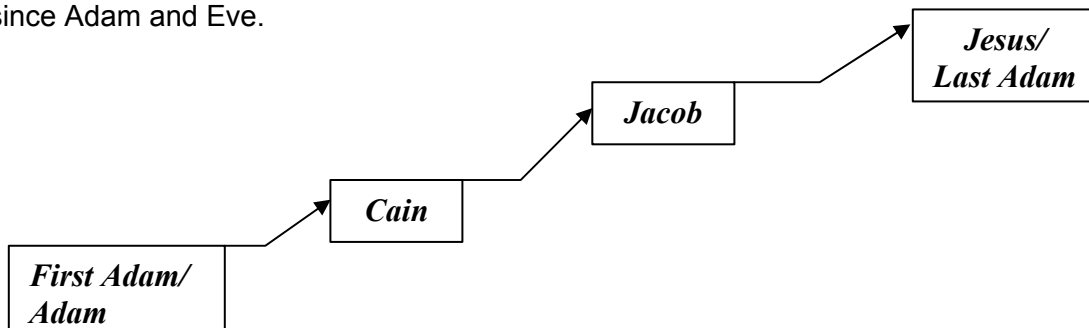
**1Corinthians 15:45** And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. **46** However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.

**1Corinthians 15:47** The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. **48** As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. **49** And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man

**1Corinthians 15:20** But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead

The resurrected dead will be a New Race. They will be "born again" in glorified, or resurrected, bodies. Just as Jesus when He rose from the dead.

Saved individuals have been progressing upward to become "born again" spiritually since Adam and Eve.



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**1Corinthians 15:50** *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

The way death kept stinging is sin continuing the attack. Sin cannot stop us from walking with God.