

**Sunday School Member Quarterly**

**Fall 2024**

# **Romans 1 – 8**

*Man's Problem – God's Solution*

**Sunday School Lessons for Adults and Youth**

**Written by John O. Yates**



*Morningside*

**B A P T I S T C H U R C H**

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**Sunday School – 9:00 each Sunday Morning**

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*Romans 1 – 8,*  
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Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are taken  
from the King James Version of the Bible.

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

# Sunday School Lessons

September through November 2024

## Romans 1 – 8

### *Man's Problem – God's Solution*

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# Daily Bible Reading Guide

Read the following scripture passages each day and complete the learning activities in this book each week. This will prepare you for Sunday School class, and God will bless you as you read, study, and memorize His Word.

## Week of August 26 – 31

**Mon:** Romans 1:1-17; **Tues:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11;  
**Wed:** Philippians 1; **Thurs:** Memorize Romans 1:16;  
**Fri:** Mark 8:27-38; **Sat:** Romans 1:1-17

## Week of September 2 – 7

**Mon:** Romans 1:18-32; **Tues:** Psalm 14; **Wed:** Psalm 19;  
**Thurs:** 2 Timothy 3; **Fri:** 2 Peter 2; **Sat:** Romans 1:18-32

## Week of September 9 – 14

**Mon:** Romans 2; **Tues:** Galatians 2; **Wed:** Hebrews 9;  
**Thurs:** Memorize Romans 2:4; **Fri:** Isaiah 52; **Sat:** Romans 2

## Week of September 16 – 21

**Mon:** Romans 3:1-23; **Tues:** Psalm 14; **Wed:** Matthew 15;  
**Thurs:** Memorize Romans 3:23; **Fri:** Psalm 53;  
**Sat:** Romans 3:1-23

## Week of September 23 – 28

**Mon:** Romans 3:24 – 4:25; **Tues:** Genesis 15;  
**Wed:** Psalm 32; **Thurs:** Memorize Romans 4:25;  
**Fri:** Ephesians 2; **Sat:** Romans 3:24 – 4:25

## Week of September 30 – October 5

**Mon:** Romans 5:1-11; **Tues:** 2 Corinthians 5;  
**Wed:** 1 Thessalonians 5; **Thurs:** Memorize Romans 5:8;  
**Fri:** 1 John 1; **Sat:** Romans 5:1-11

### **Week of October 7 – 12**

**Mon:** Romans 5:12-21; **Tues:** Genesis 3; **Wed:** Genesis 4;

**Thurs:** Memorize 1 Corinthians 15:22;

**Fri:** 1 Corinthians 15:20-58; **Sat:** Romans 5:12-21

### **Week of October 14 – 19**

**Mon:** Romans 6:1-13; **Tues:** Romans 6:14 – 7:6;

**Wed:** Colossians 3; **Thurs:** Memorize Romans 6:12;

**Fri:** Romans 6:1-13; **Sat:** Romans 6:14 – 7:6

### **Week of October 21 – 26**

**Mon:** Romans 6:11-23; **Tues:** James 1; **Wed:** Revelation 3;

**Thurs:** Memorize Romans 6:23; **Fri:** James 4;

**Sat:** Romans 6:11-23

### **Week of October 28 - November 2**

**Mon:** Romans 7:7-25; **Tues:** Galatians 5; **Wed:** Galatians 6;

**Thurs:** Ephesians 4; **Fri:** 2 Timothy 2; **Sat:** Romans 7:7-25

### **Week of November 4 – 9**

**Mon:** Romans 8:1-13; **Tues:** Galatians 3; **Wed:** Galatians 4;

**Thurs:** Memorize Romans 8:1; **Fri:** Hebrews 8;

**Sat:** Romans 8:1-13

### **Week of November 11 – 16**

**Mon:** Romans 8:14-25; **Tues:** Ephesians 1; **Wed:** 1 Peter 1;

**Thurs:** Memorize Romans 8:18; **Fri:** 1 John 3;

**Sat:** Romans 8:14-25

### **Week of November 18 – 23**

**Mon:** Romans 8:26-39; **Tues:** Ephesians 3;

**Wed:** 2 Timothy 1; **Thurs:** Memorize Romans 8:38-39;

**Fri:** John 3; **Sat:** Romans 8:26-39

**Coming Next Quarter**  
(December 2024 – February 2025)

**Romans 9 – 16**

# Introduction to Romans 1 – 8

**Author:** The Apostle Paul

**Date:** A.D. 57

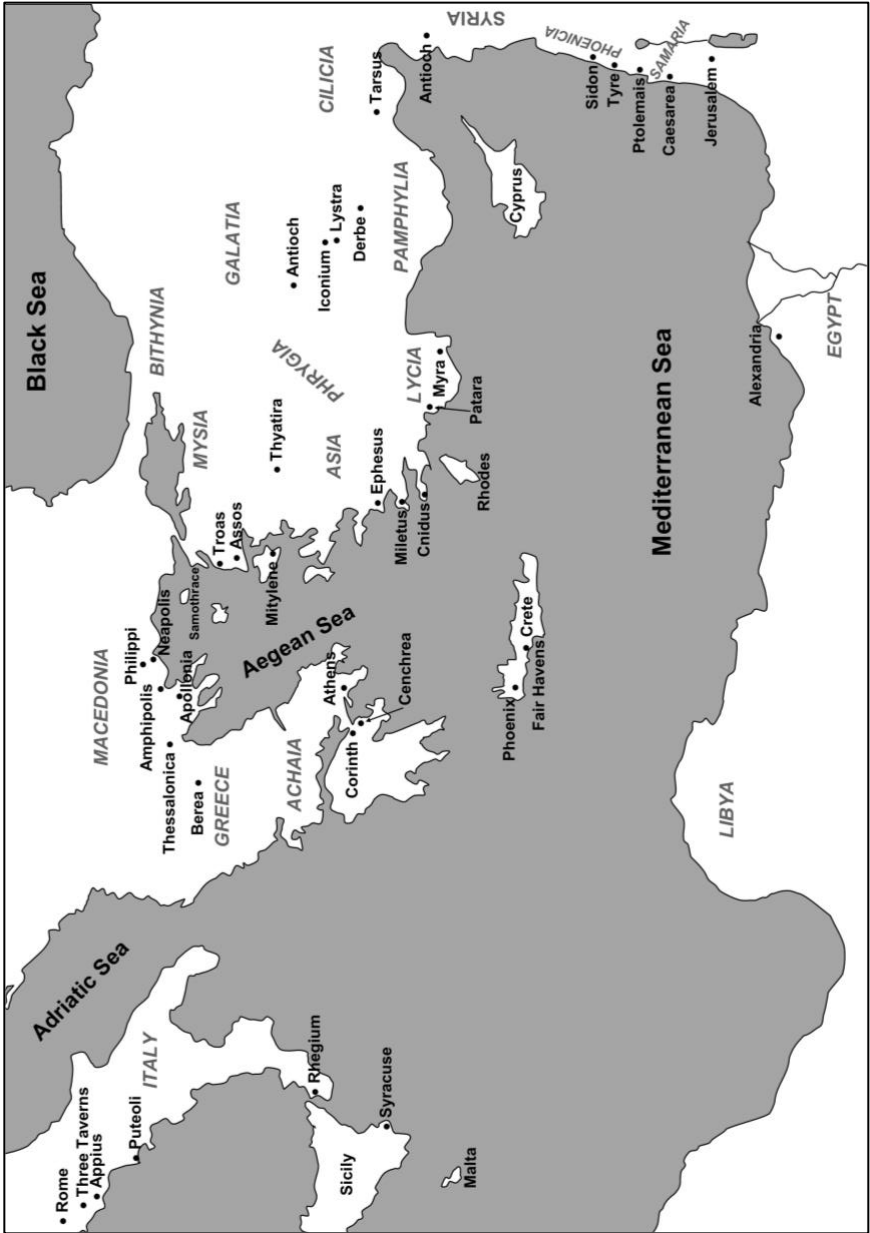
**Author and Date:** The book of Romans is a letter written by the Apostle Paul to the believers in **Rome** (see the **Map of the New Testament World** on page 7). Paul wrote the letter from Corinth during his Third Missionary Journey (Acts 20:1-3). Commentators date its writing from as early as A.D. 55 to as late as A.D. 58.

Paul had not visited Rome when he wrote the letter, but he greatly desired to do so (Rom. 1:10-13). The book of Romans is the greatest and most detailed explanation of God's wonderful plan of redemption in the entire Bible. While most of Paul's letters were written to deal with problems and answer questions, Romans is a treatise on Christian doctrine. The book explains the source and depth of man's problem with sin, the problem of Jewish unbelief and the availability of salvation to the Gentiles, the only way of justification (faith in the Lord Jesus Christ), the struggles we face as believers living in sinful flesh, our true standing in Christ, and some practical instructions for Christian living.

**This Quarter's Study:** During the Fall 2024 quarter (September through November), we will study the first half of the book of Romans (chapters 1 – 8). We will study the last half (chapters 9 – 16) during the winter quarter.

**The overall theme of Romans** is new life in Christ. In the first eight chapters we will learn about man's problem with sin, God's solution for that problem, and some of the amazing changes that come as a result of the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

# Map of the New Testament World



## Are You Ashamed of the Gospel?

Robin was in a real fix. The other kids at her lunch table were laughing and making fun of a girl at the next table who bowed her head to say the blessing before her meal. They ridiculed her modest clothing, the cross necklace she was wearing, and the Bible she carried with her books. “She’s one of those religious fanatics; no wonder she doesn’t have any friends,” they taunted. “And she’ll never get any dates in that granny outfit!”

Robin was uncomfortable with the kidding, but she didn’t say anything, even though she attended the same church as the poor “religious fanatic.” Then it happened: the moment she was dreading. One of the kids turned to her and asked, “Hey, Robin, you’re one of those Christians, aren’t you?”

Should Robin speak up for her faith and risk the same treatment as the poor girl at the next table, or should she stay quiet? What would you do in a situation like that?

**Rom. 1:1** “Paul, a \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ, called to be an \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ unto the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.”

The word **servant** literally means a **slave**. Paul considered himself to be **owned** by Jesus Christ and therefore **obligated to obey** Him. Are you a servant of Jesus Christ?

If so, in what ways are you serving Him?

An **apostle** is a **messenger** or **ambassador** sent to carry a message on behalf of a ruler. What do you think it means to be “*separated unto the Gospel?*”

Are you separated unto the Gospel?



- Rom. 1:2** The Gospel message was prophesied by the Old Testament prophets.
- Rom. 1:3** Who does the Gospel concern?  
How is He described?
- Rom. 1:4** Three things prove that Jesus is the Son of God: “And declared to be the Son of God with \_\_\_\_\_, according to the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_, by the \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead.”
- Rom. 1:5** What did Jesus give Paul?
- Rom. 1:6** “Among whom are ye also the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.”
- Rom. 1:7** To whom did Paul write this letter?
- Rom. 1:8** Why did he thank God for the Roman believers?  
Are you thankful for other believers?  
How can you express that thankfulness?
- Rom. 1:9** What did Paul’s thankfulness cause him to do?
- Rom. 1:10** What was Paul’s desire?
- Rom. 1:11** Why did he want to see them?
- Rom. 1:12** What did Paul hope would result from his visit?
- Rom. 1:13** What had he often planned to do?
- Rom. 1:14** Who did he feel obliged to preach to (see also Acts 9:15; Rom. 15:16)?

**Rom. 1:15** What was he ready to do?

**Rom. 1:16** “For I am not \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ: for it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God unto \_\_\_\_\_ to every one that \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Rom. 1:17** What is revealed through the Gospel?

**Concluding Thoughts:** The Gospel is the story of Jesus’ life, death, burial, and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:3-4). It teaches that people are sinners in need of a Savior (Rom. 3:23), and that we can never be right with God or go to heaven when we die unless we personally trust Jesus Christ as our **only** hope for salvation (John 14:6). The Gospel is God’s solution to man’s sin problem.

The word **Gospel** means “Good News.” Our sinful, messed-up world certainly needs to hear some good news! The Gospel is good news about salvation. It is “*the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*”

The Apostle Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel. He was anxious to travel to Rome and preach the Gospel to the people there, in spite of the ridicule, opposition and persecution he might face. Paul was willing to stand up for the Lord Jesus who died for him.

That’s an interesting historical fact, but here is the most important question: **Are you ashamed of the Gospel?** Those who have truly received new life in Jesus Christ are not ashamed of the Gospel.

How and where can you stand up for Jesus Christ this week? List in the space below some ways and places you can be bold for Christ. Tell God you will not be ashamed of the Gospel.

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**Project:** Memorize **Romans 1:16**. Tell someone the Good News about salvation and new life available through Jesus Christ.

## The Depravity of Man

Why is there so much evil and hate in the world? News stories about rape, murder, kidnapping, child abuse, and terrorist attacks are so commonplace these days that we hardly take notice. Just when you think things couldn't possibly get worse, they do!

The entertainment industry continues to sink to new lows, as well. What used to be considered pornography or obscene language is now available 24/7. Governments are not exempt, either. States and nations have legitimized the unnatural behaviors of homosexuality and transgenderism. There are even organizations and individuals saying adults should be free to have sex with little children! Why does this happen? Are things going to continue to get worse?

The problem is the depravity of man. The word **depravity** means moral corruption and perversion. In Romans 1:18-32, you will learn that when human beings fail to honor and thank God as they should, they are on a downward course of evil behavior.

**Rom. 1:18** What is revealed from heaven?

Against whom is this wrath directed?

**Rom. 1:19** This verse says those who are objects of God's wrath know certain things about Him. How do you think they know things?

**Rom. 1:20** "For the \_\_\_\_\_ things of Him from the creation of the world are \_\_\_\_\_ seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; so that they are \_\_\_\_\_."

These verses describe **general revelation**: the things everyone on earth can know about God without ever reading the Bible. General

revelation comes through **nature** (Ps. 19:1-6) and through man's **conscience** (Rom. 2:14-15). It shows there is a God who is orderly, good, and powerful. The rest of this chapter describes what happens to those who refuse to trust Jesus Christ as Lord.

### **Step 1 – Refuse to Honor and Thank God**

**Rom. 1:21** These people know there is a God, but what two things do they fail to do?

When people know there is a God but refuse to honor Him as God and thank Him for the things He has done, their thinking becomes vain and useless and their heart is darkened. This is why the false teachings about evolution are so dangerous: they deny God the position and praise He deserves as creator of the universe.

**Rom. 1:22** What do they claim to be?

What do they actually become?

**Rom. 1:23** What do these people worship instead of God?

Most people today don't worship little statues of animals, but they do idolize sports stars, movie stars, and human intelligence.

### **Step 2 – Uncleaness and Immorality**

**Rom. 1:24** "Wherefore God also \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_."

The phrase, "*gave them up*" (in verses 24, 26, and 28) means that God simply stepped aside and let man do what he wanted.

**Rom. 1:24** God gave them up to do what?

**Rom. 1:25** What did they exchange God's truth for?

When people refuse to honor and thank God, He lets them do as they please. As a result, they become immoral, dishonoring their bodies with their wicked behavior. They choose to believe lies rather than the truth. Does that sound like our modern world?

### Step 3 – Vile Affections: Homosexuality

**Rom. 1:26** “For this cause God \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_ unto \_\_\_\_\_.” The word **vile** means shameful and disgraceful. What do these vile affections cause women to do?

**Rom. 1:27** What do vile affections cause men do?

If people would read and believe the Bible, it would settle any questions they might have about whether homosexuality is an acceptable alternate lifestyle. In this passage, the Bible clearly says homosexuality is “*against nature*” (v. 26), “*unseemly*” (indecent and shameful – v. 27), and “*error*” (v. 27).

### Step 4 – Reprobate Mind Leading to all Sorts of Wickedness

**Rom. 1:28** What do they not like to retain in their knowledge?

What does God do?

The word **reprobate** means unapproved, rejected, and worthless. Such polluted minds lead people to do things that are improper and inappropriate. These things are described in the next verses.

**Rom. 1:29** “Being \_\_\_\_\_ with all unrighteousness, \_\_\_\_\_, wickedness, \_\_\_\_\_, maliciousness; full of envy, \_\_\_\_\_, debate, \_\_\_\_\_, malignity; whisperers.”

**Rom. 1:30** “Haters of \_\_\_\_\_.” What do they invent?

Who do they disobey?

**Rom. 1:31** What do people with reprobate minds **not** have?

**Rom. 1:32** What do they know?

What do those who do such wicked things deserve?

Even though they know the just penalty for their sin, what do they do?

What else do they get pleasure from?

Do you see the depths of man's depravity! Even though people know God and know their sin deserves death, they continue to sin. Not only do unredeemed people sin, they take pleasure in the sins of others. That is why pornography is a multi-billion dollar business in the United States alone. Many people are depraved!

**Concluding Thoughts:** Let's review. God has revealed Himself to everyone through **general revelation**, so **no one has an excuse** for dishonoring God (v. 18-20). Regardless of this, many people **refuse to glorify or thank God**, so their **thinking becomes darkened** and foolish, and they worship created things instead of the true God (v. 21-23). When this happens, God gives people over to **uncleanness**, and they follow their lusts into **immorality** (v. 24-25). When they do this, God gives them up to **vile affections**, which leads to **homosexuality** (v. 26-27). Finally, God gives them over to a **reprobate mind**, which leads them into **all sorts of wicked behavior**, ignoring the **penalty** for their sin (v. 28-31).

What can we learn from all of this? **First**, these truths explain why the world is so wicked. We shouldn't be surprised when lost people do evil deeds; they are simply following their natural desires. Man's problem is sin and depravity. **Second**, this lesson reminds us that we must be careful to honor God and thank Him for all He does. It is natural for those who have experienced new life in Christ to glorify and thank God. Take a moment to do those things right now.

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**Project:** Thank God each day for His goodness to you.

## Can Religion Save You?

Richard is a very religious person. He is one of those who goes to church “every time the doors are open.” What few people know, however, is that he is also a compulsive gambler, social drinker, and addicted to pornography. Whenever feelings of guilt about his sins arise, Richard quickly dismisses them. “After all,” he reasons, “I’m one of the most faithful people in our whole church.”

Does Richard’s religion make him right with God? Does it make up for his sin? Do his religious activities outweigh his sin so he can go to heaven when he dies? What does Richard’s sinful behavior make others think about his religion?

Those are important questions, but this week’s lesson will help you answer the most important question: **Can religion save you?**

**Rom. 2:11** What do you think this verse means?

Verses 1-10 addressed the self-righteous Jews who looked down on those who weren’t Jews. This verse tells us God does not show partiality or favoritism based on one’s ethnic background.

**Rom. 2:12** What happens to those without the Law (Gentiles) who sin?

What about those with the Law (Jews) who sin?

**Rom. 2:13** Does hearing the Law make you right with God?

**Rom. 2:14** This verse describes the **conscience**, which naturally tells people what is right and wrong. The conscience is the second source of **general revelation** (nature is the first; Rom. 1:18-20).

**Rom. 2:15** How does this verse describe the conscience?

**Rom. 2:16** What will God judge?

Verses 11-16 teach us that **religion will not protect you from God's judgment**. God looks on the heart and He will judge everyone. A "moral compass" is available to everyone: those who don't have the Bible have a conscience that tells them certain things are wrong; those who have the Bible have God's commands and restrictions. Religion won't protect you from God's judgment.

**Rom. 2:17** Who does this verse address?

**Rom. 2:18-20** These verses are directed toward faithful Jews who knew and taught others the truths of the Law.

**Rom. 2:21** They were teaching others, but what were they failing to do?

What sin were they committing?

**Rom. 2:22-23** What other sins were they guilty of?

**Rom. 2:24** What was their sin causing Gentiles to do?

Verses 17-24 teach us that **religion can't keep you from sinning**. Sex scandals among the clergy in recent years certainly prove this point; the ministers were very religious but they were still sinful. Religion alone can't keep you from sinning.

**Rom. 2:25** Circumcision is the outward physical sign of the special covenant relationship God has with the Jews. When is circumcision profitable?

What good is circumcision to a Jew who breaks the Law?

The same can be said of baptism. Like circumcision, baptism is an outward sign of one's inward relationship with the Lord. **Baptism without genuine conversion is useless**, just as circumcision apart from a real relationship with God is useless.



**Rom. 2:26**     Uncircumcised people who keep the Law will be counted (reckoned) as if they are \_\_\_\_\_.

**Rom. 2:27**     The behavior of a righteous uncircumcised person will judge (condemn) the sinful circumcised person.

**Rom. 2:28**     Who is not a true Jew?

**Rom. 2:29**     Who is truly a Jew?

What is true circumcision?

Verses 25-29 tell us that **true righteousness comes from having your heart right with God, not from doing religious rituals.**

**Concluding Thoughts:** Chapter 1 proved that natural, unsaved people are sinful and guilty before God. Chapter 2 addressed those who are religious and taught us three important truths:

1. Religion won't protect you from God's judgment.
2. Religion can't keep you from sinning.
3. True righteousness comes from the heart, not from simply doing religious rituals.

God looks on the heart. He knows your heart. If your heart is not right with Him, He is not impressed with your religious activities.

Is your heart right with God? Do you truly know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, or are you merely doing religious things in hopes of appeasing God? Be honest with yourself.

If you have never truly trusted Christ for salvation, please read the verses printed on the back of this book, turn from your sins, and ask Jesus to save you. He will give you new life. Please do it now.

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**Project:** Man's problem is sin, but God's goodness leads us to repentance. Memorize **Romans 2:4**. Thank God each day for His goodness, and don't forget to do the Daily Bible readings (page 4).

## Everyone has Sinned

“I believe there is some good in everyone.”

“If you give people a chance they will do the right thing.”

“Everyone is seeking God, but some look in the wrong places.”

A famous self-help book is titled, *I'm OK – You're OK*.

These statements represent the popular philosophy of our modern world. They sound good and are the sort of statements we all want to believe. The problem, though, is these statements are **false**.

The Bible tells us humans are sinful, depraved, and wicked. In this lesson we will see that man's problem is that **everyone** has sinned, but we will also find some good news. Let's start in verse 9.

**Rom. 3:9** What had Paul already proved in chapters 1 & 2?

**Rom. 3:10** Verses 10-18 are quoted from the Old Testament (see **Psalm 14:1-3; 53:1-3; Ecclesiastes 7:20**).  
“There is none \_\_\_\_\_, no, not one.”

**Rom. 3:11** “There is none that \_\_\_\_\_, there is none that \_\_\_\_\_ after God.”

No one understands the things of God (1 Cor. 2:14) unless the indwelling Holy Spirit teaches them (John 14:26). No one seeks God; rather, God draws people to Himself (John 6:44).

**Rom. 3:12** “They are all gone \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, they are together become \_\_\_\_\_; there is none that doeth \_\_\_\_\_, no, not one.”

Based on these verses, how many people on earth are good and righteous?

**Rom. 3:13-14** How does man speak (**Psalm 5:9; 10:7; 140:3**)?

**Rom. 3:15** What are men swift to do (**Isaiah 59:7**)?

**Rom. 3:16** How does the Bible describe their life?

**Rom. 3:17** What have they not known (**Isaiah 59:8**)?

**Rom. 3:18** “There is no \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ before their eyes” (**Psalm 36:1**).

This is a pretty bleak picture, isn't it? In human nature there is **nothing** good or righteous. Left to ourselves, humans will speak ugly things and be violent. We won't do good, fear God, or have peace. **Everyone** on planet earth is sinful.

How does the Law (God's commandments and rules found in the Bible) figure into this? Can obeying the Law cancel out the sin problem we all have? Look at verses 19-20.

**Rom. 3:19** “Now we know that what things soever the Law saith, it saith to them who are under the \_\_\_\_\_: that \_\_\_\_\_ mouth may be \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ may become \_\_\_\_\_ before God.” What is the real purpose of the Law?

**Rom. 3:20** “Therefore by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ there shall no flesh be \_\_\_\_\_ in His sight: for by the Law is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.” Can you be just (right with God) by keeping the Law?

What does the Law make us aware of?

**Rom. 3:21** **Finally some good news!** Is there righteousness available without living up to the impossible standards of the Law?

This wonderful truth was foretold by the Old Testament prophets.

**Rom. 3:22** Where can we find this righteousness?

Who can have this righteousness?

**Rom. 3:23** “For \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_, and come  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.”

No one on earth is exempt from this blanket statement: **everyone has sinned**. No one measures up to God’s standard of perfection. For this reason, human beings need a Savior.

**Concluding Thoughts:** In chapter 1 we learned about the **depravity** of man. Chapter 2 revealed that **religion cannot save us**. Chapter 3 emphatically proves that **everyone has sinned**. You are a sinner and I am a sinner. The pastor is a sinner and the very best person you know is a sinner. That is the **bad** news.

Near the end of this lesson we got a glimpse of the **good** news (we will learn more about it next week). **The good news is that there IS justification available to us**. This is, “*the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe*” (v. 22). God has provided a solution to our problem.

Have you received that righteousness? It is available “*by faith of Jesus Christ unto all ... that believe*.” If you are willing to admit and turn from your sin and believe in Jesus Christ as your only hope for salvation, then you can be saved.

Do you want to do that? If so, read the verses printed on the back of this book, confess your sin to God, and place your faith in Jesus Christ. Pray right now and express your desire to God. Jesus will give you eternal life and a new heart that desires Him.

Thank God for forgiveness and salvation.

---

**Project:** Memorize **Romans 3:23**. Tell someone this week the bad news that everyone has sinned, as well as the good news that salvation is available through Jesus Christ.

## Justified by Faith, NOT by Law

Before the President of the United States leaves office, he usually issues some presidential pardons. A pardon is given to someone who is serving a prison sentence for committing a crime. That pardon releases the individual from legal penalties for his or her offense. The criminal is set free and never again has to serve time for that offense. A pardon is a gift that cannot be earned.

The Lord Jesus Christ does something similar for those who come to Him by faith. The Bible term for this is **justification**, but justification is even better than a pardon. The pardoned criminal is still a guilty criminal with a criminal record, even though he has been released from punishment. A justified believer is both freed from punishment **and** declared completely innocent, just as if he had never sinned in the first place.

In this lesson we will learn that justification comes by faith, **not** by obeying a set of religious rules and rituals.

**Rom. 3:24** “Being justified \_\_\_\_\_ by His \_\_\_\_\_ through the \_\_\_\_\_ that is in Christ Jesus.”

We need to understand the meaning of some important words:

**Justification**: Declared completely innocent, as if no sin had ever been committed.

**Grace**: A free gift, which cannot be earned or purchased.

**Redemption**: Paying the purchase price necessary to free one from slavery or bondage.

**Rom. 3:25** “Whom God hath set forth to be a \_\_\_\_\_ through faith in His \_\_\_\_\_, to declare His righteousness for the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins that are past, through the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.”

Here are some more important definitions:

**Propitiation**: Something that makes amends for a wrong and thus appeases the one who was offended by that wrong.

**Remission**: Passing over sins without administering punishment.

**Rom. 3:26** Who does the Lord justify?

**Rom. 3:27** Do those who are justified have any right to boast?

**Rom. 3:28** How are people justified?

Do they need to keep the Law to be justified?

**Let's review**: In chapters 1 – 3 we have learned about man's problem. Every human being is a sinner and religion can't make us right with God. Thankfully, God has a solution to man's problem! Jesus Christ came and died on the cross, becoming the sin payment to pay the penalty for our sins. If we come to Christ by faith, He will forgive our sins and justify us, making us right with God. Thus, "*man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.*" Justification is a gift of grace that cannot be earned.

**Rom. 3:29-31** Is justification available to both the Jews and the Gentiles?

Chapter 4 uses Abraham (the father of the Jews) as the example of one who was justified by faith, not by works.

**Rom. 4:2** **IF** Abraham had been justified by his works, what could he have done?

**Rom. 4:3** This is a quote from **Genesis 15:6**. "Abraham \_\_\_\_\_ God, and it was \_\_\_\_\_ unto him for \_\_\_\_\_."

**Rom. 4:7-8** Quoting **Psalm 32:1-2**, Paul described the blessedness of being forgiven by God.

**Rom. 4:9** Do you think the blessing of forgiveness is only available to the Jews (the circumcision), or is it also available to the Gentiles (the uncircumcision)?

**Rom. 4:10** Was Abraham justified before or after his circumcision?

**Rom. 4:11** Abraham was 85 years old when he believed God and his faith was counted as righteousness (Gen. 12:4; 16:3). God didn't institute circumcision until Abraham was 99 years old (Gen. 17:24), so "that he might be the \_\_\_\_\_ of all them that \_\_\_\_\_, though they be \_\_\_\_\_ circumcised; that righteousness might be \_\_\_\_\_ unto them also."

The word **imputed** means it was credited to our account. When we make a bank deposit, that money is imputed into our account. When we trust Jesus Christ by faith, righteousness is imputed to our spiritual "account," so God views us as righteous (2 Cor. 5:21).

**Rom. 4:14** "For if they which are of the \_\_\_\_\_ be heirs, \_\_\_\_\_ is made \_\_\_\_\_." In other words, **if we can earn salvation by doing good works** (such as obeying the Law), **then the promises of salvation by grace are null and void.**

**Rom. 4:16** Therefore salvation is of \_\_\_\_\_, by \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 2:8-9).

**Rom. 4:17-20** These verses describe Abraham's faith in God.

**Rom. 4:21** What was Abraham fully convinced of?

**Rom. 4:22** What was the result of Abraham's faith?

**Rom. 4:24** How can we have righteousness imputed to us?

**Rom. 4:25** Jesus Christ “was delivered for our \_\_\_\_\_, and was raised again for our \_\_\_\_\_.”

The death of Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sin; His resurrection proved that we are justified before God.

**Concluding Thoughts:** Justification comes by faith in Jesus Christ, not by keeping the Jewish Law or by doing good works. Thus, salvation is available to anyone who truly believes in Jesus.

How does this lesson relate to **you**? Answer these questions:

- Are you either a Jew or Gentile?
- Are you a sinner?
- Do you think you have done enough good works or been religious enough to make up for your sin?
- Do you want to be justified freely by God’s grace?

If you want to be justified, talk to God right now. Tell Him you are a sinner and admit that you can’t be good enough to get right with Him. Ask Jesus to forgive your sin and give you His righteousness. Thank Him for saving you and giving you new life.

If you just received Christ as your Savior, get on the phone and tell your Sunday School teacher or some other Christian friend. Make your commitment public this Sunday in church.

If you’re already a Christian, thank the Lord for saving you by His grace. Who do you know that you can tell the Good News about salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?

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**Project:** Memorize **Romans 4:25**. Do the **Daily Bible Readings** (page 4) every day this week. Next week you will learn about some of the blessings of being justified (saved).



## Benefits of Justification

You have seen the commercial: a frustrated housewife discovers the latest kitchen miracle that will turn her nasty chores into a pleasure. It's not available in stores, but the good news is you can get one for only \$29.95 plus shipping and handling. Then comes the famous line: "But wait – there's more!" If you call right away, they will double your order or send you other valuable gadgets.

Those commercials always seem to have a "But wait – there's more!" line, don't they? The manufacturers are counting on added benefits to help sell their products.

When we trust Jesus Christ as Savior we receive forgiveness, eternal life, and the guarantee of a home in heaven. Those things are fantastic and certainly sufficient reason to desire a relationship with Christ, but the Bible tells us there are **many more benefits** and blessings of justification. We'll discover some in this lesson.

**Rom. 5:1** "Therefore being \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_."

Remember that **justification** means being declared completely innocent, just as if no sin had ever been committed. That's the **only** way to have a relationship with God. We learned last week that justification comes by faith, not by doing good works. The word **therefore** lets us know that the things that follow are the results or benefits of being justified. Look back at verse 1.

**Rom. 5:1** **Benefit # 1:** "Therefore being justified by faith, we have \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ through our Lord Jesus Christ." Unsaved persons are enemies of God (Rom. 5:10; 8:7; James 4:4), but justification gives us peace with God.

**Rom. 5:2** **Benefit # 2:** "By whom also we have \_\_\_\_\_ by faith into this \_\_\_\_\_ wherein we stand."

Our justification gives us access to God (Eph. 2:18; 3:12; Heb. 10:19) and to His wonderful grace.

**Benefit # 3:** What do we have to rejoice in?

**Rom. 5:3a** **Benefit # 4:** “And not only so, but we \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ also.”

Trials and difficulties come to both saved and unsaved persons; no one can escape them. Believers can glory in tribulations by knowing that God is working all things together for his good (Rom. 8:28).

**Rom. 5:3b** “Tribulation worketh \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Rom. 5:4** “And patience, \_\_\_\_\_; and experience, \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Rom. 5:5** “And hope maketh not \_\_\_\_\_.”

Here’s how it works. Tribulation in the believer’s life produces patience. The patient believer learns by experience that God will be faithful to him even in times of tribulation; and this experience of God’s past faithfulness gives the believer reason to hope. Such an experienced, hopeful believer will not be ashamed of his trials.

**Rom. 5:5** **Benefit # 5:** What does God put in our hearts?

The love of God is in our hearts because He has given the Holy Spirit to live within us.

**Rom. 5:6** **Benefit # 6:** “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_.”

Very few people will lay down their life, even for someone who is righteous (v. 7). Read verse 8 to see what Jesus did.

**Rom. 5:8** “But God commendeth (demonstrated) His love toward us, in that, while we were yet \_\_\_\_\_, Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for us.”

**Rom. 5:9**     **Benefit # 7:** “Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ through Him.” Unsaved persons are objects of God’s wrath and condemnation (Rom. 1:18; 2:5-8; John 3:18), but believers have been saved from wrath (1 Thess. 5:9).

**Rom. 5:10**     **Benefits # 8 and # 9:** “For if, when we were enemies, we were \_\_\_\_\_ to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be \_\_\_\_\_ by His life.”

**Rom. 5:11**     **Benefits # 10 and # 11:** “And not only so, but we also \_\_\_\_\_ in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the \_\_\_\_\_.”

God offers us the free gift of justification by faith in His Son Jesus Christ, “*But wait – there’s more!*” Consider these benefits:

1. **Peace** with God – v. 1
2. **Access** by faith into God’s grace – v. 2
3. Reason to **hope** – v. 2
4. Enabling us to **glory in tribulations** – v. 3-5
5. The **love of God** in us through the Holy Spirit – v. 5
6. **Christ’s death for our sin** – v. 6-8
7. **Spared from God’s wrath** – v. 9
8. **Reconciliation** with God – v. 10
9. **Salvation** – v. 10
10. **Joy** in God through Jesus – v. 11
11. **Atonement** – v. 11

**Concluding Thoughts:** You didn’t earn those blessings, you don’t deserve them, and you could never pay for them. They are the result of receiving new life through faith in Jesus. Thank God for each of these wonderful blessings. Take a moment to thank Him now.

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**Project:** Memorize **Romans 5:8**.

## What a Difference One Man Makes!

In 1868 President Andrew Johnson faced an impeachment trial before the United States Senate. Johnson retained his office, however, by a margin of only **one** vote. Down through history there have been other important decisions settled by only one vote.

You might wonder sometimes what impact one person can make in this big world. After all, there are more than eight billion people on earth; what difference can one person make?

In this lesson you will learn about two very important men, Adam and Jesus Christ. Each of those individuals had a profound impact upon the entire human race.

**Rom. 5:12** What entered the world by one man?

What did sin bring with it?

How many people on earth have sinned?

In chapters 1 – 3 we learned that every human being is a sinner. What is the source of that sin? Why are humans so wicked?

The answer is found in this chapter. **Adam** was the first man (Gen. 2:7-8) and therefore the father of the human race. Theologians call Adam our **federal** head. The word “federal” refers to one who represents and acts on behalf of others, just as our federal government represents us and acts on our behalf. Since we are descendants of Adam, our problem is we are born with a sin nature.

**Rom. 5:13** Sin was in the world (because of Adam’s sin) before God gave the Law through Moses.

**Rom. 5:14** What reigned from Adam until the time of Moses?

Did humans have to commit the same sin as Adam to be just as guilty as Adam?

The phrase, “*who is the figure of Him that was to come*” means Adam, as our fleshly head, pointed to Jesus, who was coming to be our spiritual head. The rest of the chapter contrasts what Adam brought into the world with what Jesus brought into the world.

| Verse | Adam  | Jesus Christ   |
|-------|---|--|
| 5:15b | “For if through the offence of _____ many be _____,”  | “much more the _____ of God, and the _____ by grace, which is by _____ man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto _____.”           |
| 5:16  | “And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by _____ to _____,” | “but the free gift is of many offences unto _____.”  |
| 5:17  | “For if by one man’s offence _____ reigned by one;”   | “much more they which receive abundance of _____ and of the _____ of righteousness shall reign in _____ by one, Jesus Christ.” |
| 5:18  | “Therefore as by the offence of one _____ came upon all men to _____;”                          | “even so by the righteousness of one the free _____ came upon all men unto _____ of life.”                                     |
| 5:19  | “For as by one man’s _____ many were made _____;”   | “so by the _____ of one shall many be made _____.”   |

|      |   |  |
|------|---|--|
| 5:20 | “Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin _____,” | “_____ did much more abound.”  |
| 5:21 | “That as _____ hath reigned unto _____,”  | “even so might _____ reign through righteousness unto eternal _____ by Jesus Christ our Lord.” |

**Concluding Thoughts:** Do you get the picture? How many times and how many ways does God have to say something for it to be clear to us?

**Adam’s sin** brought **death** upon the entire human race. **Christ’s death** made **salvation** available to all who want it.

Put another way, Adam is the father of all humans who **breathe**, but Jesus Christ is the Father of all humans who **believe**.

Everyone on earth is either “in Adam, or “in Christ.” There is not a third alternative. Those who are in Adam are sinners still under the condemnation and guilt of their sin, and still facing the penalty for their sin (death and hell). Those in Christ are sinners who have accepted Christ’s gift of grace. They are forgiven, justified, and recipients of eternal life. That’s God’s solution to our sin problem.

**Which are you? Are you in Adam or in Christ?**

If you are still in your sins, read the verses printed on the back of this book and ask Jesus Christ to save you. If you are in Christ, thank the Lord for graciously saving you.

**Project:** Memorize **1 Corinthians 15:22**. Do you know someone who is still in Adam and needs to learn about new life in Christ? Ask them if you can read this chapter to them and pray with them.

## Three Illustrations of Salvation

An illustration is a story or analogy that helps people understand a deeper truth. Preachers often use illustrations (stories) to help us better grasp the spiritual truths taught in their sermons. We readily connect with the illustrations so much that we often remember them more than we do the sermons!

**Review:** Chapters 1 – 3 taught us about **man’s problem:** every human being is a sinner. Chapters 4 – 5 explained **God’s solution** to our problem: we can be justified by faith in Jesus Christ. In chapters 6 – 8 we will learn about our **new life in Christ.**

The Lord led the Apostle Paul to use three illustrations to help his readers (including you and me) understand what happens when someone comes to know Jesus Christ. These illustrations will help you understand your new life in Christ. As a believer, you are:

### 1. Dead to Sin but Alive to Christ

**Rom. 6:1-2** Should we continue to sin so that God can give us more grace?

“How shall we, that are \_\_\_\_\_ to sin, live any longer therein?”

**Rom. 6:3** What were we baptized into?

**Rom. 6:4** “Therefore we are \_\_\_\_\_ with Him by baptism into \_\_\_\_\_: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in \_\_\_\_\_ of life.”

**Rom. 6:6** What happened to our “old man” and why?

What should we not serve?

**Rom. 6:7** “For he that is \_\_\_\_\_ is freed from \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Rom. 6:8** Because we are dead with Christ, what do we believe (know)?

**Rom. 6:10** How many times did Christ have to die for our sins?

**Rom. 6:11** The word **reckon** means to compute, conclude, or consider. “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be \_\_\_\_\_ indeed unto \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ unto \_\_\_\_\_ through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

**Believers are dead to sin but alive to Christ.** What do dead people do? **NOTHING!** A dead man no longer does the things he used to do when he was alive, such as work, hobbies, worry, or sin. If we are dead to sin we should not continue living in sin. Are you still living like you did before you were saved?

## **2. Freed from Sin to become Servants of Righteousness**

**Rom. 6:17** What were we formerly the servants (slaves) of?

**Rom. 6:18** “Being then made \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_, ye became the servants of \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Rom. 6:20** When we were the servants of sin, what were we free from?

**Rom. 6:21** What fruit does a life of sin produce?

**Rom. 6:22** What have we been set free from?

Who do we now serve?

What fruit does this kind of life produce?

This illustration relates to slavery, which Paul’s First Century readers were very familiar with. A freed slave no longer worked for his old master.



**Believers have been freed from sin to serve righteousness.** Are you still serving sin even though Christ has set you free?

### **3. Widowed from the Law but Married to Christ**

**Rom. 7:2** Who is a married woman bound to?

What happens if her husband dies?

**Rom. 7:3** What causes a woman to be called an adulteress?

What if her husband is dead?

**Rom. 7:4** What have we (believers) become dead to?

To whom should we be married?

**Rom. 7:5** What fruit did our sinful life produce?

**Rom. 7:6** What are we delivered from?

How should we now serve Christ?

A married person is bound by the law to their spouse. If they marry someone else they become an adulterer. If they are widowed, however, they are free to marry again. In salvation, we are free from the Law (we don't have to keep the Law to try to be pleasing and acceptable to God) so we can be united with Christ. **Believers are widowed from the Law (works) and married to Christ.**

**Concluding Thoughts:** This passage of scripture presents three different illustrations of new life in Jesus Christ. If you are saved you are **dead to sin but alive to Christ**. This describes your redemption. You are also **free from sin so you can be a slave of righteousness**. This describes your daily walk and behavior as a result of your salvation. Finally, you are **widowed from the Law so you can be married to Jesus**. This describes your motivation for righteous living and Christian service.

Thank the Lord for saving you, setting you free from sin, death, and the Law, so you can have a living and personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

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**Project:** Memorize **Romans 6:12**. Whenever you hear about death this week, remember that you are **dead to sin**. Whenever you hear about bondage or imprisonment, remember that you were once a slave of sin but are now a **slave to righteousness**. Whenever you hear about a wedding or marriage, remember that you are widowed from the Law but **married to Christ**.

Next week we will return to chapter 6 to take a closer look.

### **Those Who Truly Know Jesus Christ Are:**

1. Dead to Sin but Alive to Christ
2. Freed from Sin to become Servants of Righteousness
3. Widowed from the Law but Married to Christ

## Who's in the Driver's Seat?

If an automobile carrying a driver and a passenger is involved in an accident, who will the police be more interested in talking to, the driver or the passenger? The obvious answer is the driver, because he or she was in the driver's seat.

The person in the driver's seat controls the vehicle. Parents discover this truth when they teach their teenagers to drive. The teenager in the driver's seat is in control of the vehicle, while the parent in the passenger seat is virtually helpless.

The Bible lets us know there is a "driver's seat" to our lives and we decide who occupies that important place of control.

**Rom. 6:11** We should consider ourselves dead unto \_\_\_\_\_ but alive unto \_\_\_\_\_.

**Rom. 6:12** What should we **NOT** allow to reign in our lives?

**Rom. 6:13** The word **members** refers to your limbs and body parts. What should we **NOT** yield our bodies to?

What **SHOULD** we yield them to?

**Rom. 6:14** "For sin shall not have \_\_\_\_\_ over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."

**Rom. 6:15** Are we free to sin, since we are not under Law?

The phrase "**Know ye not**" in verse 16 means, "Don't you understand" or, "Don't you realize?" The truth the Lord wants us to understand is this: **we are the servants (slaves) of whomever we yield ourselves to.** Slavery is a terrible thing and none of us want to become slaves, but the Bible says we make ourselves slaves to whomever or whatever we choose to yield ourselves to.

**Rom. 6:16** What results from yielding to sin?

What results from obediently yielding to God?

**Rom. 6:17** Why did Paul thank God for the Roman believers?

Everyone who is unsaved is a slave to sin. Salvation involves believing from the heart the Bible doctrine of faith in Jesus Christ.

**Rom. 6:18** When a person is set free from sin by trusting Jesus, what do they become the servant of?

Let's take verse 19 apart to make sure we understand it thoroughly. The word **infirmity** means frailness or feebleness.

**Rom. 6:19** Why did Paul speak in human terms to his readers?

Before being saved, Paul's readers had "yielded your members servants to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_, unto iniquity." When you are a servant of uncleanness and iniquity, the result will be that you do even more iniquity. That describes people before they are saved. Paul said now that they were saved, they should "yield your members servants to \_\_\_\_\_ unto holiness." When you yield yourself as a servant of righteousness, the result will be holiness (a holy lifestyle). This describes believers.

**Rom. 6:20** When you served sin what were you free from?

We often see foods labeled "**FAT FREE**" or "**SUGAR FREE.**" According to verse 20, the life of an unsaved, sinful person could honestly be labeled "**RIGHTEOUSNESS FREE.**"

**Rom. 6:21** "What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? For the end of those things is \_\_\_\_\_." The fruit of a life of sin is death.

**Rom. 6:22** "But now being made free from \_\_\_\_\_, and become servants to \_\_\_\_\_, ye have your fruit unto \_\_\_\_\_, and the end everlasting life."

The servant of God will bring forth the fruit of holiness. Holiness doesn't **produce** everlasting life; rather, holiness is the natural fruit produced in the life of one **who already has** everlasting life (which comes from faith in Christ: John 3:16).

**Rom. 6:23** "For the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_; but the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is eternal \_\_\_\_\_ through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Chapters 1 – 3 revealed our problem: we are all sinners. Wages are something we earn. What do we earn by sinning?

God's solution is a gift. A gift is something you can't earn or pay for. What is God's gift to those who trust the Lord Jesus Christ?

**Concluding Thoughts:** What have you discovered in this lesson?

**We are the servants (slaves) of whomever we yield ourselves to.** Whoever or whatever you yield yourself to is in the driver's seat of your life, controlling the direction, course, and speed of your life.

If you yield yourself to unrighteous behavior, you will become a slave to sin. The end result of such a life is death.

Those who have new life in Christ seek to daily yield control of their life to the Lord Jesus. If you "*yield yourselves unto God, as those that are **alive from the dead***" (v. 13), you will become a servant of righteousness. The end result of yielding to God is holiness and eternal life.

Who are you yielding yourself to? Who's in the driver's seat of your life, you or Christ?

If you have been yielding to sin, confess your sin and turn away from it. Pray and tell God about it right now.

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**Project:** Memorize **Romans 6:23**. Before making any decisions this week, ask yourself, "What (or who) am I yielding to?"

## Why do You Struggle with Sin?

Josh was disappointed. Once again he committed the same sin he had confessed so many times before. He told the Lord he didn't want to commit that sin ever again, and he really meant it, but he did it anyway. "Why is it such a struggle to resist sin?" Bill wondered.

Becky planned to be more faithful to visit prospects and minister to those in the nursing homes. She knew she ought to do those good things, and she really wanted to do them, but for some reason it was a struggle to faithfully carry through on her plans.

Can you identify with Josh or Becky? Both of them struggled to do what was right. Josh struggled to resist sin, while Becky struggled to do good things. Why do believers have such struggles? You will find the answer in this week's lesson.

**Rom. 7:15** The word **allow** means to understand. What did Paul say about the things he **would** (intended to) do?

What did he actually do?

Paul said he didn't understand why he did the things he did. He said he didn't do the things he intended to do, but instead did things he hated. Why do you think believers have such struggles?

Remember that we are all descendants of Adam (Rom. 5:12-21), causing us to be born with a fleshly sin nature that is selfish and wants to rebel against God's commands. That's our problem. When God saves us, however, He gives us a new, spiritual, godly nature. That's God's solution to our sin problem. Unfortunately, however, we don't lose our old fleshly human nature when God gives us a new spiritual nature. This causes an unending struggle within the Christian between those two very different natures. Turn to Galatians 5:17 for a moment.

**Gal. 5:17** “For the \_\_\_\_\_ lusteth against the \_\_\_\_\_, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are \_\_\_\_\_ the one to the other: so that ye \_\_\_\_\_ do the things that ye \_\_\_\_\_.”

Sound familiar? That’s the same struggle described in Romans 7.

**Rom. 7:16** When I don’t want to sin but do it anyway, what does that prove?

**Rom. 7:17** Where did Paul’s desire to sin come from?

**Rom. 7:18a** “For I know that in \_\_\_\_\_ (that is, in my \_\_\_\_\_,) dwelleth no \_\_\_\_\_ thing ...” We learned in Rom. 3:10-18 that the natural (unsaved) person is not good or righteous and does not seek God.

**Rom. 7:18b** “... for to \_\_\_\_\_ is present with me; but how to \_\_\_\_\_ that which is good I find not.”  
Did Paul want to do right?

Did he have trouble doing it?

**Rom. 7:19** Did he do the good things he wanted to do?

Did he do the evil he wanted to resist?

**Rom. 7:20** What caused Paul to do things he didn’t want to do?

**Rom. 7:21** Previously when Paul used the word **Law** he was speaking of God’s Law found in the Bible. Here he used **law** in a generic way, referring to a rule or guiding principle (like the law of gravity). The law Paul learned was “when I would do \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ is present with me.”

**Rom. 7:22** Where did Paul delight in God’s Law?

**Rom. 7:23** Remember from last week’s lesson that the word **members** refers to your limbs and body parts. What did the law in Paul’s members fight against?

What did he feel he was in captivity to?

The Apostle Paul struggled with sin, just like you and I do.

**Rom. 7:24** How did Paul describe himself?

What did he ask?

**Rom. 7:25** Where does that deliverance come from?

“So then with the \_\_\_\_\_ I myself serve the law of \_\_\_\_\_; but with the \_\_\_\_\_ the law of \_\_\_\_\_.”

This **DOES NOT** mean it is permissible to sin with your body as long as you keep your mind and heart right with God. Your body is the Temple (dwelling place) of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19) and the Bible repeatedly tells us to avoid sin. This verse simply explains the fact that the believer’s heart and mind want to do what’s right, but the flesh still has sinful desires.

**Concluding Thoughts:** Even though you are saved and enjoy new life in Christ, the old sinful nature is still present. There is a constant struggle within to yield to either the Spirit or to the flesh.

Do you remember the analogy of the driver’s seat in last week’s lesson? The struggle of the Christian life is that the old sin nature and the new spiritual nature **BOTH** want to **control** your behavior. You must daily yield to the Holy Spirit and walk in the Spirit to avoid fulfilling the lustful desires of the flesh (Gal. 5:16).

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**Project:** Use your struggle with sin this week as a reminder to yield control of your life to the indwelling Holy Spirit.



**NO CONDEMNATION!**

Many high-profile trials have made the news in recent years. Testimony may last for months, with many interesting twists and developments. Observers debate whether the suspect will be convicted or acquitted. Eventually the jury deliberates and returns a verdict. If that verdict is “**Not Guilty**,” the judge will pound his gavel on the desk and announce that the accused is free, legally cleared of any guilt or possible punishment for the crime.

In this week’s lesson you will learn that when a person places his or her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, the Great Judge of the universe (Almighty God) brings down His gavel and announces “**No Condemnation**” for that person. The individual, who was once condemned for his or her lack of belief (John 3:18), is legally cleared of all guilt and punishment for their sins.

**Rom. 8:1** “There is therefore now no \_\_\_\_\_ to them which are in \_\_\_\_\_, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

The word **condemnation** is a legal term that refers to a guilty verdict. This particular word is used only two other times in the Bible (Rom. 5:16, 18), speaking of the condemnation that falls on all humans because of Adam’s sin. **Christ removes condemnation.**

**Rom. 8:2** What does “*the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus*” free believers from?

**Rom. 8:3** Why couldn’t the Law save anyone?

How did God send His Son into the world?

What did God do through His Son?

**Rom. 8:4** “That the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law might be \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

There is a **lot** of meaning in that verse! The Old Testament Law presented a **perfect** standard for people to try to live up to. **No one** ever obeyed the Law perfectly. We learned earlier that the real purpose of the Law was to show that people are sinful (Rom. 3:20; Gal. 3:10). When someone is saved, however, they are declared completely righteous, just as if they had perfectly obeyed every single command of the Law without ever committing one sin. That’s what Romans 8:4 means when it says, “*That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us.*”

Verses 1-4 tell us those who are **in Christ** (genuine believers) are **free from condemnation**. How can you know if you have new life in Christ? How can you know if the wonderful promises of verses 1-4 apply to you? Verses 5-13 will answer those questions.

**Rom. 8:5** What do fleshly people think about?

What do Spirit-controlled people think about?

**Rom. 8:6** The word **carnal** refers to that which is fleshly and sensual. What does carnal thinking lead to?

What comes from being spiritually minded?

**Rom. 8:7** The word **enmity** means hatred. Why does the carnal mind have enmity toward God?

**Rom. 8:8** What can those in the flesh never do (see also Heb. 11:6)?

**Rom. 8:9** How can you know if you are in the Spirit?

“Now if any man have not the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, he is \_\_\_\_\_ of His.”

The Holy Spirit comes to live within every believer at the moment they receive Christ (1 Cor. 6:19-20; 12:13; Eph. 1:13; 1 John 4:13). **Anyone who does not have the Spirit is NOT saved.** If you have the Spirit, you are saved and free from condemnation.

**Rom. 8:10** Describe the body and Spirit of one who knows Jesus:

**Rom. 8:11** What Spirit lives within the believer?

What does the Spirit do for us?

**Rom. 8:12** “Therefore, brethren, we are \_\_\_\_\_, not to the \_\_\_\_\_, to live after the \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Rom. 8:13** What will happen to those who live following the desires of the flesh (“*live after the flesh*”)?

The word **mortify** means to put to death. What will happen if you, through the power of the Holy Spirit, put to death the deeds of the body?

**Concluding Thoughts:** If you are a Christian, God has declared you “Not Guilty” of sin and set you free from the penalty and punishment your sin deserves. Across your record, He has victoriously stamped “**NO CONDEMNATION!**”

How can you know if this applies to you? Consider the following:

- Christians set their minds on spiritual things, while lost people think about fleshly things (v. 5).
- Christians no longer have enmity or rebellion toward God (v. 7).
- Christians have the Holy Spirit living within (v. 9-10).
- Christians receive life from the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit (v. 11).
- Christians mortify the deeds of the flesh (v. 13).

Does that list describe **you**?

If it does, thank the Lord Jesus for saving you, giving you new life in Christ, and declaring you free from condemnation.

If that list does not describe you, please read the verses printed on the back of this book, confess your sins to God, and place your faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.

In John 5:24, Jesus said, *“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.”* If you will hear and believe His Words, you can receive eternal life and be forever freed from condemnation. Talk to Jesus about that right now.

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**Project:** Memorize **Romans 8:1**. Whenever you hear about a trial or verdict this week, remember that Christians are no longer under condemnation. If you are saved write your name on the line below. Who do you know who needs to hear this Good News?

## Verdict

\_\_\_\_\_

has been declared by Almighty God to be

**Not Guilty**

based upon the redemptive work of Jesus  
Christ

**NO CONDEMNATION!**

## Sons and Heirs

If you were the child of a wealthy king, it would be utterly foolish to live like a homeless person on the street. If someone were to do such a thing, everyone would assume they were crazy.

If you were the sole heir to the Wal-Mart fortune, would you live in a slum? Of course not! You'd probably live in a great and fine mansion in a beautiful neighborhood.

The Bible tells us Christians are the children of God. Believers are sons and heirs of God, making our present struggles and difficulties insignificant. Read Romans 8:14-25 and answer the following questions to learn more about your new life in Christ.

**Rom. 8:14** “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Rom. 8:15** What have we **not** received?

What **have** we received?

When the Lord freed us from the slavery of sin, He didn't make us His **slaves**, He adopted us as His **children**.

**Adoption:** Parents choose a child that is not naturally theirs by birth and make that child legally theirs. The child receives his or her parent's name, love, material resources, and future inheritance. **Abba** is a term of affection and intimacy for one's father, somewhat like our modern word “Daddy.”

**Rom. 8:16** How can you know you are a child of God?

**Rom. 8:17** Since we are children of God, we are also \_\_\_\_\_ of God and joint-\_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_. If we suffer with Christ, what does that guarantee?

This is amazing! Our problem was that we were wicked, corrupt sinners (Rom. 3:10-18) with nothing to offer God; but to solve our problem, Jesus Christ died to purchase our redemption. Rather than buy us as His slaves, however, He bought our freedom and adopted us as His children. Not only that, He has made us heirs of God and joint-heirs of the kingdom and glory He has promised to His Son. Stop and thank God for these blessings.

**Rom. 8:18** “The \_\_\_\_\_ of this \_\_\_\_\_ time are not \_\_\_\_\_ to be compared with the \_\_\_\_\_ which shall be revealed in \_\_\_\_\_.”

Verses 19-23 give us a glimpse of how much the fall of man (Adam’s sin) affected the rest of God’s creation. Throughout these verses the word **creature** refers to the created universe.

**Rom. 8:19** What is creation eagerly awaiting?

The word **manifestation** is literally “apocalypse,” which means disclosure or revealing. The manifestation that creation is eagerly longing for is the time when Jesus Christ returns to earth with His children (Zech. 14:5; Col. 3:4; Jude 1:14; Rev. 19:13-14).

**Rom. 8:20** When Adam sinned, God cursed the ground (Gen. 3:17-19). All of creation has been subject to vanity and futility ever since.

**Rom. 8:21** What will creation one day be delivered from?

**Rom. 8:22** “For we know that the whole creation \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ together until now.”

These words depict childbirth. Like a woman in painful labor, God’s creation is enduring the pain and discomfort caused by man’s sin. When you hear of hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, mudslides, floods, and other natural calamities, remember that creation is cursed because of man’s sin. It is groaning and writhing in pain now, but one day it will all be made new (Rev. 21:1-5).

**Rom. 8:23** Creation isn't alone in this. "And not only they, but \_\_\_\_\_ also, which have the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_," (referring to the Holy Spirit living within) "even we ourselves \_\_\_\_\_ within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_."

If you are saved, your spirit has been redeemed. If you die before the Rapture, your spirit will go immediately to be with Jesus in heaven. Your body will not be redeemed, however, until the Rapture, when it will be raised as a new, incorruptible, glorified body (1 Cor. 15:35-54) and reunited with your spirit.

**Rom. 8:24** "For we are saved by \_\_\_\_\_." The word **hope** in the Bible means confident expectation. Saving faith involves placing our trust and hope for all eternity in a God we have never seen.

**Rom. 8:25** "But if we \_\_\_\_\_ for that we see not, then do we with patience \_\_\_\_\_ for it."

**Concluding Thoughts:** Christians are **sons** and **heirs** of God, but unfortunately, many of us live below our privilege. We often forget the wonderful blessing we have been given.

The fact that we are the sons and heirs of God, along with the fact that He has promised even more wonderful blessings in the future should make our present struggles and difficulties insignificant.

Can you undergo hardship for a time if you know it will soon end? Mothers choose to endure the pain of childbirth so they can have a baby. The temporary pain doesn't compare with the long-term benefit. Knee replacement surgery is painful and the recovery is hard work, but many people voluntarily submit to it because they know the end result will be better.

Life brings hardships, struggles, and heartaches; but if you are a Christian, you should remember that “*the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us*” (Rom. 8:18). That’s one of the many blessings of new life in Christ.

Thank God for adopting you as His child. Thank Him for making you His heir, and a joint-heir with His precious Son, Jesus Christ. Thank God that life’s struggles are short, but eternity’s blessings last forever!

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**Project:** Memorize **Romans 8:18**. When you feel down, remember that you are a child of the king. When you hear of natural disasters, remember that Jesus is coming back to set this world straight.



## NO SEPARATION!

Separation is a sad thing. Some military families must endure lengthy separations, which are often very sad and challenging. When a loved one or close friend moves far away we experience the sadness of separation. Death certainly causes separation; a visit to the funeral home will show you how much sadness it causes.

Some people believe a genuine Christian can become separated from God by losing their salvation. Is that possible? What does the Bible say about this? As you read Romans 8:26-39 you will find numerous things God has done for us and learn whether those who have new life in Christ can ever become separated from God.

**Rom. 8:26** Why does the Spirit need to help us? What do we not know?

What does the Holy Spirit do for us?

The Holy Spirit personally **intercedes** for believers before the throne of God. If you are a Christian, the Holy Spirit is taking your needs to the Father right now. Some people take the phrase “*groanings which cannot be uttered*” out of context, mistakenly claiming it is speaking of some unknown “prayer language” for believers. According to the Bible, however, the Holy Spirit is the **only** one speaking these “*groanings which cannot be uttered.*”

**Rom. 8:27** We may pray something that is not best for us, but the Spirit’s prayers are **always** in the will of God.

**Rom. 8:28** “And we know that \_\_\_\_\_ things work together for \_\_\_\_\_ to them that \_\_\_\_\_ God, to them who are the \_\_\_\_\_ according to His **purpose.**”

God’s eternal **purpose** involves saving those He has chosen for Himself. The next two verses explain more about His purpose.

**Rom. 8:29** “For whom He did \_\_\_\_\_, He also did \_\_\_\_\_ to be conformed to the image of his \_\_\_\_\_, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

The word **foreknow** “*speaks of a predetermined choice to set His love on us and establish an intimate relationship.*”<sup>1</sup> **Predestinate** simply means to choose in advance.

**Rom. 8:30** “Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also \_\_\_\_\_: and whom He called, them He also \_\_\_\_\_: and whom He justified, them He also \_\_\_\_\_.”

Remember that **justified** means to be made right with God, just as if you had never committed a sin. Here is the sequence: in eternity past God **foreknew** you and **predestinated** you. God then **called** you to salvation, and when you were saved He **justified** you. When you go to be with Jesus, He will **glorify** you.

**Rom. 8:31** “If God be \_\_\_\_\_ us, who can be \_\_\_\_\_ us?”

**Rom. 8:32** What has God done for us?

What else will He do for us?

**Rom. 8:33** Since God has justified us, who can legitimately bring a charge against us?

**Rom. 8:34** Who can condemn us?

List the things Christ has done for us:

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<sup>1</sup> *The MacArthur Study Bible*, John MacArthur, Copyright © 1997, Word Publishing, Nashville, TN, Electronic edition © Logos Library System.

Not only is the Holy Spirit interceding for believers (v. 26), but the Lord Jesus Christ is also doing the same thing!

**Rom. 8:35** “Who shall \_\_\_\_\_ us from the love of Christ? Shall \_\_\_\_\_, or distress, or \_\_\_\_\_, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or \_\_\_\_\_?”

**Rom. 8:36-37** We may face death for the Lord Jesus, but “in all these things we are more than \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ us.”

**Rom. 8:38-39** What cannot separate us from the love of God?

**Concluding Thoughts:** Think for a moment about all God has done on your behalf. This passage taught us that: the Holy Spirit intercedes for us (v. 26-27), God always does what’s best for us (v. 28), God chose us, called us, and protects us (v. 29-33), Jesus Christ intercedes for us (v. 34), and nothing can ever separate us from the Lord and His loving care (v. 35-39).

Since God saved you and does all these things for you, do you think He can hold onto you?

If you’ve never truly trusted Jesus Christ these wonderful promises don’t apply to you. Is God calling you to salvation right now? If so, read the verses printed on the back of this book, confess your sin, and ask Him to save you. Do it now.

If you already have new life in Christ you should thank God for saving you, interceding for you, and keeping you so you can never again be separated from Him. Thank Him now.

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**Project:** Memorize **Romans 8:38-39**. Pick up a new *Sunday School Member Quarterly* and begin the **Daily Bible Readings** on Monday. Our study of Romans continues next week.

