



***ADULT BIBLE STUDY  
IN BASIC ENGLISH***

**ROMANS:  
GOOD NEWS FOR A  
TROUBLED WORLD**

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF ROMANS

### GOOD NEWS FOR A TROUBLED WORLD

A **missionary** named Paul wrote the Book of Romans. He wrote this letter to the Christians in the city of **Rome**. Paul told a **secretary** what to write while he was in the city of **Corinth** in 57 A. D.

He planned to visit the Christians at **Rome** for the first time. He wanted them to help him take a trip to **Spain**. He hoped to **preach** the Good News there for the first time. Paul sent the letter to explain to them the Good News he **preached**. He also explained the kind of life people who believe the Good News should live.

Paul did not reach **Rome** until three years later. The rulers of the big country of **Rome** brought him there to be tried for false charges by some Jews. There the Christians warmly welcomed him. The rulers of **Rome** let him live by himself with a soldier to guard him. There he was able to teach the **Word of God** to both Christians and non-Christians. He taught for at least two years.

If you are not a Christian, this study of the Book of Romans should help you know how to become a Christian if you want to. If you are a Christian, it should help you know how to explain the Good News to others. It also should help you know how Christ wants you to live.

The thirteen lessons on the Book of Romans are divided into four units. They all tell some Good News for our troubled world. Unit one explains the problem that we cannot solve. It shows how God can solve it through Christ. Unit two tells about the things God does for us when he solves our problem. Unit three explains God's part and our part in solving the problem. Unit four teaches us how we should live after we accept Christ as the One Who saves.

#### WORD STUDY

**Corinth** - a big city in Greece

**missionary** - one who is sent to preach the Gospel and start churches

**preach** - to speak about the Gospel

**Rome** - the capitol city of the big nation of Rome.

**secretary** - one who writes something for someone else.

**Spain** - a country at the western end of the Mediterranean Sea

**Word of God** - what God has said in the Bible

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# ROMANS: GOOD NEWS FOR A TROUBLED WORLD

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*Adult Bible Study in Basic English*

## **UNIT 1: THE PROBLEM THAT WE CANNOT SOLVE**

**Lesson 1** - The Good News and The One Who Tells It (Romans 1:1-17)

**Lesson 2** - People Without the Word of God Have a Problem (Romans 1:18-32)

**Lesson 3** - People With the Word of God Have a Problem (Romans 2:1-13, 28-29; 3:19-20)

**Lesson 4** - How God Solves People's Problem (Romans 3:21-4:12)

## **UNIT 2: WHAT GOD DOES FOR US**

**Lesson 5** - At Home With God (Romans 5:1-11)

**Lesson 6** - Free At Last (Romans 6:1-14, 20-23)

**Lesson 7** - Victory Is Ours (Romans 8:1-2, 12-28, 38-39)

## **UNIT 3: WE CAN COUNT ON GOD**

**Lesson 8** - God's Gift and Our Response (Romans 9:1-8, 10: 1-21)

**Lesson 9** - God's Mercy and Kindness (Romans 11:13-36)

## **UNIT 4: HOW SHOULD WE LIVE?**

**Lesson 10** - Give Your Very Selves — Together (Romans 12:1-8)

**Lesson 11** - Live The Way of Love (Romans 12:9-21, 13:8-10)

**Lesson 12** - Relate As Christians To Government (Romans 13:1-7)

**Lesson 13** - Accept Christian Who Differ From You (Romans 14:1-4, 13-19: 15:1-7)

## **UNIT 1 THE PROBLEM THAT WE CANNOT SOLVE**

**T**he four lessons in this unit tell about the problem that all people have. It shows that they cannot solve it themselves. The problem is how to be right with God.

**Lesson 1** is about Paul. He is the writer of the letter to the Romans.

**Lesson 2** shows that people who are without the Word of God have this problem. So they need to hear the Good News.

**Lesson 3** tells us that even people who have the Word of God have this problem. The reason is they believe a wrong view of how to be right with God.

How God solves all people's problem is found in **Lesson 4**. It shows that God's way of making people right with himself has always been the same.

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*Albert W. Gammage, Jr. wrote the first four lessons of "Romans: Good News for a Troubled World." Al and his wife, Nettie, were missionaries to Korea and the Philippines for thirty-eight years. Al served in theological education and Nettie in home and church work. They are now retired and living in Arlington where they are members of the Tate Springs Baptist Church. Al is coordinator of the church's ministry to international students at the University of Texas at Arlington. Nettie teaches ESL in the International Friends ministry at the First Baptist Church, Arlington. They have two sons and two grandchildren.*



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### Bible Text

Romans 1:1-17

### Memory Verse

Romans 1:17

The Good News tells us we are made right with God by faith in Him. Then, by faith we live that new life through Him. The Holy Writings say, "A man right with God lives by faith."

### Word List

**accept:** to receive another person with favor, to love them and not to judge them

**adopt:** to make a child not born to you a member of your family.

**Baptist:** a member of a Baptist church

**church:** a group of Christians who are brought together by the Holy Spirit to do Christ's work

**descendent:** a relative of one who lived before

**Filipino:** a person from the Philippines

**Gentile:** one who is not a Jew

**hell:** the place people are sent to be punished for their sins after they die

**lesbian:** a woman who has sexual relations with other women

**neighbors:** people who live near each other

**orphan:** a child without living parents

## THE GOOD NEWS AND THE ONE WHO TELLS IT

When I was a missionary in Korea I visited some **churches** for the first time. Usually I would write them a letter before I went. I would tell them who I was. Also, I would tell them why I was going to visit them.

Paul wrote a letter to the Christians at Rome and told them who he was. He told them why he was going to visit them. We will study this part of Paul's letter in this lesson.

### Paul Tells Who He Is

Have you ever written a letter to someone you did not know? If you have, you began by telling who you were. Paul did that in Romans 1:1-6.

First, he told them that he was a **servant** owned by Jesus (verse 1). **Servant** means a **slave**. So Paul was saying that he was a **slave** of Jesus Christ. This is why he said that Jesus was his Lord (vs. 3,4). Paul did not mean that Jesus was not kind to him. He meant that Jesus lovingly told him what to do. Paul obeyed Jesus. He knew what Jesus told him to do was good for him. Paul said that Jesus is our Lord too, if we are Christians. We belong to Him (v. 6). As His **slaves**, we should do all that He tells us to do.

Second, Paul told them that he was a missionary chosen by God (v.1). A missionary is a person sent by God to tell God's Good News in places where there is no church. Paul was sent to preach to the people of all nations. The nations are the **Gentile** groups of people. Paul did not choose to do this. God chose him to do it. But Paul was willing to do it.

Next Paul explained God's Good News. He said that God's early preachers promised this Good News long ago (v. 2). They wrote in the Holy Writings of the Old Testament about the Good News that would come. The Good News tells about God's Son, Jesus Christ (v. 3). It says that Jesus was born as a man. He was a **descendent** of King David. He was also the Son of God (v. 4). The Holy Spirit proved this by raising Him from the dead by a powerful act. Jesus did not become the Son of God when He was raised. He has been God, the Son, forever. At the birth of Jesus, the Son of God became a man.

In another letter, Paul said: "There is one God. There is one Man standing between God and men. That Man is Christ Jesus. He gave His life for all men so they could go free and not be held by the power of sin..."

(1 Timothy 2:5-6). Jesus could stand between God and people. He could bring them together because he was both man and God. In this way, they could be set free from the power and **punishment** of their sins.

The Good News includes the idea that people must trust in Jesus as the One to stand between them and God. He did this by giving His life for them. They must also obey Jesus as Lord. All people must trust and obey Jesus (v. 5). If they do this, they will be set free from their sins. They will be brought to God.

**owe:** a debt, the need to help someone because someone has helped you

**proud:** putting yourself up and others down in the way you think and act

**punishment:** a penalty for doing something wrong

**servant:** one who works for a family or single person and is paid for that work

**slave:** one who belongs to a master and works for him or her

### Romans 1:1-17

- 1 This letter is from Paul. I am a servant owned by Jesus Christ and a missionary chosen by God to preach His Good News.
- 2 The Good News was promised long ago by God's early preachers in His Holy Writings.
- 3 It tells of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Who was born as a person in the flesh through the family of King David.
- 4 The Holy Spirit proved by a powerful act that Jesus our Lord is the Son of God because He was raised from the dead.
- 5 Jesus has given us His loving-favor and has made us His missionaries. We are to preach to the people of all nations that they should obey Him and put their trust in Him.
- 6 You have been chosen to belong to Jesus Christ also.
- 7 So I write to all of you in the city of Rome. God Loves you and has chosen you to be set apart for Himself. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus

*(Bible verses continued on page 4)*

In the Philippines, the **Filipino** people will not go to the person who is angry with him or her. He or she will send a friend to try to settle the problem. The friend will stand between the two people and try to bring them back together. This is what Jesus does for God and us.

Like Paul, missionaries today are chosen and sent out by God. They are sent to people who have not heard God's Good News about Jesus. God let me know that he had chosen me to be a missionary. Missionary work was not easy, but I was very happy doing it. If God chooses you to be a missionary, I hope you will be willing to go wherever He sends you.

### Paul Prays About The Christians

Paul also told the Christians at Rome that he was praying for them (Romans 1:8-10). He was praying about two things. For one thing, he kept thanking God for all of them (v. 8). He was thankful because the whole world knew of their faith in Christ. This meant that Christians in many of the places ruled by Rome had heard that there was a Christian church in Rome. Rome was the capital of this big nation. Many people visited Rome for work. Many visited the offices of Roman rulers. They had a chance to hear the Good News from the Christians there. Paul said that he prayed through Jesus Christ. This is because Jesus stands between God and people. We go to God in prayer through Him. This is the reason Christians usually end their prayers with the words, "in Jesus name." This helps them remember that they go to God in prayer through Jesus. It also helps them remember that Jesus taught about prayer.

The second thing Paul prayed about was that he might be able to visit the Christians at Rome. He wanted to visit Rome only if God wanted him to. Later Paul was able to go to Rome and see Christians there because God did want him to go. Another time Paul prayed for God to take away some weakness in his body (2 Corinthians 12:7-9). But God did not want to take it away because it helped Paul to not be **proud**. So Paul was happy that God did not take it away. When we ask God for something in prayer He will answer. We should remember that He might want it or He might not want it to happen. Whatever happens we should trust and thank God.

My wife and I pray for **Baptists** in the Philippines on Saturday evenings. Sometimes we write to them. We tell them we are praying for them. Sometimes when they write back to us they tell us that our prayers are helping them. All Christians should pray about Christians in other places as well as their own place.

### Why Paul Wants To Visit The Christians

Paul gave three reasons why he wanted to visit the Christians at Rome (Rom. 1:11-17).

- Christ give you His loving-favor and peace.
- 8 First of all, I keep thanking my God, through Jesus Christ, for all of you. This is because the whole world knows of your faith in Christ.
- 9 God knows how I work for Him. He knows how I preach with all my heart the Good News about His Son. He knows how I always pray for you.
- 10 I pray that I might be able to visit you, if God wants me to.
- 11 I want to see you so I can share some special gift of the Holy Spirit with you. It will make you strong.
- 12 Both of us need help. I can help make your faith strong and you can do the same for me. We need each other.
- 13 Christian brothers, many times I have wanted to visit you. Something has kept me from going until now. I have wanted to lead some of you to Christ also, as I have done in other places where they did not know God.
- 14 I must help the people who have had a chance to hear the Good News and those who have not. I must help those with much learning and those who have never learned from books.
- 15 So I want to preach the Good News to you who live in Rome also.
- 16 I am not ashamed of the Good News. It is the power of God. It is the way He saves men from the punishment of their sins if they put their trust in Him. It is for the Jew first and for all other people also.
- 17 The Good News tells us we are made right with God by faith in Him. Then, by faith we live that new life through Him. The Holy Writings say, "A man right with God lives by faith."  
(Habakkuk 2:4)

First, he wanted to share some special gift of the Holy Spirit with them (v. 11). The reason for this gift was to make them strong in God. Paul wanted to teach them the Word of God with the Holy Spirit's help. This is how their faith would grow strong. The Holy Spirit helped Paul by telling him what to teach and how to teach it. He also helped Paul by helping the people understand. He helped them believe what Paul taught. All Christians need to grow in their faith to become strong in the Holy Spirit. They need someone to teach them. God chooses people like missionaries and pastors to teach His Word with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Second, Paul said that he wanted to visit the Christians at Rome because they could help his faith to grow stronger too (v. 12). They needed each other. There were some ways they could help Paul's faith to grow. There were some ways he could help them. Every Christian needs to both give and receive the kind of help that comes from the Holy Spirit. Every Christian has some way to help others. This is the reason we must meet with other Christians in the church. As the Bible says, "Let us help each other to love others and to do good. Let us not stay away from church meetings..." (Hebrews 10:24-25).

One time a woman over seventy years old started visiting our church. She had never gone to a church that tells the Good News about Jesus. She did not know anything about the Bible. I was able to help her understand the Good News and become a Christian. Then I helped her know how to grow in her faith. One thing I told her was that she should try to help other Christians. A few weeks later, I saw her serving as an usher at our church. She helped others by welcoming them at the door of the church meeting place. She also gave them a printed guide to the **church** meeting. I was very happy to see that she was helping other Christians.

The third reason Paul wanted to go to Rome was to preach the Good News there (v. 13-17). Maybe there were some people who were not Christians going to the church meetings in Rome. Or maybe Paul wanted to tell the Good News outside the church meetings to people who had never heard it. Paul said that he had to help all kinds of people by telling them the Good News (v. 14). He was saying here that he had a debt to pay to them. He **owed** them the Good News. He probably felt this way because the Good News had changed his life so much. Before he became a Christian, he put Christians in jail. He tried to destroy their churches (see Acts 8:3; Galatians 1:13). But Jesus spoke to Paul in a dream. He told Paul the Good News (see Acts 9:3-6, Galatians 1:11-12). Paul was sorry he had hurt the Christians. He was thankful that the Good News had changed his life. This made him feel that he **owed** it to God to tell the Good News to as many people as possible. Everyone who has been changed by the Good

News **owes** this to God and to others. We must tell the Good News to as many people as we can.

Paul said that he was not ashamed of the Good News (v. 16). Some people to whom Paul told the Good News thought it was foolish. In Athens, some people laughed and made fun of him when he told the Good News. They thought it was impossible for Jesus to have been raised from the dead (see Acts 17:32). But Paul was **proud** of the Good News for two reasons.

One reason was the Good News is the power of God. It saves people who trust in Jesus from **punishment** for their sins. So when they die they will not be sent to **hell** to be punished for their sins.

One time I was telling the Good News at a Bible study meeting in the Philippines. A woman came to the meeting. She had never heard the Good News. She made a decision at the end of the meeting. She decided to trust in Jesus as the One who saves and obey Him as her Lord. Her life was very changed.

Long ago she had separated from her husband and became a **lesbian**. Then she became a Christian. She stopped being a **lesbian** and lived a very good life.

She used to like to gossip with her **neighbors**, but she stopped doing that. She wanted other people to hear the Good News. She invited her relatives and her friends to Bible studies in her house. Twelve of these people said they wanted to trust Jesus.

One day she was dying from cancer in the hospital. The physician who was caring for her asked her, "Are you ready to die?" "Yes I am," she answered. "Are you?"

Are you ready to die? If not, trust in Jesus. He will save you from the **punishment** for your sins. That is the good news. If Jesus has saved you already, do not be ashamed of the Good News. Tell it to others.

Paul was **proud** of the Good News for another reason. It tells us that people are made right with God by faith alone (v. 17). People cannot do anything to be right with God before

they decide to have faith. They cannot do anything to be right with God after they decide to have faith. It is deciding to trust in Jesus as the One who saves and obeying Him as Lord that makes a person right with God.

What does it mean to be right with God? It means that God will **accept** a person as good even though that person still does some bad things. This is like a man **adopting** an **orphan** boy as his son. The son will not always obey his father. But the father still **accepts** him as his son because the boy has agreed to be his son and try to obey him.

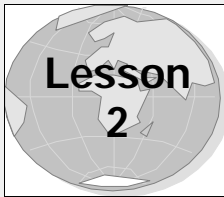
In the same way, God **accepts** a person who sins. That person is His child because the person has promised to try to obey God. Being made right with God by faith did not start when the Good News about Jesus was first told. It was true from the very beginning. Paul told what one of God's preachers wrote about this hundreds of years before. "But the one who is right and good will live by his faith" (Habakkuk 2:4b).

We should not be ashamed of the Good News because it tells us that anyone can be made right with God. Everyone is made right by faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Christians should tell this Good News to as many people as possible. We **owe** this to others.

### **Things To Think About**

1. If Jesus were God but not a man, what difference do you think it would make?
2. What are some things Christians can do to help others grow in their faith?
3. What do you think are some reasons some people do not believe the Good News?
4. What are some other ways people try to get right with God besides faith in Jesus Christ?





*Adult Bible Study  
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### Bible Text

Romans 1:18-32

### Memory Verse

Romans 1:18

We see the anger of God coming down from heaven against all the sins of men. These sinful men keep the truth from being known.

### Word List

**cafeteria:** a place to eat where you can choose whatever you want to eat

**excuse:** a reason for doing something that is not true

**holy nation of God:** all the people who are saved from their sins and will go to heaven

**homosexual:** a person who has sexual relations with someone of the same sex

**idol:** something people make to worship

**movie actress:** a woman who plays a part in a movie or film

**natural disasters:** things like storms, floods, and volcanoes

**prostitute:** a woman or man who has sexual relations for money

**proud:** putting yourself up and others down in the way you think and act

**religion:** what people believe about and how they act toward a god or gods

## PEOPLE WITHOUT THE WORD OF GOD HAVE A PROBLEM

Some people have never heard the Word of God. They do not know what is in the Bible. These people may live in places where missionaries have never told the Good News. They have other **religions**. Some people think these **religions** are true. They also think people who believe these **religions** are good. Paul explains in this lesson why other **religions** are not true. He also tells us that the people who believe these **religions** are sinners. They need to hear the Good News so they can be saved from the power and punishment of their sins.

### God Shows Himself To Them

Paul began by telling us that God shows Himself to people who have never heard the Word of God (vs. 18-20). God shows Himself because these people cannot know about Him in any other way. They cannot know what God is like by themselves. They have never seen Him or heard about Him. God must tell them about Himself.

There are two things God tells these people about Himself. First, He shows them that He is angry with them (v. 18). The Bible tells us about God's anger in many other places. He was often angry with the Israelites when they worshipped other gods in the Old Testament times (Numbers 25:8; Isaiah 28:21). Jesus said that God is angry with people who do not put their trust in the Son of God (John 3:36). Some people do not like to believe that God gets angry because they think all anger is bad. Anger can be good. It is good when it helps people to know that what they are doing is very bad. It helps people know that they should stop doing bad things. God's anger is against "all the sins" of people.

Jesus became angry with the people who were selling animals and changing money in the Jewish place of **worship**. He was angry because they were selling things in the place for Gentiles to pray. They were also cheating the people (Mark 11:15-17). He wanted to teach these people that what they were doing was very bad.

Paul wanted to teach us that the people who have not heard the Word of God must hear the Good News. They must have faith in Jesus to be saved from God's anger.

Paul said that God's anger was "coming down from Heaven." This means that God was punishing some people. These were people who had not heard the Word of God. He did this by letting bad things happen to them. These were things like **natural disasters**, money problems, and attacks by their enemies. For example, many people in the large nation of Rome were suffering from attacks by groups from Northern Europe. This helped some of them to know that God was angry with them. They heard the Good News. Then they were ready to trust in Jesus as the One Who saves. They were ready to obey Him as Lord.

**sacrifice:** giving something to a god; sometimes killing an animal for the god

**universe:** everything God made

**useless:** not good for anything

**virgin:** a woman who has never had sexual relations

**worship:** talking to a god, trying to do what a god wants you to do, thanking and showing honor to it

### Romans 1:18 – 32

- 18 We see the anger of God coming down from heaven against all the sins of men. These sinful men keep the truth from being known.
- 19 Men know about God. He has made it plain to them.
- 20 Men cannot say they do not know about God. From the beginning of the world, men could see what God is like through the things He has made. This shows His power that lasts forever. It shows that He is God.
- 21 They did know God, but they did not honor Him as God. They were not thankful to Him and thought only of foolish things. Their foolish minds became dark.
- 22 They said that they were wise, but they showed how foolish they were.
- 23 They gave honor to false gods that looked like people who can die and to birds and animals and snakes. This honor belongs to God Who can never die.
- 24 So God let them follow the desires of their sinful hearts. They did sinful things among themselves with their bodies.
- 25 They traded the truth of God for a lie. They worshiped and

Second, God shows what He is like to people who have never heard the Word of God (vs. 19, 20). Paul said that no one can say they do not know about God because “He has made it plain to them” (v. 19). How do they know about God if they have not heard His Word? They “could see what God is like through the things He has made” (v. 20). They could see this ever since God made Adam. Adam was the first man. Their eyes could see what God made. Their minds could know what God was like through what their eyes saw. People cannot see God. They can see what He made. Then they know what He is like.

What can people know about God from what He has made? They can know about His power. They can know some other things about what He is like. They can know that the God who made this great universe must be very powerful (Psalms 19:1).

They can also know that He is good because He gives people rain, food, and other things they need to be happy (Acts 14:15-17). Missionaries sent to people who have never heard the Word of God have told us about this. They say that all of these people know about a high god who made all things. This high god is good. This is why they ought to worship Him. They should do good things like He does. They do not have any **excuse** for living sinful lives.

### What People Do When They Know About God

Some people have never heard the Word of God. They only know about Him through the things He has made. What do these people do? Paul said they do three things (vs. 21-23).

One thing they do is turn against God. They do not honor Him or give thanks to Him (v. 21). They should show Him honor. They should show Him respect as the powerful and wise One who made the universe. But these people are too **proud** to do this. They do not thank God for the good things He has done for them. As Jesus said about God, “He is kind to those who are not thankful and to those who are full of sin...” (Luke 6:35). Paul and Barnabas told some people who had not heard the Word of God about the true and living God. They told them that God had done good things to them.

The people wanted to worship Paul and Barnabas. This was because they thought Paul and Barnabas were two of the gods they believed in. Then the people found out that the men were not gods. The crowd threw stones at the men and tried to kill them (Acts 14:11-19). The people turned against the true God. They were very **proud** of their own gods. They did not want the God who made all things.

Another thing that people who do not know God do is become fools (vs. 21-22). They think only about foolish and **useless** things. They have foolish minds. This means that their thoughts are all made weak by turning against God. Their feelings

cared for what God made instead of worshiping the God Who made it. He is the One Who is to receive honor and thanks forever. Let it be so.

- 26 Because of this, God let them follow their sinful desires which lead to shame. Women used their bodies in ways God had not planned.
- 27 In the same way, men left the right use of women's bodies. They did sex sins with other men. They received for themselves the punishment that was coming to them for their sin.
- 28 Because they would not keep God in their thoughts anymore, He gave them up. Their minds were sinful and they wanted only to do things they should not do.
- 29 They are full of everything that is sinful and want things that belong to others. They hate people and are jealous. They kill other people. They fight and lie. They do not like other people and talk against them.
- 30 They talk about people, and they hate God. They are filled with pride and tell of all the good they do. They think of new ways to sin. They do not obey their parents.
- 31 They are not able to understand. They do not do what they say they will do. They have no love and no loving-pity.
- 32 They know God has said that all who do such things should die. But they keep on doing these things and are happy when others do them also.

and desires are made weak too. They cannot see what is true and good because their minds are dark. They are like people trying to walk on a narrow path in the dark. They keep getting off the path. These people boast that they are wise. But they think and act foolishly. As Paul said: "Where is the man who is wise? Where is the man who thinks he knows a lot? Where is the man who has all the answers? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish" (I Corinthians 1:20).

God said that He would give Solomon great wisdom when he asked for it. Solomon would be wiser than anyone before him. He would be wiser than anyone after him. This story can be read in 1 Kings 3:5-12. People are fools without God.

People who only know about God through the things He has made do a third thing. They make false **religions** (vs. 23, 25). Paul said "they gave honor to false gods" (v. 23). These gods were **idols** that looked like people or animals. They **worshipped** "what God made" instead of the "God Who made it" (v. 25). When God made the **universe** He put people over all other things (Genesis 1:27-30). These people put other things over themselves. They **worshipped** these things. How foolish this is!

Long ago, the Korean people knew about a powerful god who made all things. They did not **worship** him. Instead they **worshipped** the gods of such things as the sun, moon, stars, trees, rocks, and animals. Some Koreans still do this. A few years ago, some Koreans came to see some nearby Baptist missionaries. They said, "We have to **worship** one of the trees on your land. The god of the tree will do us harm if we do not." The missionaries did not want them to do this. They did it anyway. They offered **sacrifices** of food in front of the tree.

Many people **worship idols**. A missionary in Taiwan visited a place where a man was making an **idol** out of wood. The missionary asked the man, "Is that a god?" "Not yet," the man answered. "The priest will come from the temple after I finish making it. He will pray. He will do some other religious acts. Then the god will come to stay in the wood." In many places in the Bible, God tells us we should not make or **worship idols**. (Exodus 20:4-5; 23:13, Deuteronomy 4:15, 25; 1 Kings 14:9; Isaiah 44:15).

Why do people make false **religions**? They make them because they want a religion that will let them sin. Many people in America today are making their own religions. They choose parts of different religions. They make a religion they like. We might call this **cafeteria** religion. They trade the "truth of God for a lie" (v. 25).

### What God Does To Them

What does God do when people who know about Him through the things He has made turn against Him and make false religions? God lets them do three things that are bad for them (vs.

24-32). He lets them do these things so they will know that what they have done is wrong. Then they might be ready to believe the Good News and be saved from their sins. This is what happened to the large nation of Rome. The people turned against the true God. They **worshipped idols**. They became very sinful. The rulers and many other things were so bad that the large nation became weak.

What happened when Paul and other Christians preached the Good News in Rome? Many Gentiles put their faith in Jesus Christ. They became right with God. Paul tells about what the life of Gentiles in the large nation of Rome was like when the Good News was first told to them.

The first thing God lets these people do is “follow the desires of their sinful hearts” (v. 24). The word “sinful” means “not pure” or “not clean.” It is wanting very much to do the bad things people like to do. What did the Gentiles want to do? They wanted to do “sinful things among themselves with their bodies.” (v. 24). This means that men and women liked to have sexual relations with people they were not married to. Agrippina liked to do this. She was the wife of Emperor Claudius. She wanted to do it so much she would go to a house of **prostitution** at night. She would work as a **prostitute**. Her husband did not care. Most husbands and wives in Rome had sexual relations with other people.

Paul was in Corinth. There were a thousand **prostitutes** there. They had sexual relations with men in the pagan temples. They thought this was what their god liked them to do. This was a temptation to the Christians in Corinth. Paul warned them against having hearts that were not clean (2 Corinthians 12:21). Sexual sins are very common in America today. Christians need to be careful not to let their hearts become unclean.

Paul also says that God even lets people have **homosexual** relations (vs. 26, 27). Women did sex sins with women and men with men. This was very common in Rome. Fourteen of the first fifteen emperors were **homosexuals**. The Bible teaches in many places that **homosexuality** is a sin (Genesis 9:25; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; 1 Timothy 1:10; Jude 7). Paul wrote to the Christians at Corinth that **homosexuals** would have no place in the **holy nation of God** (1 Corinthians

6:9). He said that some of the Christians had been **homosexuals** before. They were made right with God through Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 5:11).

In America today **homosexual** men are called gays. **Homosexual** women are called lesbians. They are trying to convince people that this is all right. They want to change the laws so they can be married. Already some places of work treat their **homosexual** workers as if they were married. Christians should stand against all things that say that this is good. But we should love **homosexuals**. We should try to lead them to trust in Jesus as the One Who saves and obey Him as Lord.

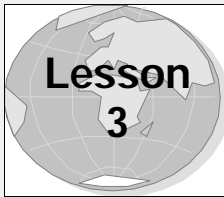
The third thing God let them do is to think wrongly (vs. 28-32). They pushed what they knew about God out of their minds. Their minds became filled with sinful thoughts. “They wanted only to do things they should not do” (v. 28). Therefore they did all kinds of sin. Paul tells about twenty-one sins that he found in the large nation of Rome (29-31). This does not mean that all the Gentiles did all of these sins. Some people did each of them. They were happy when others did them too (v. 32).

Many Americans are sinning in these ways. They are glad to see others doing these sins. A famous **movie actress** was asked on television, “What do you think of people who are not married having sexual relations?” She answered, “I think it is good. I am sorry that I was still a **virgin** when I married. I missed a good time before I was married.”

People who are not Christians need to think about what God has let them do. Is what they are doing really making them happy? Do they need to get right with God by faith in His Son, Jesus? Christians need to trust and obey Jesus all the time. Then they will not have sinful thoughts all the time.

### Things To Think About

1. Tell about a time you learned something about God when you saw something He made.
2. Why do you think some people who know about God turn against Him?
3. Can you think of any religious people in America that worship **idols**?
4. What can we do to help **homosexuals** know they are sinning and trust in Jesus to be saved from this sin?



*Adult Bible Study  
in Basic English*

### Bible Text

Romans 2:1-13,28-29; 3:19-20

### Memory Verse

Romans 2:11

God does not show favor to one man more than to another.

### Word List

**ancestors:** relatives who lived long ago

**baptism:** putting people under water to show they have become Christians

**circumcision:** cutting off the skin from the front of the male sex organ

**guilty:** deserving to be punished for sin

**New Testament:** the part of the Bible that tells about the time after Jesus was born

**perfect:** completely good, not having anything bad

### Romans 2:1-13,28-29; 3:19-20

- 1 So you can say nothing because you are guilty when you say someone else is guilty. While you say someone is guilty, you are doing the same things he does.
- 2 We know that God will say those who do such things are guilty.

## PEOPLE WITH THE WORD OF GOD HAVE A PROBLEM

In the last lesson we learned that people without the Word of God are **guilty** of sin. They have to be made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. In this lesson we will study about the problem of people with the Word of God. Paul told about the Gentiles in the last lesson. In this lesson he tells about the Jews. They had the Word of God in the Old Testament part of the Bible. Many people today have the Word of God in both the Old and **New Testaments**. Let us see what problem they have.

### They Think Having The Word Of God Is Enough

The Jews thought that having the Word of God was enough to make them right with God (Romans 2:1-13). God gave the Old Testament to the Israelite **ancestors** of the Jews. He did this for the Israelites to teach the Word of God to all the people in the world. The Jews believed they were right with God because God chose them to do this. But they never obeyed God's command to teach others. They kept the Word of God for themselves. Some Christians today believe they are right with God because they have the **New Testament** and try to obey its teachings. This is part of the problem people with the Word of God have. In this section, Paul tells about three things that are wrong about the thinking of these people.

One thing the Jews think is that other people are **guilty**, but they are not (v. 1). They would like what Paul said about the Gentiles being **guilty** of sin. The Jews thought they were better than the Gentiles. They often said bad things about them. The Jews thought they were not **guilty** of sin like the Gentiles. But Paul said the Jews were **guilty** of some of the same sins as the Gentiles. For example, he said that some Jews steal, rob, and do sex sins (Romans 2:21, 22).

Sometimes when a person says that someone else is **guilty** of a certain sin, that person is **guilty** of the same sin. A person says this because that person wants to feel like what he or she has done is not so bad. But Jesus said that this is like a man with a big piece of wood in his own eye trying to take a small piece of wood out of another person's eye (Matthew 7:1-5). Jesus meant by these words that someone who says another person is **guilty** is actually more **guilty** than the person he or she says bad things about. People like this think they are not **guilty** because they have the Word of God and try to obey it. But God's Word says that they are **guilty** too.

Another way those who have the Word of God are wrong is they think God will not say they are **guilty**. Paul said that only God can say who is **guilty** and who is not (v. 2). The Jews could not say that the Gentiles were **guilty** of sin and they were not. God said that the Jews were **guilty** just like the Gentiles. Some people today think God does not say they are **guilty** of sin. They believe they do not sin because they do not do things people think are very bad. But God's Word says that all people sin and are **guilty** before God (Rom.3:19, 23).

- 3 Do you think God will punish others for doing wrong and let you keep sinning?
- 4 Do you forget about His loving-kindness to you? Do you forget how long He is waiting for you? You know that God is kind. He is trying to get you to be sorry for your sins and turn from them.
- 5 Because you are not sorry for your sins and will not turn from them, you will be punished even more on the day of God's anger. God will be right in saying you are guilty.
- 6 He will give to every man what he should get for the things he has done.
- 7 Those who keep on doing good and are looking for His greatness and honor will receive life that lasts forever.
- 8 Those who love only themselves and do not obey the truth, but do what is wrong, will be punished by God. His anger will be on them.
- 9 Every Jew and every person who is not a Jew who sins will suffer and have great sorrow.
- 10 But God will give His greatness and honor and peace to all those who obey the truth. Both Jews and those who are not Jews will receive this.
- 11 God does not show favor to one man more than to another.
- 12 Those who have sinned without having the Law will be lost without the Law being used. Those who have the Law and have sinned will be judged by the law.

*(Bible verses continued on page 3)*

The reason the Jews did not think God would say they were **guilty** is that He had been very kind to them (v. 4). Even though they had sinned a lot, He had not punished them by getting rid of them. He still kept them as his special people. God still waited for them to obey Him. He waited for them to teach other people the Word of God. The reason He waited so long is He was trying to get the Jews to be sorry for their sins. He wanted them to turn away from their sins.

Some people today think that God does not say they are **guilty** because He does not punish them for their sins. They have an easy life without much trouble. God loves them. God wants them to be sorry for their sins. He wants them to turn away from their sins. People cannot turn away from their sins without turning to Jesus in faith (2 Cor. 7:9). God wants them to turn to Jesus. They should trust Him to be the One who saves them from the power and punishment of their sins. As God's Word says, "The Lord is not slow about keeping His promise as some people think. He is waiting for you. The Lord does not want any person to be punished forever. He wants all people to be sorry for their sins and turn from them" (2 Peter 3:9).

People with the Word of God are wrong in a third way. They think they will not be punished for their sins. Paul said that the Jews would be punished on the day of God's anger if they did not turn away from their sins (v. 5). The day of God's anger is the day when God says who is **guilty** and not **guilty**. God will judge every person. Both Jews and Gentiles will be judged (vs. 9, 12, 13). God's Word says, "For all of us must stand before Christ when He says who is **guilty** or not **guilty** (2. Cor 5:10)." Those who have turned away from their sins and turned to Jesus with faith will be judged not **guilty**. All others will be judged **guilty**. The day of God's anger will be when Jesus comes back to earth at the end of time. Jesus told us about the day of God's anger.

"When the Son of Man comes in His shining greatness He will sit down on His throne of greatness. All the angels will be with Him. All the nations of the earth will be gathered before Him. He will divide them from each other as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. Then the King will say to those on His right side, 'Come, you who have been called by My Father. Come into the holy nation that has been made ready for you before the world was made.' Then the King will say to those on His left side, 'Go away from me. You are guilty. Go into the fire that lasts forever.'" (Matthew 25:31, 32, 34, 41).

The "holy nation" is heaven and the "fire that lasts forever" is hell. People will be sent to heaven if they turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as the One who will save them from their sins. Those who do not do this will be sent to hell.

How can we know who is going to heaven and who is going to hell? Paul said that "those who keep on doing good" will go to

- 13 Just to hear the law does not make a man right with God. The man right with God is the one who obeys the Law.  
...13 – 27....
- 28 A man is not a Jew just because he goes through the religious act of becoming a Jew.
- 29 The true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. The religious act of becoming a Jew must be done in the heart. That is the work of the Holy Spirit. The Law does not do that kind of work. The true Jew gets his thanks from God, not from men.  
....3:1 – 18...
- 19 Now we know that the Law speaks to those who live under the Law. No one can say that he does not know what sin is. Yes, every person in the world stands guilty before God.
- 20 No person will be made right with God by doing what the Law says. The Law shows us how sinful we are.

heaven (v. 7). "Those who love only themselves and do not obey the truth, but do what is wrong" will go to hell (v. 8). People who obey Jesus as Lord do the good things He wants them to do. This shows that they have true faith. As God's Word says, "My Christian brothers, what good does it do if you say you have faith but do not do the things that prove you have faith? Can that kind of faith save you from the punishment of sin (James 2:14)?"

Some people say they are Christians. They have been baptized and are church members. They may even go to church every Sunday. But the way they live is the same as those who are not Christians. They do not obey Jesus as their Lord. These people are going to hell, not heaven.

What will happen to people who are going to heaven and those who are going to hell? Paul said that people who are going to heaven "will receive life that lasts forever" (v. 7). This life begins as soon as people trust in Jesus as the One Who saves them from their sins (John 3:16; 5:24). This life goes on after death in heaven. God will give these saved people "His greatness and honor and peace" (v. 10). They will have the kind of great love and goodness that God has. People will honor them because of their love and the good things they do. They will have peace with God. God will be like a loving father to them. And they will have peace in their hearts because they have peace with God. These three things and other good things will start as soon as a person decides to trust in Jesus and obey Him as Lord. These things will grow stronger as the person's faith grows. But they will be **perfect** only when the person gets to heaven. God told us what heaven will be like in His Word.

"God's home is with men. He will be with them. They will be His people. He will be their God. God will take away all their tears. There will be no more death or sorrow, or crying, or pain. All the old things have passed away." (Revelation 21:3, 4).

What will happen to people who are going to hell? Paul said they "will be punished by God" (v. 8). God will show His anger with those who refuse to turn away from their sins by punishing them. They "will suffer and have great sorrow" (v. 9). The unsaved may seem to be happy and having an easy time in life. But they have a lot of trouble. Most of this trouble is the result of their sin. People who drink a lot of beer, whisky, or wine will not be healthy. If they get drunk or take drugs they might do bad things or have an accident. If they do sex sins they can catch bad sicknesses that will cause them to suffer or even die. Also, it may keep them from having a happy marriage. But the most suffering and sorrow will come to them in hell. They will have nothing good in hell. They will have sorrow, like when someone is dying. They will have pain, like when someone is burned by fire (Rev. 21:8). They will be afraid like a person who is in a very dark place. They will cry and grind their teeth. (Matthew 8:12).

Charles G. Finney was studying law in the state of New York. God spoke to him. He asked Finney what he was going to do when he finished his studies. Finney answered that he would become a lawyer. "Then what will you do?" God asked. "Get rich," said Finney. "Then what?" God asked. "Retire" answered Finney. "Then what?" God asked. "Die," said Finney. "Then what?" God asked. "The Judgment," Finney answered as he shook with fear. Finney ran into the woods and prayed all day. He

decided to trust in Jesus as the One to save him from his sins and obey Him as his Lord. He got right with God. Later he became a great preacher of the Good News. When you die, what will happen next? Will God judge you **guilty** or not **guilty**? Will you go to heaven or hell?

### **They Think Doing Religious Acts is Enough**

Some people with the Word of God think doing religious acts is enough to make them right with God (Rom.2:28, 29). The Jews thought that a man became a Jew by going through the religious act of **circumcision** (v. 28). The Jews were the chosen people of God to teach others the Word of God. This gave them a chance to become God's children by faith. They thought that **circumcision** made a man a child of God.

But Paul said that a man becomes a Jew when his heart gets right with God (v. 29). His heart must be spiritually circumcised (Jeremiah 4:4; 9:25, 26). This means that the Holy Spirit must remove the evil from the heart and make it new. What did Jesus say about this?

“For sure, I tell you, unless a man is born of water and of the Spirit of God he cannot get into the holy nation of God. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh. Whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit” (John 3: 5, 6).

It is not enough for a person to be born of religious parents (born of water or the flesh) and to go through a religious ceremony like **circumcision**. He or she must be born spiritually by the work of the Holy Spirit in order to be a child of God. Some people think they are children of God because they have been through the religious act of **baptism**. But this is not true. They must get a new heart by trusting in Jesus.

### **They Think Obeying Religious Rules Is Enough**

Some people who have the Word of God think obeying religious rules is enough to be right with God (Rom. 3:19, 20). The Jews thought they would be right with God as long as they tried to obey the Law. The Law is a lot of religious rules. It is found in the Old Testament. The most important rules are the Ten Commandments.

Paul said, “No person will be made right with God by doing what the Law says” (v.20). The

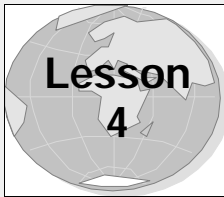
purpose of the Law is not to make people right with God. It is to show us “what sin is,” and “how sinful we are” (vs. 19, 20). Through the Law, we know that “every person in the world stands guilty before God.” The only way people can get rid of their guilt and get right with God is to decide to trust in Jesus as the One Who saves them from their sins and obey Him as Lord. Some people say they are right with God because they obey the Ten Commandments. But no one obeys them all the time. Everyone has sinned (Rom. 3:23). Paul knew this was true because he tried hard to obey the Ten Commandments when he was a leader of the religion of the Jews.

Some people believe that having the Word of God, doing religious acts, or obeying religious rules is enough to be right with God. If you are one of those people, I hope you will believe what God's Word says about this. Right now, please decide to turn away from your sins, trust in Jesus to save you from your sins, and obey Him as your Lord. Just tell Jesus that you are sorry for your sins. Tell Him you are turning away from your sins and trusting in Him to save you from them. Tell Him you are going to obey Him as your Lord. If you are already right with God, tell this Good News to everyone you can.

### **Things To Think About**

1. Can you think of someone who said another person was guilty of a sin but was guilty of the same sin?
2. Suppose you knew of people who say they are Christians but do not live like they are obeying Jesus as their Lord. How could you help them know they are not going to heaven unless they decide to turn away from their sins, trust Jesus as Savior, and obey Him as their Lord?
3. What do you think people should do who have been baptized but come to know that they were not really a Christian when they were baptized?
4. If you have not yet become a Christian, can you think of any reasons why you should decide to become one now?





*Adult Bible Study  
in Basic English*

### **Bible Text**

Romans 3:21-4:3, 4:6-12

### **Memory Verse**

Romans 3:23

For all men have sinned  
and have missed the  
shining-greatness of God.

### **Word List**

**captive:** one kept as a  
prisoner by others

**claiming:** saying something is  
true

**important:** having great value  
or worth

**loving-favor:** giving people  
something good they do not  
deserve. Sometimes called  
grace

**rebel:** one who wants to  
overthrow the rulers of his  
country

### **Romans 3:21-4:3, 4:6-12**

21 But now God has made  
another way to make men  
right with Himself. It is  
not by the Law. The Law  
and the early preachers tell  
about it.

## **HOW GOD SOLVES PEOPLE'S PROBLEM**

We have learned that both Jews and Gentiles are guilty of sin before God. Jesus will judge everyone when He comes back to earth. Those who He says are not guilty of sin will go to heaven. Those who are still guilty will be sent to hell. The problem all people have is that they do not know how to get rid of their sin. How can they be right with God and go to heaven when they die? We will find the answer to this big question in this lesson.

### **God's Way Of Making People Right**

We will study six things about God's way of making people right with Himself (Rom. 3:21-31). This should help you know how God solves this problem.

First, God makes people right without obeying religious rules (v. 21). Paul said that God was showing this "now". It was the right time for Jesus to come and tell people in a way they could know it (Galatians 4:4). Jesus and Paul taught that God did not say people could get right with God by obeying the Law. The Law was many religious rules that God gave to the Israelites through Moses during the Old Testament times.

There were some Jews who said they were Christians. Paul had heard about these Jews. They were teaching that Christians have to obey the Law to get right with God (See Gal. 1:6, 7; 3:1-5). The Law and the early preachers did not say that God makes people right by obeying the Law.

Today many people believe that they must obey some religious rules in order to get right with God. Some people who say they are Christians believe that faith in Jesus Christ is not enough. They teach that Christians must also obey certain religious rules if they want to get right with God. This is not what God's Word says.

Second, God makes people right through faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:22-25). Paul said that people "become right with God by putting their trust in Jesus Christ" (v. 22). All people "are the same to God." People of all races, nations, and religious beliefs have to get right with God. They do this by trusting in Jesus as the One to save them. He saves them from the power and punishment of their sins.

- 22 Men became right with God by putting their trust in Jesus Christ. God will accept men if they come this way. All men are the same to God.
- 23 For all men have sinned and have missed the shining-greatness of God.
- 24 Anyone can be made right with God by the free gift of His loving-favor. It is Jesus Christ Who bought them with His blood and made them free from their sins.
- 25 God gave Jesus Christ to the world. Men's sins can be forgiven through the blood of Christ when they put their trust in Him. God gave His Son Jesus Christ to show how right He is. Before this, God did not look on the sins that were done.
- 26 But now God proves that He is right in saving men from sin. He shows that He is the One Who has no sin. God makes anyone right with Himself who puts his trust in Jesus.
- 27 What then do we have to be proud of? Nothing at all? Why? Is it because men obey the Law? No? It is because men put their trust in Christ.
- 28 This is what we have come to know. A man is made right

*(Bible verses continued on page 3)*

This is true because all people “have sinned and missed the shining-greatness of God” (v. 23). The “shining-greatness” of God means His perfect goodness. God made people good like Himself. God wanted them to stay good. Adam and Eve were the first man and woman. They decided to do bad things. They did not obey God. (See Genesis 2:17; 3:1-6). They were no longer good and perfect like God. Adam and Eve became sinners. God's Word says that everyone who has ever lived has not obeyed God. This makes them sinners like Adam and Eve (Rom. 5:12). People who say they have not sinned are **claiming** that they are perfect like God. This is not true.

Paul then said that anyone could “be made right with God by the free gift of His **loving-favor**” (v. 24). It cannot be earned by trying to obey religious rules. It must be received as a gift from God (Rom. 6:23). God wants to make people right because of His **loving-favor**. Paul knew this was true because it had happened to him. He said that he had been the “worst sinner” (1 Timothy 1:15). He also said, “Then our Lord gave me much of His **loving-favor**” (1 Tim. 1:14).

One time a poor Filipino farmer wanted to buy a water buffalo. He needed it for a work animal. He saved his money for a long time. He was ready to buy a water buffalo. The rulers changed the country's money. The farmer did not know the money had been changed. He was not able to buy anything with his money. The farmer wrote a letter to the President to tell him about the problem. The President said that it was too late to change his money to the new money. The President gave the poor farmer the money to buy a water buffalo. This was a gift of the President's **loving-favor**. That is what God has done for us.

The gift of God's **loving-favor** is Jesus Christ. He made us free from our sins by His death. This will free us only if we accept God's gift. It is like paying the price to buy a person out of slavery. An example of this is some Arabs are making slaves out of black people in the country of Sudan. Some Americans are paying money to the owners of the slaves to let them go free. That is like what God has done by giving Jesus to die for our sins.

This is also like paying money to free a **captive**. Some **rebel** soldiers in Columbia took some American miners captive. The

with God by putting his trust in Christ. It is not by his doing what the Law says.

29 Is God the God of the Jews only? Is He not the God of the people who are not Jews also? He is for sure.

30 He is one God. He will make Jews and the people who are not Jews right with Himself if they put their trust in Christ.

31 Does this mean that we do away with the Law when we put our trust in Christ? No, not at all. It means we know the Law is important.

4:1 What about Abraham, our early father? What did he learn?

2 If Abraham was made right with God by what he did, he would have had something to be proud of. But he could not be proud before God.

3 The Holy Writings say, "Abraham put his trust in God and that made him right with God." (Genesis 15:6)

...4-5...

6 David tells of this He spoke of how happy the man is who puts his trust in God without working to be saved from the punishment of sin.

7 "Those people are happy whose sinful acts are forgiven and whose sins are covered.

soldiers wanted the American mining company to give them money to let the miners go free. The mining company could not give money because it was against the law to do this. The owner of the mining company gave himself to take the place of the miners so they could be set free. This is what Jesus did for us. He took our place. He gave his life and was punished for our sins.

What must people do for their sins to be forgiven through the death of Christ? They must put their trust in Jesus (v. 28). They must trust in Him to be the One to be punished for their sins. They must decide to obey Christ as the Lord of their lives. People become right with God when they do this. As Peter, one of the twelve followers of Jesus, said: "...You cannot see Him now but you are putting your trust in Him . . . You will get what your faith is looking for, which is to be saved from the punishment of sin" (1 Peter 1:8-9).

Third, God's way of making people right shows that God does right (vs. 25b, 26). What would you think of a judge if he let a criminal go free without punishing him? Would you think the judge had done right? People might think that God does not do right. He lets sinners go free without punishing them for their sins. "God gave His Son Jesus Christ to show how right He is" (v. 25b). God showed how much He was against sin when Jesus was punished for the sins of the world.

God did not punish early people fully for their sins. They were living before the time of the death of Jesus on the cross (Acts 14:16; 17:30). Some people thought he did not do right. They thought He did not care if people did bad things. But God punished Jesus, His own Son, on the cross for the sins of the world. People could know that God always does what is right after that. He is a good judge.

Even today some people do not know this. They think God does not do right because He sometimes does not punish bad people right away. They need to know that Jesus was punished on the cross. They need to know that all people who do not trust Jesus as the One who saves will someday be punished in hell.

Fourth, God's way of making people right does not let people be proud (vs. 27, 28). Some Jews were very proud of obeying the Law. They would even talk proudly about how good they were.

- 8 Those people are happy whose sins the Lord will not remember.” (Psalm 32:1-2)
- 9 Is this happiness given to the Jews only? Or is it given also to the people who are not Jews? We say again, “Abraham put his trust in God and that made him right with God.” (Genesis 15:6)
- 10 When did this happen? Was it before or after Abraham went through the religious act of becoming a Jew? It was before.
- 11 He went through the religious act after he had put his trust in God. That religious act proved that his trust in God made him right with God even before he went through the religious act of becoming a Jew. In that way, it made him the early father of all those who believe. It showed that those who did not go through the religious act of becoming a Jew could be right with God.
- 12 He is also the early father of all those who have gone through the religious act of becoming a Jew. It is not because they went through the act. It is because they put their trust in God the same as Abraham did before he went through the religious act of becoming a Jew.

Jesus told a picture-story about this kind of person (Luke 18:9-14). He said that a proud religious Law-keeper went to the house of God to pray. A sinful tax-gatherer also went to pray. The proud religious Law-keeper then told God that he was very good. He said he was good because he obeyed the Law. He said he was not like the sinful tax-gatherer. But the tax-gatherer was not proud. He told God that he had sinned. He asked God to forgive him. Jesus said that the proud religious Law-keeper did not become right with God. The sinful tax-gatherer did become right with God.

Some people today are like the proud religious Law-keeper. They obey the laws of the rulers. They try to live right. They think they are good enough to be right with God. They are not.

Paul said that no one could be proud of being right with God. This comes only by trusting in Christ. It is a gift that no one has earned by trying to do good things. We can only thank God for making us right (1Corinthians 4:7).

Fifth, the way God makes people right shows that God is the God of all people (vs. 29, 30). The Jews thought that only Jews who tried to obey the Law could be right with God. But Paul said that God was the God of all people because there is only one God (v. 29). There is only one way for all people to become right with God. That way is by trusting in Christ (v. 30).

One time when I was a missionary, I tried to tell the Good News to a man who believed there are many gods. He said to me, “You have your god and I have another god. Both are good.” He did not want to hear about God. He believed there was another god he could worship. It is hard for people to trust in Jesus as the One who saves them as long as they believe there is more than one god.

Sixth, God’s way of making people right shows that the Law is **important** (v. 31). Putting our trust in Christ does not do away with the Law. It tells why the Law is **important**. The Law tells us what a good life is like. It does not give people the power to do what is right. Faith in Jesus makes it possible for people to live a good life (Ephesians 2:8-10). This is why Jesus said,

“Do not think that I have come to do away with the Law of Moses or the writings of the early preachers. I have not come to do away with them but to complete them.” (Matthew 5:17)

Jesus completed the purpose of the Law. It was not done away with. It was completed.

Are you tired of trying to live a good life? Are you trusting in your own power? Jesus will give you the power to do it if you trust in Him.

### **God's Way Is Always The Same**

Is God's way of making people right always the same? Was it the same before the death of Jesus as after His death? Paul had already said that the "Law and the early preachers" (Rom. 3:21) told about the way. They told it before Jesus was born. What was this way? Paul tells about two people in the Old Testament times who were made right with God in Romans 4:1-12. They were Abraham and David. The Law told about Abraham. The early preachers told about David. Let us see how they became right with God.

Abraham was the early father of the Jews (v. 1). They believed he kept the Law perfectly even though the Law had not yet been given to him. The Jews thought this made him right with God. Paul wrote from Genesis 15:6. This told about Abraham (v. 3). This says that Abraham became right with God by putting his trust in Him. Abraham did not know that Jesus would come to die for his sins. But he knew God. He trusted in God. Jesus was punished with death for Abraham's sins too.

The Jews believed that the religious act of circumcision made them a Jew. They believed this made God their Father. Paul told them that Abraham was not circumcised until fourteen years after he became right with God by faith (v. 9-11; See Gen. 17:24). This religious act did not help to make Abraham right with God. It just "proved that his trust in God made him right with God" (v. 11). The circumcised (Jews) are made right with God by faith. The uncircumcised (Gentiles) are made right

with God by faith. Abraham is the early father of all who have faith, both Jews and Gentiles (vs. 11,12).

Some people today believe they are right with God because they have done the religious act of Christian baptism. But this does not make them a child of God. They have to decide to trust in Jesus as the One who saves and obey Him as Lord.

Paul wrote from Psalms 32:1-2 to prove that David also was made right with God by faith in God (vs. 6, 7). David lived after the Law was given. Still his sins were forgiven by faith, not by obeying the Law. This gave David great happiness.

Anyone who follows God's way of making people right with Himself will be happy. They will have the same kind of happiness as David. This is the only way people can have their problem solved. This is true for all who have the Word of God. It is also true for all who do not have the Word of God.

Has your problem been solved? If not, will you decide to trust in Jesus Christ as the One to save you? Will you obey Him as the Lord and master of your life? He will save you from the power and punishment for your sins. Pray to Jesus and tell Him you are doing this. If you have already done this, please tell the Good News to as many people as you can.

### **Things To Think About**

1. Have you ever tried to obey a religious rule but could not?
2. Can you think of anyone who thinks he or she is good enough to be right with God?
3. Do you believe there is only one God, or many gods? Why?
4. Do you think your problem has been solved already? Why?

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◇ ROMANS: ◇  
**GOOD NEWS FOR A TROUBLED WORLD**

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*Adult Bible Study  
in Basic English*

**UNIT 2:  
WHAT GOD DOES FOR US**

**Lesson 5 - AT HOME WITH GOD**  
(Romans 5:1-11)

**Lesson 6 - FREE AT LAST!**  
(Romans 6:1-14, 20-23)

**Lesson 7 - VICTORY IS OURS**  
(Romans 8:1-2, 12-28, 38-39)



*Adult Bible Study  
in Basic English*

**Bible Text**  
Romans 5:1-11

**Memory Verse**  
Romans 5:8

But God showed His love to us.  
While we were still sinners, Christ  
died for us.

**UNIT 2  
WHAT GOD DOES FOR US**

**U**nit 2 is a study of Romans 5-8. The lessons deal with the all the wonderful things Paul saw in what God had done in Christ for people.

Now we can be happy in our new relationship with God (**Lesson 5**).

We can stop being slaves to sin (**Lesson 6**).

We can have the victory through the power of God's Spirit (**Lesson 7**).

**AT HOME WITH GOD**

I first began teaching Internationals to speak the English language in the summer of 1971. The idea of teaching made me uneasy. I had taken a 16-hour course in "how to teach English" but I was afraid.

The first day was the hardest. I went to the home of my first student. Yong Son was an 18-year-old Korean girl who had married an American soldier. She was as afraid as I was.

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*Carolyn Cree wrote Lessons Five through Seven of this study. Carolyn has been a teacher and director of International programs since 1971. She is the author of "Beyond the Golden Door: A Layman's Ministry to International Families." She lives in Fort Worth, Texas, where she is director of International Friends at her church. She and her husband have two daughters and two grandchildren.*

**Word List**

**breadwinner:** one who earns a living

**confidence:** full trust

**snarl and sneer:** a look of hatred

**loneliness:** being alone

**courage:** to be brave, without fear

**relationship:** a tie or link to another

**character:** strong goodness

**Romans 5:1-11**

- 1 Now that we have been made right with God by putting our trust in Him, we have peace with Him. It is because of what our Lord Jesus Christ did for us.
- 2 By putting our trust in God, He has given us His loving-favor and has received us. We are happy for the hope we have of sharing the shining-greatness of God.
- 3 We are glad for our troubles also. We know that troubles help us learn not to give up.

But we both tried hard. I went to Yongie's house all that summer. We studied the English language. She could not read or write the Korean language. She could not speak much English. She had a hard time with everyday living in America.

Yong Son studied hard. She worked at learning English for several years. She learned to drive a car in our program at church. She learned to sew. She learned so well that she got a job in a sewing factory. She became an American citizen. Then, Yongie became a Christian.

Yongie says that being a Christian changed her life. Knowing that Jesus is always with her is wonderful. Yongie became the **breadwinner** in the family when her husband became ill. She had many hard times, but Yongie always knew Jesus was by her side.

Yong Son has become a strong person. She was given peace with God when she took Him at His word. Her life was made new.

This Bible study almost sings of the joy Paul feels about his **confidence** in God. Trusting faith, taking God at His word, has given Paul peace with God. No one could be so close to God before Jesus came.

Many years ago, a person was going through China. She spent one night in a Chinese village temple because there was no other place to sleep. She woke during the night. Moonlight came in the window. It shone on the faces of the gods in the temple. On every face there was a **snarl** and a **sneer** like they hated men.

When we realize that God is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, then we come to know that God loves us. He truly cares for us. Paul was so filled with knowing God's love that he wanted us to know it too.

It is as if Paul was saying, "Jesus takes us into the presence of God. Jesus opens the door for us. When that door is opened we find

- 4 When we have learned not to give up, it shows we have stood the test. When we have stood the test, it gives us hope.
- 5 Hope never makes us ashamed because the love of God has come into our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who was given to us.
- 6 We were weak and could not help ourselves. Then Christ came at the right time and gave His life for all sinners.
- 7 No one is willing to die for another person, but for a good man someone might be willing to die.
- 8 But God showed His love to us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- 9 Now that we have been saved from the punishment of sin by the blood of Christ, He will save us from God's anger also.
- 10 We hated God. But we were saved from the punishment of sin by

grace.” We do not find punishment or judgment. We find the wonderful kindness of God.

### The Joy of Being Right With God

Now that we have heard the word of Christ, we know the peace of trusting Him. We know that we cannot trust in what we can do for ourselves. Trusting in Him alone gives us such joy as Paul knew.

Paul knew that all people go through hard times. Christians and non-Christians all face problems. Paul knew that we all have troubles. All kinds of things may trouble Christians. Want and need, sorrow and **loneliness** come to all of us.

God gives the Christian the power to meet bad times and overcome them. Overcoming problems gives us **character**. When problems are met with **courage**, a person becomes stronger, purer, better and nearer to God.

Our hope can not be broken when it is in God. We know that God's love will last always when our hope is in the love of God. We can be as joyful as Paul!

### Proof of God's Love

The fact that Jesus Christ died for us is proof of God's love. It would be hard to get someone to die for another person, even if he or she was a good person. A person might have a great love that would make him or her die for a friend.

But Jesus Christ died for us when we are sinners. We are not good people. But Jesus gave His life for us. Love can go no further than that.

Then, Paul goes on a step further. Because of Jesus, our

*(Bible verses continued on page 4)*



the death of Christ. He has brought us back to God and we will be saved by His life.

- 11 Not only that, we give thanks to God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have been brought back to God.

**relationship** with God was changed. Even though we were sinners, we were put right with God. But that is not enough.

The saved sinner cannot go on being a sinner. He or she must become a better person. Christ's risen life changes us. Jesus is not dead. He is alive. He is always with us. He is there to help us. He is always there to guide and direct us.

Jesus puts us into a right **relationship** with God even when we are still sinners. He goes on to help us quit our sin by His grace. He helps us become good people. The saving process goes on. It never ends. It goes on until we see the Father face to face.

Paul is very clear here. The whole saving process---the coming of Christ, the death of Christ--- is the proof of God 's love. It is the proof that God loves us. It all happened to show us how much God loves us.

Jesus came to show how God feels about people now and always. He came to prove that God is love.

### **Yong Son Knows That God Loves Her.**

Yong Son has come through all kinds of trouble. Her husband has been ill a long time. She has had many problems. But her faith in God has been her strength. She is one of the happiest Christians I know. Her faith shines from her face. She knows, without a doubt, that God loves her.

What a wonderful thought that is! God still loves us even though we are all sinners. He is always with us in times of happiness. He is always there in times of sorrow. He is one Friend in whom we can always trust. Wonderful indeed!

### **Things to Think About**

1. Can you think of how being a Christian has helped you?
2. Do you know that God is love?
3. Can you explain God's love to another person?
4. What do we have to do to feel the power of God's love?



*Adult Bible Study  
in Basic English*

### Bible Text

Romans 6:1-14, 20-23

### Memory Verse

Romans 6:23

You get what is coming to you when you sin. It is death! But God's free gift is life that lasts forever. It is given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Word List

**confession:** to admit to something

**grace:** favor and love of God

**memories:** a person or thing remembered

### Romans 6:1-14, 20-23

- 1 What does this mean? Are we to keep on sinning so that God will give us more of His loving-favor?
- 2 No, not at all! We are dead to sin. How then can we keep on living in sin?
- 3 All of us were baptized to show we belong to Christ. We were baptized first of all to show His death.

## Free At Last!

One of my happiest **memories** is of the day we baptized several dozen Cambodians. It was a time after they had been in our city about a year. They had come to the United States because their country was in a terrible war.

I worked at the county hospital one day a week as a volunteer. A volunteer is a person who gives time to a good cause. My job was to work with ladies who were about to have babies.

One day I was crossing the street after work. A car stopped in the middle of the street. A lady got out of the car. She had a young Cambodian woman with her. In her arms was a small baby.

The lady said, "Can you help us?" the baby was sick. He would not eat. He was starving to death.

Just then, a young doctor crossed the street. I asked him for help. We stood right in the middle of the street while he looked at the baby.

The doctor gave a time to see the baby at the hospital. He told the mother what to do to make her baby well. Then we all went on our way.

That could have been the end of the story. But God had another plan. The next week the young mother and a large number of Cambodians came to our church to learn English. Later, they began to have worship services. Many of them accepted Christ as their Savior.

That is why I remember the day we baptized the Cambodians. It was one of the happiest days of my life.

Baptism in Paul's day was different from what it is today. Only adults were baptized. The New Testament is not against babies being baptized. But the babies that are baptized come from a Christian family. The Christian family did not exist in Paul's time. A person came to Christ alone. Often he or she left a family behind.

A person made a **confession** of faith when he or she came into the church. And that person came into the church from paganism. A pagan is one who worships false gods. Baptism was a big change in his/her life. It often meant starting life all over again.

- 4 We were buried in baptism as Christ was buried in death. As Christ was raised from the dead by the great power of God, so we will have new life also.
- 5 If we have become one with Christ in His death, we will be one with Him in being raised from the dead to new life.
- 6 We know that our old life, our old sinful self, was nailed to the cross with Christ. And so the power of sin that held us was destroyed. Sin is no longer our boss.
- 7 When a man is dead, he is free from the power of sin.
- 8 And if we have died with Christ, we believe we will live with Him also.
- 9 We know that Christ was raised from the dead. He will never die again. Death has no more power over Him.
- 10 He died once but now lives. He died to break the power of sin, and the life He now lives is for God.
- 11 You must do the same thing! Think of yourselves as dead to the power of sin. But now you have new life because of Jesus Christ our Lord. You are living this new life for God.

When a person went into the water, the water closed over his head. It was like being buried in the grave. When he came out of the water, it was like rising from the grave. Baptism was like dying and rising again. The person died to one kind of life. He rose to another kind of life. He died to the old life of sin. He rose to the new life of grace. He went into the water a person of the world. He comes out of the water a person in Christ.

Paul's language may seem strange to us. But the people of Paul's day understood. The language Paul used was the language they used.

### **Being a Slave in Christ**

In Paul's day a slave could not do anything for himself. All his time was for his master. Every single moment belonged to his master. A slave could not do whatever he liked. He could not serve two masters. He belonged to only one master. That is the picture in Paul's mind.

Paul says, "You have taken God as your master. And now you cannot even talk about sinning."

We are not to let sin have power over us. We are to give our bodies over to God as a living person who has been raised from the dead. We have life because of God's loving favor.

### **No Laws in the Pagan World**

The pagan world was lawless. The people were lawless, too. The first time we do a wrong thing, we feel sorry. But the next time, it is easier. If we go on doing it, we begin to enjoy it. Sin seems good.

But the time comes when we need more and more of sin to get the same thrill. Sin leads on to more sin. Lawlessness leads to more lawlessness.

### **The New Life**

The new life is different. It is a life of goodness. The Christian life gives God his rightful place. It respects the rights of other people. The Christian should never disobey God.

When a person gives his/her life to Christ, he does not stop there. He does not become perfect all at once. The work

12 So do not let sin have power over your body here on earth. You must not obey the body and let it do what it wants to do.

13 Do not give any part of your body for sinful use. Instead, give yourself to God as a living person who has been raised from the dead. Give every part of your body to God to do what is right.

14 Sin must not have power over you. You are not living by the Law. You have life because of God's loving favor.

... 15 – 19...

20 When sin had power over your life, you were not right with God.

21 What good did you get from the things you are ashamed of now? Those things bring death.

22 But now you are free from the power of sin. You have become a servant for God. Your life is set apart for God-like living. The end is life that lasts forever.

23 You get what is coming to you when you sin. It is death! But God's free gift is life that lasts forever. It is given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

is not over. Once that person belongs to Christ, he is on the road to a better life. Every day he/she is growing purer and kinder.

### **Now You are Free!**

It is a wonderful thing to be free from the power of sin. Our lives are set apart for God-like living. The end of our earthly life is life that lasts forever.

Paul says we get what is coming to us when we sin. It is death. "But God's free gift is life that lasts forever. It is given to us by our lord Jesus Christ."

### **The Cambodians**

I have kept in touch with several Cambodians. They have become good friends. Two of the men have become pastors. They lead churches in our town. Two of the women work in one of the churches near me. They are happy Christians. Even though they have faced hard times, they have kept their faith.

One of the pastors went back to Cambodia for a vacation last year. He did more than visit. He witnessed for the Lord. He started a church in his hometown. He came back to the United States, but the church is still growing.

What we have received from God is a free gift. We did not earn it. We did not deserve it. But, God has given us life because of His **grace**.

### **Things to Think About**

1. Are you a servant for God?
2. What does it mean when "You get what is coming to you when you sin?"
3. What is God's 'free gift?'
4. \_Who gives us this "free gift?"



*Adult Bible Study  
in Basic English*

### Memory Verse

Romans 8:2

The power of the Holy Spirit has made me free from the power of sin and death. This power is mine because I belong to Christ Jesus.

### Word List

**forbidden:** things we must NOT do

**interesting:** things of interest

**recreation:** to create or make again, to make something new again

### Romans 8:1-2, 12-28, 38-39

- 1 Now, because of this, those who belong to Christ will not suffer the punishment of sin.
- 2 The power of the Holy Spirit has made me free from the power of sin and death. This power is mine because I belong to Christ Jesus.

... 3 – 11

- 12 So then, Christian brothers, we are not to do what our sinful old selves want us to do.
- 13 If you do what your sinful old selves want you to do, you will die in sin. But if, through the power of the Holy Spirit, you destroy those actions to which the

## VICTORY IS OURS

I can see some **interesting** things as I look back over the lives of my husband and me. Many times we have had problems. Many times we have not known which way to go. But each time we have turned to God for answers. And each time He has guided us to the right way.

Sometimes the answer has not been what we wanted. Sometimes we did not seem to get an answer at all to our prayers. But each problem has been solved. And it has always been for the best. God's grace has led us the right way.

It is a wonderful thing to be led by God's Spirit. What would we do without his help and the courage he gives us? God gives us the victory over the problems of life!

### The Holy Spirit Makes Us Free

We are free from the power of sin and death because we belong to Jesus Christ. But there is something about a thing that is **forbidden**. A **forbidden** thing attracts us. We want to know more. We want to find out about it. That is the human nature in all of us.

When we had nothing but the law, we were at the mercy of sin. When a person rules life by being one with Christ, he rules it with Jesus Christ in his spirit and his heart. Not law, but love, is the motive of his life. Love can make a person able to do anything.

### Sons and Daughters of God

Paul describes the new state of a person adopted into the family of God. Being adopted was a serious matter in Paul's day. A person always belonged to his father no matter how old that person was.

There were two steps in adoption. First, the person had to leave the control of one father. Then, he had to go under the control of another. It sounds easy, but it was very hard. There were many things to be done. Adoption was a very serious step.

A consequence is something that happens as a result of

- body can be led, you will have life.
- 14 All those who are led by the Holy Spirit are sons of God.
- 15 You should not act like people who are owned by someone. They are always afraid. Instead, the Holy Spirit makes us His sons, and we can call to Him, "My Father."
- 16 For the Holy Spirit speaks to us and tells our spirit that we are children of God.
- 17 If we are children of God, we will receive everything He has promised us. We will share with Christ all the things God has given to Him. But we must share His suffering if we are to share His shining-greatness.
- 18 I am sure that our suffering now cannot be compared to the shining-greatness that He is going to give us.
- 19 Everything that has been made in the world is waiting for the day when God will make His sons known.
- 20 Everything that has been made in the world is weak. It is not that the world wanted it to be that way. God allowed it to be that way. Yet there is hope.
- 21 Everything that has been made in the world will be set free from the power that can destroy. These will become free just as that children of God become free.
- 22 We know that everything on the earth cries out with pain the same as a woman giving birth to a child.
- 23 We also cry inside ourselves, even we who have received the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the first of God's gifts to us.

something else. The consequences of adoption were important in Paul's mind. First, the adopted person lost all rights in his old family. Then he gained all the rights of a son in his new family. In the most important way, he got a new father.

The adopted son became heir to his new father's estate. In law, the old life of the adopted person was wiped out. All debts were wiped out as if they had never been. The adopted person was like a new person. He\she entered into a new life. The past life was forgotten.

This is what Paul was thinking. He was saying that the Holy Spirit Himself is the witness to our adoption into the family of God.

Paul was saying that when a person becomes a Christian he becomes a part of the family of God. He has done nothing to earn it. He has done nothing to deserve it. God in His amazing love and mercy has taken the lost, helpless person into His own family. All debts are forgotten. Love and glory are ours.

### **We Are Not Without Hope**

The one great truth for Paul was that life is not hopeless. Paul saw man's sin. He saw the state of the world. He saw the state of the human being. But he also saw God's power. The end of it all, for Paul, was hope.

Paul was not waiting for the end of a world filled with sin and death. Life was waiting for a **recreation** done by the glory and power of God.

To Paul life was not a sad and powerless waiting. It seemed to Paul that life held great things.

Christians are caught up in living. We must fight our own evil nature. We must live in a world of death and rot. But, the Christian does not only live in the world. He also lives in Christ.

We do not only see the world. We see beyond the world to God. Christians do not only see the consequences of man's sin. We see the power of God's mercy and God's

We are waiting to become His complete sons when our bodies are made free.

- 24 We were saved with this hope ahead of us. Now hope means we are waiting for something we do not have. How can a man hope for something he already has?
- 25 But if we hope for something we do not yet see, we must learn how to wait for it.
- 26 In the same, way, the Holy Spirit helps us when we are weak. We do not know how to pray or what we should pray for, but the Holy Spirit prays to God for us with sounds that cannot be put into words.
- 27 God knows the hearts of men. He knows what the Holy Spirit is thinking. The Holy Spirit prays for those who belong to Christ the way God wants Him to pray.
- 28 We know that God makes all things work together for the good of those who love Him and are chosen to be a part of His plan.

...29 – 37...

- 38 For I know that nothing can keep us from the love of God. Death cannot! Life cannot! Angels cannot! Leaders cannot! Any other power cannot! Hard things now or in the future cannot!
- 39 The world above or the world below cannot! Any other living thing cannot keep us away from the love of God which is our through Christ Jesus our Lord.

love. The object of the Christian life is never to give up hope. It is always hope. The Christian does not wait for death. The Christian waits for life.

### **How Do We Pray?**

Romans 8:26-27 form two of the most important verses in all of the New Testament. Paul is saying that because of our weakness, we do not know what to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us.

There are two reasons why we cannot pray as we should. First, we cannot look into the future. We cannot see even a minute ahead. We may pray for things that are not for our good. We cannot see ahead. We cannot see what will happen.

Second, we do not know what is best for us. We are often like a child who wants something that is not good for him or her. God has to be like a parent who must say no. Sometimes He must make the child do something he or she does not want to do. He knows what is best for the child. He knows better than the child.

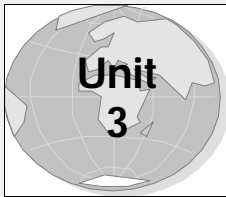
The perfect prayer is simply, “Not my will, but Yours be done.”

### **Nothing Can Take Us Away From the Love of God**

You may think of every terrible thing that can happen to you. Do not be afraid. Nothing can take you away from God’s love. No thing can take us away from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ. Jesus is Lord of everything in the world. How, then, can we be afraid?

### **Things to Think About**

1. How should you pray?
2. When should you pray?
3. Can anything take us away from God’s love?
4. Is Jesus Lord of everything in the world?



Adult Bible Study  
in Basic English

## WE CAN COUNT ON GOD

**Lesson 8 - God's Gift And Our Response (Romans 9:1-8, 10:1-21)**

**Lesson 9 - God's Mercy And Kindness (Romans 11:13-36)**

# UNIT 3 WE CAN COUNT ON GOD

**U**nit 3 is a two-lesson study of Romans 9-11 This Unit deals with Paul's question about the present and future role of his people. These lessons will help you understand Paul's concern. They will help find ways to apply these truths to everyday living.

**Lesson 8** is about "God's Gift and our Response."

**Lesson 9** is on "God's Mercy and Kindness."



Adult Bible Study  
in Basic English

### Bible Text

Romans 9:1-8, 10:1-21

### Memory Verse

Romans 10:12

There is no difference between the Jews and the people who are not Jews. They are all the same to the Lord. And He is Lord over all of them. He gives of His greatness to all who call on Him for help.

### Word List

**citizen:** a member of a state or nation

**criticism:** fault-finding

**frightening:** something that scares

## Lesson 8 GOD'S GIFT AND OUR RESPONSE

A Chinese woman from Hong Kong talked about what she and other people from that city have learned. Getting a **passport** to the United States, Canada, Australia or other countries has to be earned in many ways.

You need plenty of money before you leave your country. You have to be able to show you can do work which will support you. You must have a **sponsor** or have close family in the new country. You cannot have a criminal record. Rich Western countries only accept certain people.

"Thank goodness," the woman said. "God's kingdom is not like that! We do not have to earn His love. We do not have to prove we should become **citizens** of His kingdom. There are no long forms to fill out. There are no **frightening interviews** before we can become His children.

*Carolyn Cree wrote Lessons Eight and Nine of this study. Carolyn has been a teacher and director of International programs since 1971. She is the author of "Beyond the Golden Door: A Layman's Ministry to International Families." She lives in Fort Worth, Texas, where she is director of International Friends at her church. She and her husband have two daughters and two grandchildren.*



makes us afraid

**immigration:** to come to a new country

**influence:** the power to affect other people

**interview:** a meeting to question a person

**opportunities:** a good chance

**passport:** a document given by a country to one of its citizens. It lets him travel to other countries.

**personal relationship:** a connection between a person and God

**salvation:** the act of being saved

**sponsor:** a person who is responsible for another person

**stress:** strain

**treasure:** wealth or riches

### Romans

#### 9:1-8, 10:1-21

- 1 I am telling the truth because I belong to Christ. The Holy Spirit tells my heart that I am not lying.
- 2 I have much sorrow. The pain in my heart never leaves.
- 3 I could even wish that I might be kept from being with Christ if that would help my people to be saved from the punishment of sin. They are of my own flesh and blood.
- 4 They are Jews and are the people God chose for Himself. He shared His shining-greatness with them and gave them His Law and a way to worship. They have His promises.
- 5 The early preachers came from this family. Christ Himself was born of flesh from this family and He is over all things. May God be honored and thanked forever. Let it be

“God accepts all of us. No countries can honestly say they have this kind of open **immigration.**”

Those who work with people trying to leave their countries understand the value of a **passport**. It makes them grateful for their **passports**. But it makes them even more grateful for God’s grace and mercy.

### Paul, the Hero

Paul was a missionary for Jesus. He had no fear. He was the founder of the Christian Church in Asia Minor and in Europe.

Paul had a great hope for his people. But he felt much sorrow. He was sorry because the people in Israel had heard God’s message. They had heard but they did not really listen.

### Parents Have a Great Influence on Their Children

Tomas, the nine-year-old son of church members, spoke to his parents the other day. He wanted to make his public profession of faith. The boy had grown up in a Christian home. He was eager to tell everyone about his love for Jesus.

His father was worried. The man had not given his own life to Christ until he was in his late thirties. He wanted to be sure his son understood what it means to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord.

He asked his pastor, “How much do you need to know about Jesus before you can be His child?”

There is no easy answer to that question. Simply to know the facts about Jesus is not the same things as knowing Jesus. The answer is not what you know. The answer is in whom you know.

Real faith leads us to know that Jesus is the Son of God. This is the most important part of faith. If we are to know God the Father, we must know the Son.

What must we know to be a Christian? We must know the person of Christ. How do we know Him? We know Him by believing in Him. We trust Him for forgiving our sins in the past. We know Him by trusting Him for strength for the present. He gives us hope for the future.

### God Gave Us Love and Power

Paul reminds us that God has given us love and power. He has made it possible for us to do the work He has given

so.

- 6 I am not saying that God did not keep His promises. Not all the Jews are people God chose for Himself.
- 7 Not all of Abraham's family are children of God. God told Abraham, "Only the family of Isaac will be called your family." (Genesis 21:9-12)
- 8 This means that children born to Abraham are not all children of God. Only those that are born because of God's promise to Abraham are His children.
- ...9 – 33, 10:...
- 1 Christian brothers, the desire of my heart and my prayer to God is that the Jews might be saved from the punishment of sin.
- 2 I know about them. They have a strong desire for God, but they do not know what they should about Him.
- 3 They have not known how God makes men right with Himself. Instead, they have tried to make their own way. They have not become right with God because they have not done what God said to do.
- 4 For Christ has put an end to the Law, so everyone who has put his trust in Christ is made right with God.
- 5 Moses writes that the man who obeys the Law has to live by it.
- 6 But when a man puts his trust in Christ, he is made right with God. You do not need to ask yourself, "Who will go up to heaven to bring Christ down?"
- 7 And you do not need to ask, "Who will go below and bring Christ up from the dead?"
- 8 This is what it says, "The Good News is near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart." (Deuteronomy 30:14) This Good News tells about putting your trust in Christ. This is what we preach to you.
- 9 If you say with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved from the punishment of

us. Power, love and a good mind are what every Christian needs to overcome **stress** and fear.

This message about using God's gifts is important for us today. It is easy to miss **opportunities**. It is easy not to use our talents. It is easy to let our devotion to God die down.

We are afraid of **criticism**. But we must not be held back by being timid or afraid of failure. We can do much more for Christ and those around us.

Our hearts can be stronger when we remember that Christ is always ready to give us the strength we need.

### The Gospel Message

Paul gave us a **treasure**. It is the gospel message. God saved us. He called us to be His own people. He gave us His grace. God ended the power of death. He promised us eternal life. What a **treasure**, indeed!

Let us think about what the gospel message means to you and me.

1. He saved us. The Gospel is about **salvation**. We must always remember that the Gospel is about being saved. But before you can be saved, you must admit that you are lost. The cry for help is the first step toward **salvation**.
2. He called us. This call is for everyone. He calls us by name. The great God of the universe, the Creator of all things, knows my name. He knows your name, too. Each of us had a **personal relationship** with the Living God. It is personal because God calls us by our names.
3. He gave us His grace. Grace is favor we do not deserve. God loves us even when we sin against Him. Grace is God's way of showing His love for us through Jesus Christ.
4. God ended the power of death. People have always been afraid of death. We live with the fear of death until we have realized Jesus' victory over death. Jesus' victory over death means that you and I can claim that victory, too. We don't have to be afraid of death anymore.

- sin.
- 10 When we believe in our hearts, we are made right with God. We tell with our mouth how we were saved from the punishment of sin.
- 11 The Holy Writings say, “No one who puts his trust in Christ will ever be put to shame.” (Isaiah 28:16)
- 12 There is no difference between the Jews and the people who are not Jews. They are all the same to the Lord. And He is Lord over all of them. He gives of His greatness to all who call on Him for help.
- 13 For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved from the punishment of sin.
- 14 But how can they call on Him if they have not put their trust in Him? And how can they put their trust in Him if they have not heard of Him? And how can they hear of Him unless someone tells them?
- 15 And how can someone tell them if he is not sent? The Holy Writings say, “The feet of those who bring the Good News are beautiful.” (Isaiah 52:7)
- 16 But they have not all listened to the Good News. Isaiah says, “Lord, who believed what we told them?” (Isaiah 53:1)
- 17 So then, faith comes to us by hearing the Good News. And the Good News comes by someone preaching it.
- 18 And so I ask, “Did they not hear?” For sure they did. The Holy Writings say, “Their voice was heard over all the earth. The Good News was told to the ends of the earth.” (Psalm 19:4)
- 19 Again I ask, “Did the Jews not understand?” First of all, Moses says, “I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation. I will make you angry with a foolish nation of people who do not understand.” (Deuteronomy 32:21)
- 20 Isaiah says even stronger words, “I have been found by men who did not look for Me. I have shown Myself to those who were not asking for Me.” (Isaiah 65:1)
- 21 This is what God says about the Jews, “All day long I held out my hand to a people who would not obey Me and who worked

5. God promised us eternal life. Eternal life is life that lasts forever. Sometimes little children die. Many people die in car accidents. Our young people are killed in wars. Our bodies become old and sick. Sooner or later they die. Death is an enemy. But only our bodies die. We know that death is not the end for us. Our Christ has beaten the enemy. Jesus has shown us that we will live forever with Him. And that’s the Good News of the Gospel!

### **Have You Accepted Jesus As Your Lord And Savior?**

Perhaps you have been thinking about your relationship with Jesus. Some people accept Jesus in one great moment. Read about Paul’s conversion on the road to Damascus. (Acts 9)

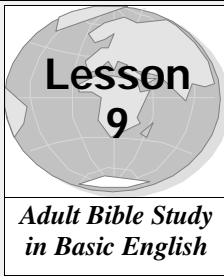
Many of us give ourselves to Christ after a period of study and questioning. We come to believe in Jesus because of godly people. They show by their lives that Christ lives in them.

It does not matter how we come to Christ. The way it happens is different with each person. All experiences are equal.

Will you let Jesus come into your heart? The Kingdom of God is open to everyone. Talk to your teacher or pastor about your relationship with Jesus. And you can tell the Good news, too!

### **Things to Think About**

1. The Kingdom of God is open to everyone.
2. God saved us and called us to be his own people.
3. He has ended the power of death.
4. God has promised us eternal life through Jesus Christ.
5. We are to tell others the Good News!

**Memory Verse**

Romans 12:2

Do not act like the sinful people of the world. Let God change your life... And the things you do will be good and pleasing and perfect.

**Word List**

**apostle:** one of the 12 disciples sent by Jesus to spread the Gospel

**exciting:** eager; to stir to action

**Bible Text****Romans 11:13-36**

- 13 I am speaking to you people who are not Jews. As long as I am a missionary to you, I want you to know how important my job is.
- 14 I do this so it will make my own people, the Jews, jealous. Then it may be that some will be saved from the punishment of sin.
- 15 Because the Jews have been put aside, many other people in the world have been saved from the punishment of sin. Think what it will be like when they are also gathered in. It will be like the dead coming back to life!
- 16 If the first loaf is holy, all the bread is holy. If the root is holy, all the branches are holy.
- 17 But some of the branches (who are the Jews) were

**GOD'S MERCY AND KINDNESS**

Giri Kartono came from Indonesia to the United States many years ago. He came to study at the University of Texas at Austin. He brought his wife, Noeniek, with him. Giri could speak English, but Noeniek could not. Noeniek was lonely at her little apartment while Giri was in school or at the library.

Dixie Perry was a worker in the Friendship Program sponsored by Baptist churches in Austin. She invited Noeniek to come to an English class. Noeniek and Dixie became friends.

In the Friendship Program, Noeniek learned English. She made many new friends. She was not so lonely. She saw that Christian people have a special relationship and love for each other. She began to wonder about Christianity.

After three years in Texas. Giri earned his doctor's degree. He and Noeniek returned to Indonesia. After they were home a few weeks, a Baptist missionary invited Noeniek to an English class near her house. Noeniek went so she would not forget how to speak English.

Soon, Noeniek wanted to accept Christ as her Lord and Savior. She was baptized. Giri was a kind husband. He took Noeniek to church every Sunday. But he waited in the car, reading the newspaper.

Giri noticed a change in his home. He noticed a change in his wife. She was more kind and gentle. She seemed to be filled with joy. One Sunday morning, Giri looked up from his newspaper at the people coming out of church. They were happy and smiling. They were like a family, filled with joy.

The next Sunday, Giri went into the church with Noeniek. He began to study the Bible. He had been a Muslim all his life. It was hard to think of becoming a Christian.

Eight years passed before Giri made a decision for Christ. When Jesus came into his life, Giri felt peace and joy like nothing he had ever felt before. He wished he had not waited so long.

Now, Dr. Giri Kartono has an important job for the country of Indonesia. Every week, he and Noeniek have a

broken off. You who are not Jews were put in the place where the branches had been broken off. Now you are sharing the rich root of the olive tree.

- 18 Do not be proud. Do not think you are better than the branches that were broken off. If you are proud, remember that you do not hold the root. It is the root that holds you.
- 19 You may say, "Branches were broken off to make room for me."
- 20 It is true. They were broken off because they did not put their trust in Christ. And you are there only because of your faith. Do not be proud. Instead, be afraid.
- 21 God did not keep the first branches (who are the Jews) on the tree. Then watch, or He will not keep you on the tree.
- 22 We see how kind God is. It shows how hard He is also. He is hard on those who fall away. But He is kind to you if you keep on trusting Him. If you do not, He will cut you off.
- 23 If the Jews would put their trust in Christ, God would put them back into the tree. He has power to do that.
- 24 You people who are not Jews were cut off from a wild olive tree. Instead of being there, you were put into a garden olive tree which is not the right place for you to grow. It would be easy for God to put the Jews back onto their own olive tree because they are the branches that belong there.
- 25 Christian brothers, I want you to understand this truth which is no longer a secret. It will keep you from thinking you are so wise. Some Jews have become hard until the right amount of people who are not Jews come to God.
- 26 Then all the Jews will be saved, as the Holy Writings say, "The One

Bible study group in their home. Dixie Perry was a good influence all those years ago. Now the Kartonos are influencing many others. They are telling the Good News!

### Paul Trusted God

Paul wrote about his own ministry. He saw his ministry as an **apostle** and teacher. He did his work because God had chosen him.

God chooses us in the same way. He gives each of us our own ministry. We are to tell the Good News. We are to live godly, Christian Lives. Paul suffered for his faith. But he had confidence in God.

It is not likely that we will suffer for our faith as Paul did. However, there are problems we have to face in our non-Christian world. We must change the way we live our lives if we truly believe the teachings of Jesus. This can cause a kind of suffering. It is different from Paul's suffering. But it is suffering, too.

Paul had confidence in God. We can trust Him in the same way. Believers can live with the confidence that God can make His plan work. And His plan includes the support and care of His children. We are His and he cares for us. What a wonderful thought!

### A Good Man

My grandfather did not lead such an **exciting** life as Paul did. Few of us do. Papa was a schoolteacher when he met and married my grandmother. After a few years, Mama and Papa came to Texas. Papa became a farmer. He worked hard all his life.

Papa trusted God. He lived through many hard times. Papa and Mama had two boys and two girls. They suffered when both little boys died. But Papa kept the faith. He leaned on God for help.

My grandfather saw hard times when his crops failed. He raised his family during years when he earned little money. Some years he could barely pay

Who saves from the punishment of sin will come out of Jerusalem. He will turn the Jews from doing sinful things.” (Isaiah 59:20-21)

- 27 “And this is My promise to them when I take away their sins.” (Isaiah 27:9)
- 28 The Jews are fighting against the Good News. Because they hate the Good News, it has helped you who are not Jews. But God still loves the Jews because He has chosen them and because of His promise to their early fathers.
- 29 God does not change His mind when He chooses men and gives them His gifts.
- 30 At one time you did not obey God. But when the Jews did not receive God’s gift, you did. It was because they did not obey.
- 31 The Jews will not obey now. God’s loving-kindness to you will some day turn them to Him. Then the Jews may have His loving-kindness also.
- 32 God has said that all men have broken His Law. But He will show loving-kindness on all of them.
- 33 God’s riches are so great! The things He knows and His wisdom are so deep! No one can understand His thoughts. No one can understand His ways.
- 34 The Holy Writings say, “Who knows the mind of the Lord? Who is able to tell Him what to do?” (Isaiah 40:13-14)
- 35 “Who has given first to God, that God should pay him back?” (Job 35:7; 41:11)
- 36 Everything comes from Him. His power keeps all things together. All things are made for Him. May He be honored forever. Let it be so.

his bills no matter how hard he worked.

People respected Papa. They knew he lived his faith. Often people asked Papa for advice. He was honest and hard working. He was a good influence on the people around him. He did the best he could in the place God had put him.

### **Good Times and Bad Times**

Life brings trouble. That is just the way life is. We can expect to face disappointment. We feel pain and sadness. We go through times of darkness. But the Christian can look at these times as an opportunity to find a better relationship with Jesus.

God gives us so many causes of joy. And yet, we all know people who enjoy counting their troubles. They enjoy sitting on their little crown of thorns. They never enjoy the blessings of each day.

Do not look at tomorrow with fear. Look at tomorrow with hope. We belong to God, and he will give us the strength to serve Him. He will lead us safely through all things. He will carry us in his arms when we cannot stand.

The same God who cared for Paul cares for you and me today. Do not fear tomorrow. Either God will protect us from suffering or He will give us the strength to bear it.

### **Things to Think About**

1. Paul served the Lord with courage.
2. If we do our best to serve God, He will give us the strength we need.
3. God never fails us even when others do.
4. If we do our best, God will reward us.
5. We will live with Him in His heavenly Kingdom.

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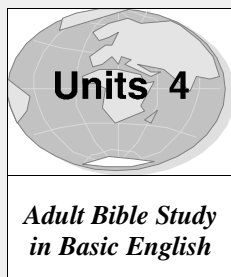
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◇ ROMANS: ◇

**GOOD NEWS FOR A TROUBLED WORLD**

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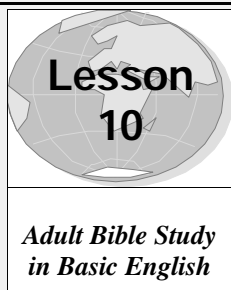
**UNIT 4: How Should We Live?**

**Lesson 10 Give Yourselves-Together  
(Romans 12:1-8)**

**Lesson 11 - Live The Way Of Love  
(Romans 12:9-12, 13:8-10)**

**Lesson 12 - Christians And Leaders  
(Romans 13:1-7)**

**Lesson 13 Accept Christians Who  
Are Different From You  
(Romans 14:1-4, 13-19; 15:1-7)**



**Bible Text**  
Romans 12:1-8

**Memory Verse**  
Romans 12:1

Christian brothers, I ask you from my heart to give your bodies to God because of His loving-kindness to us. Let your bodies be a living and holy gift given to God. He is pleased with this kind of gift.

**UNIT 4**

**HOW SHOULD WE LIVE?**

**U**nit 4 is a study of Romans 12-15. The lessons deal with the way God wants each Christian to live his/her life every day.

Give Your Very Selves Together (Lesson 10)

Live the Way Of Love (Lesson 11)

Christians And Leaders (Lesson 12)

Accept Christians Who Are Different  
From You (Lesson 13)

**Give Your Very Selves-Together**

People usually think of Romans 12-15 as chapters that teach us many things about God. They think of Romans 12-15 as the chapters Paul wrote to tell us how to live. All of Romans teaches how to live and what it means to follow Jesus.

God has sent His Son Jesus for us. Paul tells us what we can do for God. What does God want? God wants us to give ourselves. We want to do God's will.

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*Phyllis Merritt wrote the last four lessons of this study. She first began teaching Internationals when she and her husband, Jack, were home missionaries in an apartment complex of 25,000 people in New York City in 1970. She has taught English-as-a-second-language and Bible studies for Internationals in New York City; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Atlanta, Georgia and now at First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas. She writes for Our Missions World, the WMU publication for language missions. For the past three summers she has taught English at a university in China. The Merritts have two sons.*

**Word List****“body of Christ”**

**(church):** The church is made of believers. Jesus is the head of the church and the members are parts of the body.

**living gifts:** a sacrifice or a gift to God.

**holy:** special for God, pure. A holy person is pure, belongs only to God. A holy person does what God wants.

**Romans 12:1-8**

- 1 Christian brothers, I ask you from my heart to give your bodies to God because of His loving-kindness to us. Let your bodies be a living and holy gift given to God. He is pleased with this kind of gift. This is the true worship that you should give Him.
- 2 Do not act like the sinful people of the world. Let God change your life. First of all, let Him give you a new mind. Then you will know what God wants you to do. And the things you do will be good and pleasing and perfect.

We can be a part of a group of believers who work together for God.

**Respond To God’s Loving-Kindness**

Romans 12:1-2

Look at the first two verses in Romans chapter 12. They are important for this lesson and for all the rest of the chapters in Romans. Followers of Christ are not to live the way the world lives. We should want to do the will of God. All of our life is to be lived as called ones from God.

In the first eleven Chapters of Romans Paul told of God’s loving-kindness. Paul reminds us of what God has done for us. He said, “Let your bodies be a holy and **living gift** given to God. (Romans 12:1) “Holy” means pure and given especially to God.

Before Jesus was born, people gave gifts of grain or a live animal to God. Then the animal was killed. Now Paul tells us to give a living gift. Give yourself. Jesus was our living gift. He had to die for us to give us life that lasts forever. Now we can be a living gift for Jesus. This pleases God.

Some people think they need only to give their time or money. What God really wants is for us to give Him back the new life He has given us.

This new life means change. To begin, we give God our way of thinking. We are to have a new mind when we change. This mind is to be from God. The way we think is the way we act. We want to have a mind like Jesus. Then our way of thinking is not the world’s way of thinking. Our minds are made new by God’s Spirit. We learn to obey. To obey is to live by faith so we can do the will of God.

We do not want to let the world make us stay like it is. This will not make us holy or happy. When we have God making our minds right we will show it by doing what He wants us to do.

One time I was walking on a beach looking for shells. I found something else. There were pieces of broken glass on the sand with the seashells. But this glass was not sharp and did not cut.

People call this “beach glass.” They make beautiful pieces of jewelry to wear as necklaces and earrings. The sand and



- 3 God has given me His loving-favor. This helps me write these things to you. I ask each one of you not to think more of himself than he should think. Instead, think in the right way toward yourself by the faith God has given you.
- 4 Our bodies are made up of many parts. None of these parts have the same use.
- 5 There are many people who belong to Christ. And yet, we are one body which is Christ's. We are all different but we depend on each other.
- 6 We all have different gifts that God has given to us by His loving-favor. We are to use them. If someone has the gift of preaching the Good News, he should preach. He should use the faith God has given him.
- 7 If someone has the gift of helping others, then he should help. If someone has the gift of teaching, he should teach.

water take all the sharp edges off the glass. It is nice and smooth and round.

This is what God can do with our thinking. He can take all the sharp, rough edges off. He wants to change us into something useful and beautiful for Him. When we give God our lives we do this as members of the church. This is the best way to do the will of God in the world.

### **Look at What God Wants You to Do**

Roman 12: 3-5

Each Christian is part of the body of Christ. God has given each Christian something special to do for Him. We do things in the church. We do things for the church in the world.

Paul says there is no room in the Christian life to think better of your self than of others. Also, do not think too little of your self. God made you and loves you. He gives you special things to do. When we think the way God wants us to think, we will think of ways we can use our gifts to help others.

We learn from the first chapter of Genesis that we are made in image of God. We know that Jesus loved us enough to die for us. God wants us to tell others that Jesus loves them. With faith, we can do what God wants us to do. The things we do for God are different. But we work together.

### **One Person Working with Others**

Romans 12:4-5

No person is the same as another. So, the way we tell others about God can be different. This way we can do a better job as we work together. We are still a part of one body and that one body belongs to Christ. Another word for body is "church." Sometimes, we say we are "going to church." What we really mean we are going to meet with other believers. Christians are the church.

### **Gifts Are to Be Used**

Romans 12:6-8

In these verses Paul tells us to be faithful and to use what we have been given for God. We are to use all the different gifts so the church can work together. Then the church can do its job in the world.

8 If someone has the gift of speaking words of comfort and help he should speak. If someone has the gift of sharing what he has, he should give from a willing heart. If someone has the gift of leading other people he should lead them. If someone has the gift of showing kindness to others, he should be happy as he does it.

We are to work together. When one person does something well that helps us do our job too. We belong to God and we help each other. Paul talks about seven different gifts.

1. Some people can preach the Good News. Paul says they should preach with faith.
2. Some people can help others.
3. Some can teach.
4. Others can speak words of comfort.
5. Some can share.
6. Some lead other people.
7. Others show kindness. Paul says to be happy as you show kindness.

Jesus is our example of teaching and preaching and helping. Everything he did, He did with love. All of these things show the power of God. All are gifts from God to those who have faith in Jesus. These are not gifts that come in a box with a ribbon. They are how God shows Himself in us. When we obey and use our gifts, God gives us power to do more for him.

### **Things To Think About**

1. God has given you gifts with His loving kindness. What are you doing to help people? What are you doing to tell others about Jesus?
2. The body of Christ is made up of people who have different gifts. How are you working in the body of Christ?
3. Why is it good not to think more of yourself than you should? What happens when you do?
4. Why is it good not to think too little of yourself than you should? What happens when you do?

### **Read This Week**

Paul writes in five different places about gifts God has given us. There are a total of 19 gifts. Read these verses.

Monday: Romans 12:6-8

Tuesday: I Corinthians 12: 8-10

Wednesday: I Corinthians 12: 28-30

Thursday: Ephesians 4:11

Friday: I Peter 4:11



*Adult Bible Study  
in Basic English*

### Bible Text

Romans 12:9-21; 13:8-10

### Memory Verse

Romans 12:11b

Work hard for the Lord  
with a heart full of love for  
Him.

### Word List

**neighbor:** more than a  
person who lives near  
another. A neighbor is  
anyone who needs our help.  
**owe:** a debt, the need to pay  
for something you have  
received from someone.

### Romans 12: 9-21; 13:8-10

- 9 Be sure your love is true  
love. Hate what is sinful.  
Hold on to whatever is  
good.
- 10 Love each other as  
Christian brothers. Show  
respect for each other.
- 11 Do not be lazy but  
always work hard. Work

## LIVE THE WAY OF LOVE

When we become a follower of Christ, we are not alone. We are members of a body with others who are also followers. Paul teaches us about what we are to do. We are to love each other. This means we serve, feel for, take care of, and pray for each other. Everything we do, we do with love.

### Love Is Something You Do

Romans 12:9-13

Love is not just a word for songs or poems or cards. Love is a word that is practical. It is a word that acts.

Love is not just for special days or special people. Love is what we show because we are Christians.

My husband and I met a little girl at a camp. These were girls who had troubles. She did not know much about love. She did many bad things. She tried to burn buildings at the camp. All the workers at the camp tried to show her love. She did not want to see their love. My husband said, "After a time all the love we had for her was gone. But then God gave us His love for her." One night she changed. She asked Jesus to come into her life. She told the other campers, "Before, I did not like anyone here. I wanted to destroy this place. But you loved me too much." God's love helps us love others even when it is not easy.

Today people talk about "falling in love." Or married people might say to each other, "I don't love you anymore." Paul teaches how we should live the way of love.

Verses 10-13 give us nine ways we should show our love. Read these verses again to see if you can find them. Underline the ways we are told to live in love.

for the Lord with a heart full of love for Him.

- 12 Be happy in your hope. Do not give up when trouble comes. Do not let anything stop you from praying.
- 13 Share what you have with Christian brothers who are in need. Give meals and a place to stay to those who need it.
- 14 Pray and give thanks for those who make trouble for you. Yes, pray for them instead of talking against them.
- 15 Be happy with those who are happy. Be sad with those who are sad.
- 16 Live in peace with each other. Do not act or think with pride. Be happy to be with poor people. Keep yourself from thinking you are so wise.
- 17 When someone does something bad to you, do not pay him back with something bad. Try to do what all men know is right and good.
- 18 As much as you can, live in peace with all men.
- 19 Christian brothers, never pay back someone for the bad he has done to you. Let the anger of God take care of the other person. The Holy Writings

*(Bible verses continued on page 3)*

In the Bible, love is strong. It is a choice, but it is a choice we can make with God's help. We need to love with God's kind of love. His kind of love wants what is best for the other person.

Love keeps on giving and love controls itself. Paul tells what our life should be. It is a life of love. This kind of love will hate what is wrong. We will not hate people. We will hate what hurts people.

To see real love, look at the life of Jesus. God gave up His Son. God's love was as big as a death on a cross. Love will do what God wants and not do what the world says. Love knows that some things will make you happy for a short time, but love is willing to wait for the best. Love is not weak. It is tough. Love saves.

God shows us love. He also hates evil. God must judge those who do wrong. He wants us to do right. He waits for those who do wrong to turn to Him.

Love is shown by the way that we act toward other people. We treat other Christians as our brothers and sisters. We are not to think more of them than we think of ourselves.

When we do not love, we are not living the way Jesus wants us to. When we love we live a life that serves.

God also gives us hope. He gives us joy. We know that we will live with God. Times of trouble do not keep us from having hope. We pray and we do not give up.

When we have the gift of God's mercy, we understand how other people feel. We help others and we try to find ways to invite them to share what we have.

God has invited us to his home to live forever. We learn how to share with others too.

say, "I will pay back to them what they should get, says the Lord." (Deuteronomy 32:35)

20 "If the one who hates you is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him water. If you do that, you will be making him more ashamed of himself." (Proverbs 25:21-22).

21 Do not let sin have power over you. Let good have power over sin!

... 22-29, 13:1-7...

8 Do not owe anyone anything, but love each other. Whoever loves his neighbor has done what the Law says to do.

9 The Law says, "You must not do any sex sin. You must not kill another person. You must not steal. You must not tell a lie about another person. You must not want something someone else has." The Law also says that these and many other Laws are brought together in one Law, "You must love your neighbor as yourself."

10 Anyone who loves his neighbor will do no wrong to him. You keep the Law in love.

### Understanding How Others Feel

Romans 12:14-16

It is easier to love people who love us. Paul tells us that if we are to be like God and have his mind, we will love those who are making trouble for us because of what we believe. We will do these things to show others that we understand how they feel.

God wants us to be a people who help others. We belong to God. He knows how many hairs are on our heads. When other people are happy, we can be happy with them. When they are sad, we can be sad with them.

We will live in peace with others. There is no Christian who is better than another Christian. God has given all of us the way to be His children. We love and look at other people the way Jesus does. Jesus said the first would be last. He showed us how to serve. Do you remember when Jesus washed His followers' feet? We are to think of no one as beneath us. Think of every person as someone Jesus died for.

### God Will Take Care Of Evil People

Romans 12:17-21

Paul told the Christians in Rome that they were not to ever pay back evil for evil to someone. Instead, we are to be the kind of people who will do what is right and good, even when others do not do what is right and good to us.

Paul knew that sometimes it is hard to have peace between people. We must wait for God to take care of others who do evil in His own way and His own time. That is God's job. Trying to make sure evil people get what is coming to them is not our job.

So, we do not try to fight evil with evil. We can show them the power of good against evil. Paul says

that if our enemy is hungry we should give him something to eat and drink. What is the only way to overcome evil? Show love.

Some missionaries were robbed and taken out of their home by five men with guns. These men told them they were going to kill them. While Christians all over the world were praying, the men with guns let them go. The missionaries said they remembered verses from the Bible and asked God to have glory if they lived or if they died.

They asked for us to pray for the robbers “that the words of love and kindness, and the witness we gave them from the Lord will convict them; they will be saved and changed into the people God has planned for them to be.” (Missions Mosaic, WMU, April 2000, page 27)

### **Love Is What The Law Is All About** **We Owe Love To Everyone**

Romans 13:8-10

We should pay what we **owe** to people. We should really not owe anyone. The only thing we owe is to love everyone. Love is something we can never repay. We keep on loving others all our lives.

God has given us laws. We call them the Ten Commandments. A short way to say the laws is to say that we are to love our **neighbor**. **Neighbor** means anyone

who needs our help. Anyone means Jew or non-Jew, rich or poor, young or old, male or female.

We learn much about love from what Jesus did and said, and from what Paul wrote. This kind of love is given without wanting something in return. Even when the person we give our love to does not do what we want, we still love. It pays whatever price necessary. Love never gives up, never quits, and always keeps hoping. Do you know someone who loves in this way?

Love gives and love lasts. Live the way of love.

### **Things To Think About**

1. How can believers show love and hate what is evil at the same time?
2. Who do you know who shows love?
3. How can you show love this week?
4. Who do you know that you can be happy with this week? Who do you know that you can help when they feel sad?

### **To Do This Week**

1. Read what Paul said about love in 1Corinthians 13. Write ways these writings are the same as what Paul wrote in this lesson.
2. Read what Jesus said about loving our neighbor in Luke 10: 30-37.



*Adult Bible Study  
in Basic English*

### Bible Text

Romans 13:1-7

### Memory Verse

Romans 13:1b

... There is no power  
given but from God . . .

### Word List

**citizens:** the people who  
live in a country.

**government:** the way we  
are ruled by those in  
power

**tax (es):** money which  
must be paid from what  
we earn to pay for what  
the government needs.

### Romans 13:1-7

1 Every person must  
obey the leaders of the  
land. There is no  
power given but from  
God, and all leaders  
are allowed by God.

## CHRISTIANS AND GOVERNMENT

In the first part of Romans chapter 12 we learned that Christians have been changed and are members of the body of Christ. But we also live in the world and are ruled by a **government**. God gives **government** to people so they can live together. He also gives the power to those who are the rulers. We are followers of Christ. We live with those who are not followers of Christ. We must get along with them and show them the right way to live.

### Obey Those Who Are Leaders

Romans 13: 1-2

What would happen if everyone drove on any side of the road that they wanted? Or what would happen if there were not any speed limits? Anyone could drive as fast as they wanted to drive!

We need rules and laws and leaders. This is God's plan. There are many kinds of power in this world. But above all these powers, there is God.

Some people have hearts that want to say no to all those who are leaders. They need to learn that God gives the power to the leaders. We love Jesus and so we want to obey Him. He taught us how to control our lives and obey God. In this way we can obey the rulers God has given power to.

Jesus sometimes told leaders that they were doing wrong things. But he also told His followers that they should give to the leaders what belonged to them and to God what belonged to God. Jesus was on trial before the ruler named Pilate. Jesus was asked by Pilate, "Do you not know, I have the right and the power to nail You to a cross?" Jesus said, "You would not have any right or power over Me if it were not given from above." (John 19:10)

### What The Leader Must Do

Romans 13:3-4

When we do what is right we do not have to fear leaders. They will punish evil and take care of those who do good. If they do not do what they should do they will be judged.

They remind us that one day we will be judged also. It is the job of **government** to make sure that people who do bad

- 2 The person who does not obey the leaders of the land is working against what God has done. Anyone who does that will be punished.
- 3 Those who do right do not have to be afraid of the leaders. Those who do wrong are afraid of them. Do you want to be free from fear of them? Then do what is right. You will be respected instead.
- 4 Leaders are God's servants to help you. If you do wrong, you should be afraid. They have the power to punish you. They work for God. They do what God wants done to those who do wrong.
- 5 You must obey the leaders of the land, not only to keep from God's anger, but so your own heart will have peace.
- 6 It is right for you to pay taxes because the leaders of the land are servants for God who care for these things.

things are punished. It is the job of the **government** to make sure that people who do right things will be safe.

Leaders are God's workmen. Leaders can get in trouble when they forget their power comes from God. They need to remember not to try to take a place higher than God's place.

We cannot always understand how God uses certain rulers. The man who ruled the Jewish people when they were slaves in Egypt was not a good man. But we read that God said, "I made you leader for this reason: I used you to make My name known over all the world." (Romans 9:17)

Another ruler, named Nebuchadnezzar, thought he was better than God. He took away the gold and silver from the temple in Jerusalem. At the end of his life he had changed. He learned that God was the One with power. He wrote about God and said, ". . .He does as He pleases with the angels of heaven and the people of the earth. No one can hold back His hand . . ." (Daniel 4: 35b)

Paul had times when he saw leaders who did wrong things. They did not use the power God gave them in a right way. Paul told them they were wrong. (Read Acts 16:35-40.)

Peter and John told some leaders that they must obey God and not obey them when their rules were different from God's rules.

### **We Do What Is Right Because Of Fear And Because We Know It Is The Right Thing To Do**

Romans 13:5-7

Leaders can do their job because God lets them do it. No one should make laws for only himself or herself. No one can say that laws are only for other people. We will be in trouble if we do that.

We obey what is good and true because it is the right thing to do. We are not God and we do not know all things. We want our heart to be at peace. Christians should be the best citizens. We know that the **government's** power comes from God. We know that the **government** will be looking at us too.



- 7 Pay taxes to whom taxes are to be paid. Be afraid of those you should fear. Respect those you should respect.

### Agree Or Disagree

- “Love is a debt which is multiplied by paying.” (Augustine)
2. “A bad **government** is almost always better than no **government** at all.”
3. If we are going to know the blessings and the pleasure of God . . .
- if we are going to grow in our faith . . .
- if we are truly going to make Christ king in our lives . . .
- Then we must be willing to give everything,
- not just to pay taxes because the Bible tells us to,
- but to pay taxes because God is God
- and He has made the plan for this world
- and we are only his servants.

Next, we are also taught that it is good to pay taxes. Jesus also taught us this. Read Matthew 22:21. Some people complain about taxes. But one man said, “Be grateful you have to pay them because that means you have made some money. If you have no money, then you can pay no taxes.”

The money paid in taxes takes care of our **government**. We get good things from our **government**: highways, schools, garbage pick-up, fire fighters, police, and parks. The money also helps needy people.

We owe love and respect to God through Jesus. We also need to support the ones who serve God as leaders. There are many people who deserve our respect. The way we treat people who have power shows what kind of person we are. We are God’s children. We are being made like Him.

We are citizens of countries while we live in this world. We can love our country. At the same time, Christians are citizens of heaven. We will do what God wants and understand that God is the only One who will rule forever.

### A Prayer for Leaders

Lord, keep our country safe.  
 Bless the leaders of our land.  
 Help us to be at peace.  
 Help us to help other countries of the world.

### Things To Think About

1. What does the **government** do that is good for you? What ways do you thank God for the **government** He has given to you?
2. What are some ways you live under different **government** rules?
3. Who are some good rulers you know about?
4. George W. Truett said that one thing the United States showed the rest of the world is that we are free to worship God the way we think best. The **government** cannot make you go to church or give your money to a certain church. “God wants free worshipers and no other kind.”
5. Peter said, “We ought to obey God rather than man.” Read Acts 4:18-20 again.



*Adult Bible Study  
in Basic English*

### **Bible Text**

Romans 14:1-4,13-19; 15:1-7

### **Memory Verse**

Romans 15:7

Receive each other as  
Christ received you. This will  
honor God.

### **Word List**

**argue:** to fight with words, to  
talk about and not agree

### **Romans 14:1-4,13-19; 15:1-7**

- 1 If there is someone whose faith is weak, be kind and receive him. Do not **argue** about what he thinks.
- 2 One man believes he may eat everything. Another man with weak faith eats only vegetables.
- 3 The man who eats everything should not think he is better than the one who eats only vegetables. The man who eats only vegetables should not say the other man is wrong, because God has received him.
- 4 Who are you to tell another person's servant if he is

## **ACCEPT CHRISTIANS WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM YOU**

Christians should be like Christ and accept people who practice their faith in Christ in different ways.

Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome talks about love. Paul told how God loved both Jews and those who are not Jews. God loves all people. God has sent Jesus so that all people could be made right with Him. Paul wrote many words about how Christians should accept other Christians who do things in a different way or think in a different way.

When people first believe in Jesus, they bring with them the things that make them different. But we are all alike in one way. We all need Jesus. So we must learn to love each other. We belong to the body of Christ.

We worship in different ways. Some like one kind of music and some like another. Some like one kind of sermon and some like another. It is important to know the difference between what is true and what is a matter of likes and dislikes.

We need to learn to love one another and worship together and serve one another.

This way we may do what is good for one another. This is more important than having things our way in matters of worship.

### **The Strong And The Weak Christians Have Different Ideas**

Romans 14:1-4

Paul is writing to the Christians in Rome. The Jewish Christians and the non-Jewish Christians argued about the Jewish Law. Those who had been Jewish wanted to keep the laws about food and the religious

right or wrong? It is to his owner that he does good or bad. The Lord is able to help him.

...5-12...

13 So you should stop saying that you think other people are wrong.

Instead, decide to live so that your Christian brothers will not have a reason to trip or fall into sin because of you.

14 Christ has made me know that everything in itself is clean. But if a person thinks something is not clean, then to him it is not clean.

15 If your Christian brother is hurt because of some foods you eat, then you are not longer living by love. Do not destroy the man for whom Christ died by the food you eat.

16 Do not let what is good for you be talked about as bad.

17 For the holy nation of God is not food and drink. It is being right with God. It is peace and joy given by the Holy Spirit.

18 If you follow Christ in these things, God will be happy with you. Men will think well of you also.

19 Work for the things that make peace and help each other become stronger Christians.

...20-23, 15:...

1 We who have strong faith should help those who are weak. We should not live to please ourselves.

2 Each of us should live to please his neighbor. This will help him grow in faith.

3 Even Christ did not please Himself. The Holy Writings say, "The sharp

days.

Paul called the group that wanted to keep the rules "the weak." He called the other group "the strong." He did not mean that they were right or wrong. He meant that those who were "weak" thought they should keep the old laws. The "strong" were not as concerned about these diets or holy days.

Paul had already written many times about those who said that you had to do these things in order to be a Christian. He said they were wrong. (See Galatians 2:11-14;4:21-5:4). There were times that Paul practiced the old laws. But he wanted to make sure that everyone understood that he or she did not have to obey the old laws to become a Christian. (I Corinthians 9:19-23; Acts 15:1-29)

Paul told the ones who were "strong" to love the ones who were "weak." He said it is wrong for them to act like they are better. He also said it is wrong for the "weak" to judge those who are different. You can have different ideas about matters that are not important.

Both groups are Christians. Both groups should serve the other. It is the right of Christ to judge. If we act as the judge we are taking the place of Christ. We belong to Jesus (Romans 14:4). Later all of us will stand to be judged. (See Romans 14:8-12 and 2 Corinthians 5:10)

### **Keep Your Eye On What Is Most Important**

Romans 14:13-19

Paul asked both the strong and the weak Christians to know that it is more important to

words spoken against you fell on Me.” (Psalm 69:9)

- 4 Everything that was written in the Holy Writings long ago was written to teach us. By not giving up, God’s Word gives us strength and hope.
- 5 Now the God Who helps you not to give up and gives you strength will help you think so you can please each other as Christ Jesus did.
- 6 Then all of you together can thank the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 7 Receive each other as Christ received you. This will honor God.

#### **Agree Or Disagree**

1. I can work for peace and to be as one with others.
2. I do not let anything make a wall between me and other people.
3. I always want everyone to do things my way.
4. My first thought should be not for myself but for the needs of my neighbor.
5. I cannot take the part of God and try to decide for someone else what he should do.
6. I can learn with others what is God’s best for us.
7. When I love another I will learn that we agree on the most important things and can be one.
8. It does not matter if those who are not Christians see me angry with my Christian brother.

grow to be like Christ than to try to make everyone think the same way you think.

Some things are important forever. Food, rules, and other things like those are not.

Every Christian is on a road where they are trying to be like Jesus. We should not put something in the way of another Christian. Thinking of others is more important. Others will think of us in the wrong way if we spend all our time judging.

We should encourage and love and help each other. We must not insist on our own way.

God’s kingdom should be filled with people who have peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. We serve Christ, and God is happy with us. Others will think well of us when we do these things.

#### **Do What Christ Did – Live For Others**

##### **And Help Others**

Romans 15:1-7

As Christians we are free to choose to serve others. Jesus did not live to please himself. Paul said that the Christians in Rome also should not live to please themselves. We are to do what Christ did. We can live to please our neighbors.

Paul used a verse from Psalm 69:9. We can be encouraged by the Bible verses. This helps us to be faithful to serve. (Romans 15:3-4).

Paul reminds us that Christians can do nothing better than to live our lives the way Jesus did. We need to think the same way Jesus thought, with a loving heart. We are interested, then, in what others need. Sometimes when we follow Christ, we must be willing to suffer as Christ suffered. We must also be able to get along with brothers and sisters in the

faith who do not think exactly the same way we think.

God helps us so that we will not give up. Verse 4 says “Everything that was written in the Holy Writings long ago was written to teach us. By not giving up, God’s Word gives us strength and hope.” Read in the Bible about others who did not give up hope.

Read the Bible and learn to have hope. Paul tells us not to give up. My grandmother prayed for one of her sons. He had left home more than thirty years before. She did not hear from him in all that time. She believed the Bible. She did not stop praying. She did not give up. The Bible gave her strength and hope. Finally, one day he returned home. She said, “I always knew he would return.”

Verse 5 says that God helps us not to give up and gives us strength and helps us think. When we think this way, we will be able to please one another. We will not be worried about those things that divide us. We will not think badly of others.

We will worship God who is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 15:6).

This is what Paul wants. We also learn this from the Holy Writings and from the life of Christ: We must lay down our way of thinking too much of our selves. We will welcome or receive all Christians. They are our brothers because

God is our Father also. Read again Romans 14:1 “If there is someone whose faith is weak, be kind and receive him.”

Paul has written many verses in these chapters teaching us how to live with Christian brothers and sisters. Perhaps he knew that we needed many reminders. We must learn to welcome everyone. Jesus died for all.

Together we worship Jesus Who died on the cross and is alive again. He is the One who is true and will judge the living and the dead. He is the One who will rule all people.

### **Things To Think About**

1. How many ways would your church worship if each person decided how we would worship?
2. Read Galatians 1:6-12 and I Corinthians 9:19-23. What does Paul say is most important?
3. What does Paul say might not be so important in Romans 14?
4. What could you change about what you do to help others?

### **To Do**

Take some special action to show love to your neighbor this week.