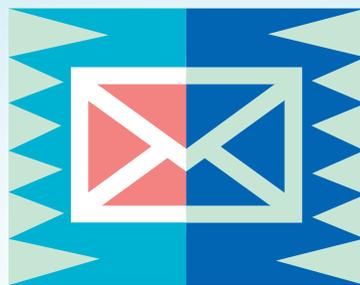


New Testament Survey

Righteousness by Faith

Studying Romans



For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

5



CBLT

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Righteousness by Faith

Romans



LESSON OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
- II. The Doctrine of Salvation
 - A. Exploring Romans
 - B. Establishing the Historical Perspective
 - 1. Authorship and Audience
 - 2. Date
 - 3. Geography
 - 4. General Background
 - C. Examining the Text
 - 1. Theme
 - 2. Key Verse
 - 3. Topics and Teachings
 - 4. Romans: Jesus Christ, Our Righteousness
- III. Conclusion

Self Test

Appendix. Let's Look At Romans

LESSON OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson you should:

1. Know the author, audience, basic outline, key verse, and primary teaching of Romans.
2. Be able to explain why Romans was written and its importance for us in this day and age.
3. Be reminded of God's great justice and gift of salvation.
4. Find someone with whom to share your passion about Jesus.
5. Share with others the basic doctrinal truths of Romans.
6. Rediscover the *foundational principle* of the Christian faith: "The just shall live by faith alone".
7. Revel in the *complete work of Christ* on the cross.

LESSON ASSIGNMENTS

1. Read through and complete the entire lesson.
2. Read through Romans.
3. Read the appendix, Chapter 7 of *A Look at the New Testament*.
4. Complete the Practical Assignment.

I. Introduction

The Epistle to the Romans is the foundational book of doctrine. But this is not just dry doctrine, nor something to be argued about. As you grow in your understanding of this critical book in the New Testament, your faith will be strengthened and you will walk in the surety of what Jesus Christ your Savior has done for you.

This lesson consist of questions, exercises and assignments that will help you to dig into this epistle, opening up your understanding to the context in which it was written, and helping you to interact with God's Word. There are answers in the workbook to help you if you get stuck. In addition there is a self test included so that you can review what you have learned.

You need to have a Bible or New Testament which you will feel free to mark up as you will be required to make many markings. When you read, always keep a pen beside you so that you can mark whenever you find something particularly important to you. You will also need a personal notebook for written assignments. In addition there is a supplement, *New Testament Geography and Chronology*, which you must have to complete some of the exercises. If you did not receive one, please ask your leader.

You can do this study on your own, but it will be much more beneficial if you meet with a group and discuss what you are learning and discovering. We are meant to help and encourage and share with each other. It gives all of us more insights and greater joy. And then there is the issue of accountability. So often we have good intentions, but... Life is full and we easily lay aside a study, and then it gets buried. We need to spur each other on! Knowing that you are going to meet with a group often provides that extra incentive to dig in and learn. And every moment spent in the Word of God will build truth into your life and faith in your heart.

II. The Doctrine of Salvation

A. Exploring Romans



Exercise 1

Read and mark Romans. Before going any further in this lesson, sit down and read Romans. If possible read it out loud. Read slowly and thoughtfully, trying to understand all that you can from its rich text. As you read mark the following words in your Bible:

Yellow -- "Righteousness"
Green -- "Gospel"
Purple -- "Faith"

There are a number of other important words in Romans and you may wish to mark some of them as well. They are: "sin" which occurs 45 times, "death" occurs 25 times, "law" 78 times, and "grace" 21 times.

As you read you will find it helpful to follow the outline below. This is only one brief outline. As you have time you will find it interesting to develop your own outline. This is an effective way to begin sorting out ideas, and can become as detailed as you have the time and interest to work on developing it.

OUTLINE OF ROMANS		
I.	The Gospel Introduced	1:1–17
II.	The tragedy of Sin	1:18–3:23
III.	Salvation Provided	3:21–8:39
IV	Israel and God’s Plan	9:1–11:36
V.	Practical Christianity	12:1–16:27

B. Establishing the Historical Perspective

1. Authorship and Audience

Let’s do a review on this. We already know that Paul is the author.



Question 1 How does he identify himself in 1:1?



Question 2 Who was Romans written to? Which verse tells us this?

2. Date

According to *Jensen’s Survey of the New Testament*, “Paul wrote Romans from Corinth toward the end of his third missionary journey, around A.D. 56.”¹



Exercise 2

Plot Romans on the dateline. Turn to the supplement, *New Testament Geography and Chronology*, and write “Romans” into the appropriate blank.

3. Geography



Exercise 3

Locate Rome on the map. Using Map 3 locate modern-day Rome in the supplement. Now turn to Map 1 and plot Rome on there.

4. General Background

We are looking at the epistle that Paul wrote to the Roman church before he was imprisoned there. When Paul wrote Romans he had never been there, but was intending to make a personal trip (Romans 15:28-32).



Question 3 According to information included earlier in this lesson, from where was Romans written?

¹ Irving L. Jensen, *Jensen’s Survey of the New Testament*. — Chicago: Moody Press. — 1981. — P. 248.

During this time period Rome was becoming known for the extravagances of its citizens and especially the emperors. Jensen briefly touches on this as he describes the city:²

When Paul wrote this letter Rome was the largest and most important city of the world (estimated population: one to four million). Emperor Nero had just begun to rule (A.D. 54-68), and anti-Christian persecutions had not yet begun. The city's population was made up of the usual mixture of a large city: wealth, poverty, capitalism, slavery, citizens, aliens, religion, worldliness. There was a large number of Jews living in Rome at the time, for about a dozen synagogues were located throughout the city.

Jensen also notes that the church in Rome was probably made up of Jews and a large number of God-fearing Gentiles who had converted to Christianity.³ Some of these Christians may have come from other parts of the Roman empire originally and simply spread the gospel when they moved to Rome (see Romans 16:1-15).



Question 4 What does Acts 2:5-11 tell us about the beginning of the Roman church?

It is obvious from Romans 15-16 that part of Paul's purpose in writing to the church at Rome was to introduce himself to them and prepare them for his proposed visit.

Knowing that the church in Rome had probably not had a lot of teaching or visits from the other apostles, Paul must have wanted to make sure that they were solidly founded and established in the truth, so that when he visited them he would not have to start from the beginning but would be able to build on the solid foundation of their faith. This forethought would have probably also enabled him to move on more quickly to Spain as he was planning (Romans 15:23-25).

Paul could not have penned this letter at a better time. Nero had just come to the throne and within a few years he began the persecution of the church. Once he had sanctioned the persecution of Christians in Rome, it spread throughout the empire much more quickly. The epistle of Romans would have strengthened and solidified the church for the attack that it was beginning to come under.

C. Examining the Content

1. Theme

Paul had spent many years preaching the gospel already and had overcome many personal trials and attacks as well. All of his experience goes into this book. Here we reap the benefit of Paul's learning as a Jew and his experience as a Christian sharing the gospel with Gentiles. His many years of trying to convince the Jews that Gentiles (which means anybody who is not a Jew) could also be included in God's family come out in his theme for Romans:

The gospel of the righteousness of God.

The whole gospel is laid out in this book very methodically and clearly.

² Ibid., pp. 248–249.

³ Ibid., p. 249.

2. Key Verse

The key verse for Romans is one that should be familiar to you, particularly if you completed *Basic Christian Life*. Take time now to refresh your memory of this verse as well as think about how it summarizes the content of Romans.



Question 5 Write Romans 1:16-17 on the lines below.

3. Topics and Teachings

Salvation

This letter gives us the basic doctrines of salvation. We are going to use a little different approach to help you think about these key issues, and more importantly to make practical use of them.

The **Roman Road** is a simple tool for evangelism. You can memorize all of it or memorize the first reference or just keep the first reference bookmarked in your Bible. As long as you have your Bible (or New Testament) with you, you don't need any other tools. The verses with titles are listed below. There is also a restatement of each verse to clarify the principle that is being conveyed. The necessary action is listed after that. You can use these to develop your own dialogue when witnessing.

❖ **Approach**

You need to think how you are going to approach someone to share the gospel with them. Questions are usually a good way to get someone's attention.

One example of effective questions is:

If you were to die today, do you know for sure that you would go to heaven?

If the response is "no" then:

"Would you like to know for sure?"

If the response is "yes" then the follow up question would be:

"What would you say to God if He asked you, 'Why should I let you into my heaven?'"

The normal response is, "I've tried to be good," "I'm not that bad of a person," etc.

Or another simple way to introduce the subject is:

Do you believe in God? (yes or no answer)

Have you ever read the Bible? (no) Well, let me explain the message of the Bible. (yes) Did you understand the message of the Bible? (Most people will give a "no" or an indefinite answer.)

Well, let me explain the message of the Bible.

❖ **All Have Sinned**

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Have you ever done anything wrong?

We all have sin in our hearts. We all were born with sin. I was. You were.

We were born under the power of sin's control.

- *Admit that you are a sinner.*

So we have a problem because God is perfect and He cannot accept sin into heaven. Not only that, because He is just He must punish sin.

❖ **Sin's Penalty**

Romans 6:23a "...The wages of sin is death..."

Sin has an ending. It results in death. We all face physical death, which is a result of sin. (If you have the opportunity you can add here the story of Adam's sin and how he was punished, including Romans 5:12.)

But a worse death is spiritual death, being separated from God, and it will last for all eternity. The Bible tells us there is a hell, a place of eternal punishment.

- *Understand that you deserve death for your sin.*

Now, to the good news! God had a plan to answer this problem.

❖ **Christ Paid the Price**

Romans 5:8, "God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us!"

Jesus Christ, the son of God, came to earth, lived as a perfect man to show us what God was like, and then He died on the cross. Have you heard about Him? He paid sin's penalty. He paid the price for all sin, and when He took all the sins of the world on Himself on the cross, He bought us out of slavery to sin and death!

- *Give your life to God...* His love poured out in Jesus on the cross is your only hope to have forgiveness and change. His love bought you out of being a slave to sin. His love is what saves you — not religion, or trying to be good. God loves you!

❖ **Eternal Life**

Romans 6:23b "...But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Not only did Jesus die for us, He rose again, and He can give us eternal life. Salvation is a free gift from God to you! You can't earn this gift, but you must reach out and receive it. Explain how when someone has a gift for us, it does not do anything for us until we have actually taken the gift that they offer. It is an action.

- *Accept the sacrifice Jesus has made for you.*

❖ **Salvation through Jesus**

Romans 10:9,10,13 "If you confess with your mouth Jesus Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation... Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved!»

The only way to be saved is by repenting of your sin and calling on Jesus Christ to save you. It is not enough to know He has done this for you. You must choose to put your faith in Him. You have to trust Him. He wants to be the Lord of your life. You can say, "I believe that is a good chair, that it will hold me up when I sit on it," but until you actually sit down on the chair, you have not trusted it. Believing Jesus is more than saying, "Yes, that sounds good to me." It is accepting what He has done and saying, "I believe you to remove my sin, to take me to heaven. I will follow You because You are the Truth."

- *Ask Jesus to come into your life and give you His salvation.*

If the person is ready, help him to pray the sinner's prayer.

❖ Acknowledge Jesus as Lord

Romans 10:9,10 “...If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord,”

Let’s look at this again. We need to speak with our mouth what we have done in our heart. Let’s tell your family what you have done.

Being a Christians isn’t just about believing in your heart, it also means letting Jesus take the leadership of your life.

- *Let Christ begin making His promises come true in your life.*

Depending on where you are when you lead someone to the Lord, try to give them an opportunity to tell somebody else right away what they have done. Or invite them to church or to a small group and encourage them to share there what God has done.



Practical Assignment: Share the Roman Road

Mark the Roman Road in your Bible by underlining each verse and writing the reference to the next verse right beside it or at the bottom of the page. Then even if you are nervous you can easily move from one verse to the next. Practice using the Roman Road out of your Bible several times and then go out and use the Roman Road to share the gospel at least one time with an unbeliever. Make sure to have them read the verses out of your Bible!

You have the freedom to expand on the Roman Road as much as you desire, including adding Scriptures from other passages. But the strength of this gospel presentation is that it is contained within a few pages of your Bible, and you can have it marked and easily available for every opportunity.

Victorious Christian Life

Many Christians seem to struggle in their Christian walk. But we have some great truths in victory in chapter 8. Do the next exercise and write down your findings.



Exercise 4

Marking Romans 7 and 8. Take the time right now to read through Romans 7 and 8 marking two words. Circle all the instances of the word “I” and draw a square around all the references to the Holy Spirit.

As you look at these markings, what does it tell you about your own efforts? Where do we get the power to live the Christian life? How can a Christian have victory in his life? What is the difference between chapter 7 and chapter 8?

Some of the other special emphases of Romans include regeneration, Old Man vs. New Man, righteousness and justification. It would be both wise and beneficial for you to take the CBLT course *Galatians and Romans* and study some of these topics. Romans is a book so deep that we can never see all that God is showing us here in just a brief study here or there. We need to keep going back and digging deeper.

4. Romans: Jesus Christ, Our Righteousness

Answer these questions as you read the appendix, Chapter 7 of *A Look at the New Testament*.



Question 6 What does the book of Romans tell us?

What We are by Nature



Question 7 Why do we need a Savior?



Question 8 What “mark” has every person fallen short of?



Question 9 By what standard does God want us to measure our righteousness?



Question 10 Why do people sin?

How to Become a Christian



Question 11 Dr. Mears outlines five steps of salvation. Write them in your own words in the space provided below.

You may want to go back to the Roman Road and add some truths that you think would be beneficial as you seek to share with others.



Question 12 It is true that we are saved by faith, but how must we live?



Question 13 What three things did Abraham receive by faith?



Question 14 What are some of the benefits which follow faith when we have been justified by grace as found in Romans 5?

How to Live a Christian Life



Question 15 How should we live the Christian life?

Mark in your Bible the three verses in Romans 6 which teach these things.

How to Serve God



Question 16 Why is our service as Christians important?



Question 17 What phrases can be used to describe the two halves of Romans?



Question 18 Mears shows our Christian service in relation to four different areas in the last five chapters of Romans. List the four areas and the references:

Area	Reference
------	-----------

- | | |
|----|-------|
| a) | <hr/> |
| b) | <hr/> |
| c) | <hr/> |
| d) | <hr/> |

III. Conclusion

Romans has always been held out as one of the richest books of the Bible. Eugene Peterson describes this wonderfully:⁴

The event that split history into “before” and “after” and changed the world took place about thirty years before Paul wrote this letter. The event—the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus—took place in a remote corner of the extensive Roman Empire: the province of Judea in Palestine. Hardly anyone noticed, certainly no one in busy and powerful Rome.

And when this letter arrived in Rome, hardly anyone read it, certainly no one of influence. There was much to read in Rome—imperial decrees, exquisite poetry, finely crafted moral philosophy—and much of it was world-class. And yet in no time, as such things go, this letter left all those other writings in the dust. Paul’s letter to the Romans has had a far larger impact on its readers than the volumes of all those Roman writers put together.

The quick rise of this letter to a peak of influence is extraordinary, written as it was by an obscure Roman citizen without connections. But when we read it for ourselves, we begin to realize that it is the letter itself that is truly extraordinary, and that no obscurity in writer or readers could have kept it obscure for long.

The letter to the Romans is a piece of exuberant and passionate thinking. This is the glorious life of the mind enlisted in the service of God. Paul takes the well-witnessed and devoutly believed fact of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth and thinks through its implications. How does it happen that in the death and resurrection of Jesus, world history took a new direction, and at the same moment the life of every man, woman, and child on the planet was eternally affected? What is God up to? What does it mean that Jesus “saves”? What’s behind all this, and where is it going?

These are questions that [drove] Paul’s thinking. Paul’s mind [was] supple and capacious. He [took] logic and argument, poetry and imagination, Scripture and prayer, creation

⁴ Eugene H. Peterson, *The Message // Remix*. — Colorado Springs: NavPress. — 2003. — P. 2030.

and history and experience, and [wove] them into this letter that has become the premier document of Christian theology.

Indeed Romans lays out the foundations of our faith and gives us cause to say with Paul:

I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'But the righteous man shall live by faith.'

(Romans 1:16-17)

If you have enjoyed this lesson please note that it is one in a series of 12 lessons which cover the epistles of the New Testament and the Revelation. These lessons do not necessarily need to be done in order but we would encourage you to pursue your study of the scriptures both for your personal spiritual growth and so that you will be prepared to help others.

Other lessons are:

Lesson 1—James and Galatians—***The Truth about Faith***

Lesson 2—1 and 2 Thessalonians — ***Standing Firm in Persecution***

Lesson 3—1 Corinthians — ***Problems of the Church***

Lesson 4—2 Corinthians — ***Ministry Defended***

Lesson 6— Colossians and Ephesians — ***Christ and His Church***

Lesson 7— Philemon and Philippians— ***Joy and Forgiveness***

Lesson 8—1 Timothy and Titus—***Church Leadership***

Lesson 9—1 Peter, 2 Timothy & 2 Peter—***Encouragement and Warnings***

Lesson 10— Hebrews—***The New Covenant***

Lesson 11—Jude, 1, 2 & 3 John—***Love in Action***

Lesson 12—The Revelation—***Climax of the Ages***

Self Test

Score:___/100

True and False (7 points each, ___/70)

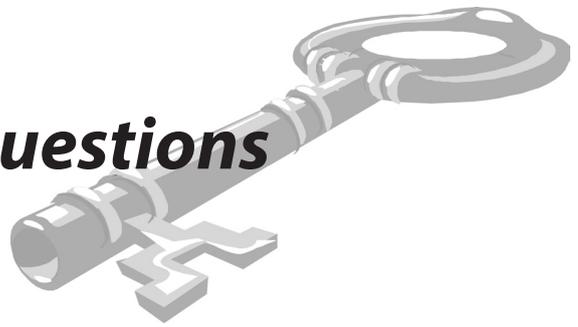
Mark the following statements either True or False.

1. ___Romans has 17 chapters.
2. ___Romans was written from Rome.
3. ___Romans was written to Rome.
4. ___It is not a useful book for evangelism.
5. ___Mears titles Jesus, “Our Righteousness” in Romans.
6. ___The key verse Paul says, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘But the righteous man shall live by faith.’”
7. ___The reference for the above verse is Romans 1:19-21.
8. ___Part of the Romans’ Road is “Sins Penalty”.
9. ___The theme of Romans is “the gospel of the glory of God”.
10. ___One of the key words of Romans is “faith”.

Fill in the Blank (6 points each, ___/30)

I.	The (1)_____introduced	1:1–17
II.	The tragedy of (2)_____	1:18 – 3:23
III.	(3)_____ provided	3:21 – 8:39
IV.	(4)_____ and God’s plan	9:1 – 11:36
V.	(5)_____ Christianity	12:1 – 16:27

Answers to Questions



Question 1

Paul identifies himself as a bond-servant of Christ, an apostle, set apart to preach the gospel (implied that he is to do this).

Question 2

“To all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints...” Romans 1:7.

Question 3

Romans was most likely written from Corinth on Paul’s third missionary journey.

Question 4

According to Acts 2:10 there were visitors from Rome in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost and it is quite possible that some of these visitors believed and took the gospel back to their city and founded the church there.

Question 5

See Romans 1:16-17 in your Bible.

Question 6

Romans tells us God’s method of making guilty men good.

Question 7

Because all have sinned. There is none righteous.

Question 8

We have all fallen short of the glory of God.

Question 9

The standard of the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Question 10

Because they are sinners.

Question 11

1. Recognize that I am a sinner.
2. Understand that we are saved by Jesus’ righteousness.
3. Believe that Jesus died for my sin.
4. Accept His righteousness.
5. Acknowledge that I now have eternal life.

Question 12

We must live by faith.

Question 13

Abraham received righteousness, inheritance, posterity by faith.

Question 14

Mears lists peace, pardon, promise, and assurance of our salvation.

Question 15

1. Know that Christ died for us.
2. Reckon on this.
3. Yield to Him.

Question 16

We are Christ Jesus' representatives on this earth; the Gospel is spread through our lives and our service. Our service shows whose we are.

Question 17

First half: What God did for us.

Second half: What we may do for God.

Question 18

The Church	12:3-8
Government	chapter 13
Questionable Things	14:1-15:3
The Whole World	15:4-13

Answers to Exercises



Exercise 1

“Righteousness” occurs 35 times.

“Gospel” occurs ten times.

“Faith” occurs 40 times.

Exercise 2

Your answer.

Exercise 3

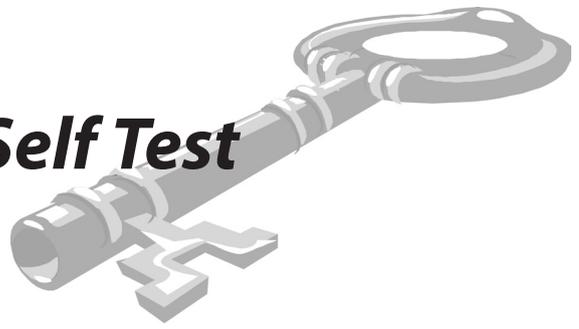
Your answer.

Exercise 4

The word “I” occurs about 25 times in chapter 7. The Holy Spirit is referred to about 18 times in chapter 8.

Your answer. There is a big struggle in chapter 7 with our efforts being at the center. Praise God, we are not left on our own. The Holy Spirit is given to all believers to enable them to choose righteousness.

Answers to Self Test



True and False

1. F
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. T
6. T
7. F
8. T
9. F
10. T

Fill in the Blanks

1. Gospel
2. sin
3. Salvation
4. Israel
5. Practical

Let's Look At Romans

Romans Portrays Jesus Christ, Our Righteousness

Chapter 7 from *A Look at the New Testament* by Henrietta Mears⁵

The Book of Romans tells us of God's method of making guilty men good.

The key verse of this great thesis is found in Romans 1:16,17. Commit these great verses to memory.

Romans In A Nutshell

(Romans 1:16,17)

The Person of the Gospel.....	Christ
The Power of the Gospel.....	Power of God
The Purpose of the Gospel.....	Unto Salvation
The People to whom sent	To everyone
The Plan of acceptance.....	To everyone who believeth
The Particular result	The just shall live by faith

Paul was proud of the Gospel, because he had proved its power in his own life, and in the lives of all who would believe.

God's News For Men In A Bad State

God's news! These words will command the attention of anyone. Say, "I have good news for you!" and one can always secure a listener. The real value of "good news" depends on the source—who said it. This is why the Gospel Paul presents is so welcome. This news comes from God. Romans is Paul's shout of joy to a lost world. "Eureka! I have found the way! It is Jesus Christ, my Lord!"

⁵ Used by permission.

In Romans we find an offer of the righteousness of God to the man who finds himself stripped by the law of his own righteousness. The Book of Romans pictures man as a train passenger who has lost his ticket and hasn't a cent to buy another.

What We Are By Nature

(Read Romans 1:1-3:20)

Why does man need salvation? Because he is a sinner. God has X-rayed the human heart and has given us the picture. He shows us what He finds in us all. The findings are so terrible that they cannot be read in a mixed audience. But remember, this is the picture of us that God sees. I know your picture is there because it says, *There is none that doeth good, no, not one.* This fact Paul proves conclusively in the first three chapters of this Book of Romans. This is the picture of man without God. Read every word of Romans 3. You will believe then that the natural heart is desperately wicked. Have you ever asked the Holy Spirit to throw a searchlight on your own heart? If you have, you know today that you need a Saviour.

When we go to have a photograph taken, we fix ourselves up. Then when the photographer gives us the proofs he assures us that the finished picture will look nothing like them. He removes all the wrinkles and warts and we think they are a splendid likeness. But this is not the kind of a picture God takes. He shows us just what we are.

The Book of Romans presents a courtroom scene. God, the Judge of all the earth, summons Jew and Gentile before the bar of justice. Prisoner after prisoner is brought up.

The general charge is stated—*All Under Sin* (Romans 3:9). Both the Gentile (2:1-16) and Jew (2:17-3:8) are given the opportunity for a hearing. Their special pleas of “not guilty” are carefully considered and answered, clearing the way for the final verdict from the Judge.

Finally the Judge pronounces the verdict. *All the world . . . guilty before God* (Romans 3:19, 20). If this were today, newspapers everywhere would blaze this headline. All the newsboys would be calling it forth. Can't you hear them? *“ALL — THE — WORLD — FOUND — GUILTY!”*

Do not say, “God is love. He will not condemn me.” Listen to God's words here: *The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness.* (Romans 1:18) He has already passed sentence on everyone. “All... guilty.” There is no chance of appeal. It is the decision of the Supreme Court of the universe. Sin is universal—*All have sinned!* Hence we need a world's Saviour. Because God is a God of love, He has provided just this One! Repeat aloud John 3:16. The Judge on the bench says, “Is there anyone to appear for the prisoners?” Then the Son of God says, “Yes, I am here to represent these. It is true that they committed these sins. It is true that they are guilty, but I bore their guilt on the cross. I died in their place that they might go free. I am their righteousness.” And the Judge sets them free.

We get an awful picture of sin in these first three chapters of Romans. Remember, SIN is a marksman's word. It means “missing the mark”—the standard that God has set for us. God's Word says, *All have sinned, and come short*—in our good deeds? No—*of the glory of God.* Do not measure your life by any other standard but this. Do not “compare yourselves among yourselves.” Of course you may not have fallen as short as some others you know, but you are “short” as far as God is concerned. Use Christ alone as the measure of righteousness that God demands.

If you would try to gain heaven by climbing to the highest peak of the Rocky Mountains, you still would be far “short” of the distance required. Even man's supreme effort to please God by good deeds and fine gifts falls short. You cannot attain unto the righteousness that God demands, no

matter how far you climb. God says, *All come short of the glory*. “All are guilty of death,” for *all have sinned*. Only One has spanned the distance from earth to heaven—He is Christ Jesus, our Lord. He is the only Way clear through to God.

We are all sinners because we were born into a sinful race. We are all “sons of Adam.” But we were not only born into sin; we have sinned ourselves for *all have sinned*. Remember this—we sin because we are sinners. This is our nature. A plum tree bears plums, because it is a plum tree. The fruit is the result of its nature. Sin is the fruit of a sinful heart. *The heart is deceitful above all things* (Jeremiah 17:9).

How To Become A Christian

(Read Romans 3:21-5:21)

God’s plan of salvation runs through the entire Scripture. It is like the cordage of the British Navy with a scarlet line interwoven through it that you cannot take out without destroying the cord. There is a scarlet line of salvation running through Scripture. You can see it very plainly in certain portions of the Bible (Romans 3).

Some simple steps in these next paragraphs will show you “How to become a Christian.”

I’m a Sinner!

One does not have to be a sinner in the sight of men to be lost. Of course there is a difference in the degree of sin, but not in the fact of sin, and its results, for *the wages of sin is death*. One may be drowned in seven feet of water and be as dead as if he had been submerged in seventy feet of water. In our inability to save ourselves, we are all on the same level—*There is no difference* (Romans 3:22).

How Can I Be Saved!

We are saved by Christ’s righteousness. He has made it available for us by His death. *Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...* (Romans 3:24,25).

Christ Died for Me!

I am a person condemned to die because of my sin, for *the wages of sin is death*. But I can look on the cross and see that Christ has already died for me. I believe that He died for my sin. And so in exchange for my poor, sinful, condemned life, I can accept His righteousness and His life (1 Peter. 2:24).

I Accept His Righteousness!

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life. (John 3:36) Apart from man’s effort to be good, God has provided his righteousness, the Lord Jesus Christ. Our righteousness is as filthy rags (Romans 3:21, 22).

I Have Eternal Life!

Your sin is on Christ. He has borne it for you. Have you accepted Him as your Saviour and *passed from death unto life?* (John 5:24) If you have decided to let Christ be your sin-bearer, you now have His salvation (Read Romans 3:24).

When God looks at us, He sees no righteousness. (See Romans 3:10.) When God looks at us “in Christ,” He does not see an improvement but perfection, for God sees only His own Righteousness, Jesus Christ.

You have become acquainted with one great word of Scripture, “salvation.” Here is another—“justification.” “Just-as-if-I’d”—Everything that Christ has done has been credited to my account. His righteousness is mine!

When Christ’s righteousness is reckoned as ours, this is called “justification”—a man made just before God. *The just shall live by faith.* A man is not made just by his works, but by believing on Christ. (Read Romans 3:28.) This great truth brought the young monk, Martin Luther, to his feet as he was creeping up the holy stairs in Rome, doing penance for his sin. It gave birth to the great Reformation. It freed the believer from the idea that men were saved by works to a life of faith and liberty in Christ. Not only are we saved by faith, but we must live by faith, trusting in Christ.

Paul gives us illustrations of justification by faith from the Old Testament. Especially does he tell us of how Abraham’s faith was counted for righteousness? (Romans 4) Abraham received three things by faith: righteousness, inheritance, posterity (Romans 4:3, 13, 17).

We too, have great benefits when we are justified by His grace. Grace is unmerited favor. In this life we find that faith is followed by peace, pardon and promise, (Romans 5:1-5) and more than all, an assurance of our salvation (Romans 5:6-11).

There is a question that many ask: “How could one man die for the whole world?” One man might take another man’s place and be his substitute. That is all right, you say, but for one to die for the whole world—that is nonsense! Let us see if this is true!

None of us likes the idea of being called a “sinner,” but we must face what we are. Listen to what Paul says in Romans 5:12-21. We were born sinners. We were not asked if we wished to come into this world. We woke up to the fact one day that we were subject to a sinful nature. Adam, the head of our race, was not created that way (Genesis 1:26). He deliberately sinned and his sinful nature was passed on to us all. We sin because we are sinners.

But over against Adam, the head of the natural race, we find Christ, the Head of a spiritual race—“a new creation.” When I was born in this body, I was born a descendant of Adam. I have his nature which is sinful. When I am born into the family of God, by Christ Jesus, I have Christ’s nature which is holy. In the words of Scripture, *As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive* (1 Cor. 15:22). I did not choose to be a descendant of Adam. I may choose to be a child of God. If one man’s sin made it possible for all the race to die, one Man’s righteousness made it possible for all the race to get out of this condition (Read Romans 5:15).

Have you received “eternal life by Jesus our Lord?” Are you a sinner “in Adam,” or are you a son “in Christ?”

How To Live A Christian Life

(Read Romans 6-8)

We have learned how to become a Christian. Now we must find out how to live like a Christian.

In Romans 6 there are three important words. Mark them.

KNOW that Christ died for us. (Romans 6:3-5,10) We died with Christ. (Romans 6:8)

RECKON on this! Count on it as true! (Romans 6:11)

If a relative told you that he had put \$500 in the bank for you for a trip and you could draw it any time you needed it, you would count on it, I am sure, though you never saw the money. If you should question it, and not draw it out, the money would never be yours. If you reckon it yours

by going to the bank and asking for the money, that which you have never seen becomes a reality. Reckoning makes things real!

Since we are dead to sin and alive unto God, how shall we live? See Romans 6:13.

YIELD—(Romans 6:13)

This means “let go” of your life and “let God” live through you. This is the surrendered life. This is the right way to live a life of victory and blessing. Let Him work His will in you and through you.

Be like a dog off his leash that at first dashes down the street, enjoying his freedom, but soon comes back to walk demurely beside his master. The spirit of the master holds him. He belongs to him. He needs no chain to bind him.

The Christian soon finds a new standard for his life. He does not try to live up to the Law, for he is no longer under it. He strives to please the One who dwells within him. *For to me to live is Christ, and I do all to the glory of God.*

Romans 6 reveals the secret of a life of victory. I am living in Christ! Dead is sin, but alive to God! It tells me how “I” can lead a Christian life. Self, we have learned, was a condemned thing, unable to be good, never righteous. (Romans 3) Now when self becomes a Christian and tries to live a Christian life, it finds this to be impossible. We are saved by faith, and we cannot live by our own efforts.

This sad truth is revealed in Romans 7. It tells us how we cannot live a victorious life. Mark the title word “I” and you will find it is used thirty-eight times in the twenty-five verses of this chapter. The Holy Spirit is never mentioned. Although “I” tries, it finds only defeat and failure.

Dr. Griffith Thomas said, “It is not hard to live a Christian life; it is impossible.”

Paul said, *It is not I that live, but Christ that lives in me.*

Listen to the words of the man who tries to live by his own effort. *O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.* (Romans 7:24, 25)

Finally, “I” finds that there is One who is sufficient. Struggling yields to power, defeat is changed to victory, misery is transformed into joy. When “I” goes out, Christ comes in.

The life “in Christ” is a wonderful thing. Paul says, *The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.* This is what happens. When I step into an airplane, I am free from the law of gravity. The higher law that operates in the plane to lift it above the clouds, makes useless the law of gravity which but a few minutes before held me fast to the earth. The law of gravity is not destroyed but rendered inoperative. This is what happens in my life when I step “in Christ.” The law that operates by the Spirit in my life lifts me above the world and sin, and sin no longer has dominion over me. I am free. I am without condemnation. Have you stepped into Christ? Are you living on a plane far above all principalities and powers?

Have you come to the end of “self”? Remember, “I” never brings anything but failure. Only Christ will give you victory!

Step out of the self-life into the Spirit-filled life. In Romans 8 instead of the word “I,” we find the word “Spirit” used twenty-one times. We must “yield” our lives to Him. This is our part. Then He will fill us with His Spirit. This is Christ’s part.

This glorious chapter opens with “no condemnation,” and ends with “no separation.” This is a picture of our life “in Christ.” The Christian is safe: Christ is around him; the Spirit is within him and God is for him.

“Once I tried to use Him; Now He uses me.”

How To Serve God

(Read Romans 12-16)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. (Romans 12:1)

It may surprise you to find out that up to this point we have not had to do a thing but believe on Christ and yield ourselves to Him to use as He will. Now we are to serve! We are “saved to serve.” We are Christ’s representatives on this earth, to take His place; to spread His Gospel. Our life is the outworking of His glorious salvation.

Until we have been saved by His grace and transformed by His love, we can do little for God. Read 1 Corinthians 13. But when we present ourselves to Christ and become filled with His love we can find much to be done. Christ wants a “living sacrifice,” not a dead one (Romans 12:1). Many will die for Christ. Few will live for Him. There are many of you who would rather be burned at a stake than stand the ridicule of your associates. One definition of a modern Christian is “a person who will die for the church he will not attend.” How many of us say nothing when Christ’s name is brought into question or is used in vain!

Let others see Jesus in you! Live for Him, then you will be ready to die for Him. **The first half of Romans is what God did for us. The last half of Romans is what we may do for God.** We find our Christian service in relation to

Church.....	Romans 12:3-8
Government	Romans 13
Questionable Things.....	Romans 14:1-15:3
The Whole World.....	Romans 15:4-13

