



Book of Romans
Lesson 2: Romans Chapters 2 – 4

1. The church in Rome was a mixture of Jews and Gentiles.

There was division amongst them, and Paul addressed some of these issues in Romans.

It is even possible that the two groups sat on opposite sides of the church when they gathered for worship.

Romans 2:17, 18

Romans 2:17 – Message Bible

If you're brought up Jewish, don't assume that you can lean back in the arms of your religion and take it easy, feeling smug because you're an insider to God's revelation,

The Jews had a long history of religion and knowledge of God.

They could sing the Psalms of David, quote the Proverbs, and recite the Laws of Moses, but these things gave them a false security.

Romans 2:19-24

Paul calls the Jews “blind guides” because they did not follow their own laws and tried to lead others.

2. Covenant

Romans 2:25

In the next part of Romans, we are going to hear a lot about circumcision.

When God made a covenant with Abraham, God instituted circumcision as the sign of the covenant.

Whenever a covenant was made between two people or groups of people, there was always a sign of that covenant.

This is why David spoke the way he did before he killed Goliath – because of covenant.

1 Samuel 17:26

He was saying – “What does this giant think he is doing? He is outside of the covenant!”

Now Paul is talking to the Jews about their covenant with God.

Romans 2:25-29

Knowing the rules is useless unless you _____

Paul was telling the Jews that circumcision was only profitable if the law was kept.

The sign of the covenant was outward – in the flesh. But now the sign of the covenant is in the heart.

Romans 3:1

Do the Jews have an advantage over others? – Answer: _____

Romans 3:2

The advantage of the Jews was that they “knew” something that others did not know.

The Gentiles spent years worshipping false gods.

The Jews had spent their lives learning about the laws of Moses and reading the prophesies of the Old Testament.

Romans 3:3, 4

Even though the Jews had an advantage by having the Old Testament scriptures, many of them did not believe.

More knowledge of the Word of God may give you an advantage, but an advantage is only worth something if you take ahold of it and use it.

Romans 3:5-18

It does not matter whether you are a Jew or a Gentile, we are all guilty of sin and need the redeeming power of Jesus!

People do not need only forgiveness. The world needs to be justified. We need to be made righteous.

Romans 3:19, 20

If we follow the law, we still cannot be justified. _____

Romans 3:21, 22

Righteousness (or justification) is only possible through _____

The righteousness of God is an attribute of God. It is the nature of Jesus Himself.

The church in Rome was a mixture of Jews and Gentiles. There was division amongst them and even many of the Jews looking at the Gentiles as if they were inferior.

One of the fundamental things Paul was dealing with in the Book of Romans is that God looks upon the mankind with equality.

Everyone needs the same thing – a Savior who will give them His righteousness!

3. Justification**Romans 3:23**

This is the famous verse, but the good news is in the next verse.

Romans 3:24

Many times, in Paul's writings you will see righteous and justified. They are both the same thing.

Definition of JUSTIFIED:

- Just as if you had never sinned
- Righteous
- _____
- _____
- To be in right standing with God

Romans 3:24 – Amplified Bible

[All] are justified and made upright and in right standing with God . . .

Romans 3:24 – East-to-Read Version

They are made right with God . . .

We are justified freely.

Definition of FEELY: Without a cause (This means we did not do anything to earn it.)

Romans 3:24, 25

Jesus was sent forth as a propitiation. What does that mean?

Definition of PROPITIATION:

- _____
- Literally it means: The lid of the Ark – the mercy seat

In the Old Testament the people's sins were covered by sprinkling the blood of an animal on the altar – or the mercy seat. God covered the sins of the entire nation by this sacrifice.

Jesus became our sacrifice. His blood forgives and does away with our sin. He is our mercy seat!

Romans 3:26

Jesus is the only just One.

There is no other way in the universe to be justified except through Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:27

We are saved by the law of faith.

What is that law? – Believing and speaking.

We believe in our heart and speak it with our mouth.

Romans 10:8-10

We cannot boast about being saved because it was all by faith!

Romans 3:28-30

Your background does not matter. All enter salvation through the same door – the door of faith. Romans Chapter 3 ends with an interesting verse that takes us into Chapter 4.

Romans 3:31

What is this asking?

If we get saved by faith, does the law matter anymore?

Answer: _____

Our lives establish the law.

Romans 3:31 – Amplified Bible

Do we then by [this] faith make the Law of no effect, overthrow it or make it a dead letter? Certainly not! On the contrary, we confirm and establish and uphold the Law.

As Christians we are supposed to live lives that confirm, establish, and uphold the Law.

Born again believers can live a life following the Ten Commandments by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It is not a difficulty or a struggle.

How can we do it? – This sort of living is only possible as we allow Christ to live through us!

4. Abraham

Paul spent the first three chapters showing that the Jewish believers and the Gentile believers all need the same thing. Everyone needs to be saved by grace through faith.

In Chapter 4 Paul is going to talk about Abraham – showing that Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation, was an uncircumcised Gentile when God justified him.

Abraham was not justified by the law – because the law came 430 years later.

Abraham was justified the same way people are today – _____

Paul continues to deal with the Jewish believers and their attitude towards the Gentile believers by using Abraham as an example.

Romans 4:1, 2

Romans 4:3

Abraham received righteousness by faith – the same way you and I received righteousness!

Romans 4:4

When you work, your employer is in debt to you. You receive a wage for your work. This is not how we are saved. We are saved by faith.

Romans 4:5-8

Faith produces righteousness without working to earn it.

The good news is this – Faith is available to all.

Romans 4:9-12

Abraham did not receive righteousness by following the law. He received righteousness by faith.

This is good news for everyone because you can receive righteousness by faith too.

Now that the Bible has established Abraham received righteousness by faith, it goes a step further and tells us that Abraham's seed are also heirs of righteousness.

Romans 4:13**Romans 4:14-16****5. How to walk by faith**

The next part of Romans Chapter 4 includes some of the greatest verses about how to live by faith.

Romans 4:17

God told Abraham that he would be the father of many nations.

The very definition of faith is found in this verse.

This is how God operates.

Once His Word is spoken to us, we have the responsibility to declare that Word, no matter what the circumstances look like.

Romans 4:18

Abraham in hope believed, even though to everyone else it looked like he had no hope.

Romans 4:19

Abraham waited many long years for the birth of his son.

To Abraham, the promise from God was so true, that his faith did not waver.

Romans 4:20

Let's take a look at what Abraham did and what he did not do as he walked by faith.

Definition of DID NOT WAVER:

- He did not oppose.
- _____
- He did not doubt.
- _____
- He did not stagger.
- _____

6. What can we learn from Abraham as he walked by faith and received the promise?

- He did not oppose.

When you walk by faith you cannot entertain thoughts that oppose what God said.

These are thoughts that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God. They are strongholds.

When we recognize a thought like this, we must take it captive at once!

- He did not hesitate.

When you walk by faith you cannot hesitate. You need to go for it!

Definition of HESITATE:

- _____
- To be indecisive
- To hold back or pause because of doubt or uncertainty

"A President either is constantly on top of events or, if he hesitates, events will soon be on top of him." – Harry Truman

- He did not doubt.

When you walk by faith you must leave the lifestyle of doubt behind you.

Once doubt enters your heart, _____

It is one thing to battle a “thought”. It is another thing to allow doubt to become a part of your heart.

- He did not judge.

When you walk by faith you cannot judge what God said based on your circumstances.

- He did not stagger.

When you walk by faith you cannot stagger.

Definition of STAGGER: _____

To falter is to be unsteady in resolution.

This sentence shows staggering or faltering: *He resolved to ask for a raise, but faltered when his boss entered the room.*

Once you have heard the Word of God and have made a resolution in your heart – You cannot afford to stagger or falter!

- He did not waver.

When you walk by faith you cannot waver.

Definition of WAVER: _____

James 1:6-8

How can you stay strong with everything that comes against you in your walk of faith? – The answer is also found in this verse about Abraham.

Romans 4:20

Abraham was strengthened in his faith! How? – _____

Faith and worship are partners.

Abraham could give glory to God because he was strong in his faith and he was strong in his faith because he was giving glory to God!

The outcome of Abraham’s worship and faith is found in the next verse.

Romans 4:21**7. By faith we receive righteousness.****Romans 4:22-25****8. Spiritual death****Romans 4:25**

What does it mean that Jesus was “raised because of our justification”?

Everyone dies physically. But there is also spiritual death.

Ephesians 2:1-3

We were dead in sin. What does that mean?

Definition of DEAD: _____

John 8:44

Being spiritually dead is, by nature, being children of the devil.

By nature, we were children of Satan.

We go to Hell because of who _____, not because of what _____

We need to have a nature change, or a heart transplant.

We then go to heaven, not because of what we do and don't do – but because God is our Father and that is where we belong.

Ephesians 4:17, 18

People who are not born again are separated from God.

_____ is spiritual death.

Genesis 2:16, 17

There were two trees God spoke of in the garden. The tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Adam was free to eat from the tree of life.

God commanded Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, not to test him, but so he wouldn't die.

God allows us to do many things. When he commands us not to do something it is to protect us.

God was clear. If you eat it, you will die. If you don't eat it, you will live.

_____ . He was separated from God.

Genesis 2:17

YOU SHALL SURLY DIE (Hebrew): _____

Because of spiritual death you will die physically.

Jesus came to set us free from spiritual death.

Romans 4:25

9. What happened to Jesus when He died on the cross?

When Jesus died on the cross, He was dead for three days and three nights.

Where did He go? What did He do?

Jesus did not go to heaven. He went to Hell.

Revelation 1:18

“Hades” is also translated “Hell”.

Jesus has the keys to Hell.

Acts 2:22-28

God did not leave the soul of Jesus in Hades.

Acts 2:24

“Pains of death” definitely does not describe Heaven.

Acts 2:29-31

Ephesians 4:9, 10

This is talking about Jesus.

It tells us that before he _____, He first _____

Where? – Into the lower parts of the earth.

Where is Hell?

Matthew 11:23

Hell is “down”.

Why is it important that we understand that Jesus went to Hell?

Answer: For three days and three nights He was separated from God.

What is separation from God? – _____

When Jesus prayed to the Father and said, “If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me.” – His torment was the thought of being separated from the Father!

Jesus went to Hell so that you don’t have to go to Hell.

Jesus was separated from the Father so that you don’t have to live a life separated from God.

Jesus experienced spiritual death, so that you don’t have to live spiritually dead.

Romans 4:24 *but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,*

What shall be imputed to us who believe in Jesus?

Romans 4:22-24

Righteousness (justification) is given to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ!

Romans 4:25

What does that mean? – He was crucified because of our sins.

Romans 4:25

Jesus went to Hell for three days and three nights.

He was separated from the Father.

Then after three days, God said it was enough!

The sin of the world had been paid and He was raised because of our justification.

He was raised _____ we were declared righteous. When we were justified, He was raised up. It took three days and three nights for the sin of the world.