

God Teaches Us His Gospel in Romans

***Part 1: We have a
problem with sins***



God Has a Message

God explains His message of good news in Paul's letter to Christians in Rome. It is "the gospel of God which He promised beforehand" (1:1-2). This good news was promised before Jesus was born. This is proof that this message is from God. We also know Jesus is God's Son because God raised Him from the dead.

The Gospel is God's power to save if I believe in Christ (1:16-18)

Paul was "ready to preach the gospel" (1:15), because he knew everyone needed it. He also knew it is a great message. It is good news that tells people how God is able to rescue them from all the problems of sins. "I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation"

(1:16) If you were in great danger, you would want to know that someone could rescue you. Romans 1:16-18 summarizes God's message.

Who can be saved? Everyone who believes (including you).

How can you be saved? By faith in Christ.

How does God save you? By giving you righteousness.

Why do you need righteousness? To be saved from God's wrath.

Why are you in this danger? Because of your unrighteousness.

The danger we all face is God's wrath. But why should God have deep anger towards people? Why such fury? It is because of how people live. People do not honor God. God created humans, but humans live like God is not real. Also, people do not do the right thing. Their thoughts, words and actions are evil. Humans are "unrighteous." Do people realize they are doing wrong things? Yes! They have the truth about God. They know God will judge them for doing evil things. But they still do wrong.

Is it Needed? Everyone's problem of sins

People know God and will be judged for evil lives (1:18-32)

Some people might claim they do not know there is a God. But the evidence for God is obvious to everyone. Everyone can look at the order and greatness of what God made and conclude that creation requires a Creator. There is no possible way the universe just happened by chance. The real problem is that people know there is a God, but they do not want to give God glory. They want to be their own boss. They have the truth about God, but they do not honor Him as God.

Do they know God sees what they are doing? Yes! But they do wrong anyway. So, "immoral" people know God exists and they are accountable to Him. This person is in great danger of God's judgment. Their evil actions will be punished.

Moral people live better lives, but are they right with God? (2:1-16)

Do you agree with what the text says about immoral people deserving to be judged by God? Well, you are also in danger of judgment from God.

You might think you are OK because you compare yourself to an immoral person. You are a “good”, moral person.

Does that make you righteous? Does God judge by comparing who is better? No! He would not be a righteous judge if He judged you by comparing you to others. His judgment is based on the truth. He looks at you and sees everything about you. Other people do not see what you think, but God does. Other people do not know what you do in secret, but God does.

Have you ever had an evil thought? Have you ever done something wrong when no one was around? Have you ever felt bad for what you said or did? You have a conscience - it makes you feel bad for doing wrong things. Do you really always do what is perfect? God knows you do not.

So, you may be a “moral” person. You know that God expects you to live right and do good. You have the truth, and you think about right and wrong with your conscience. Only a perfect life can avoid punishment. So, you are in great danger of judgment from God too.

Religious people have God’s word; are they in danger? (2:17-3:8)

Perhaps you agree that the immoral and moral people are in danger of judgment. But you have a higher claim. You are religious. You think of yourself as having a connection to God. You do religious things. You have ceremonies that you follow. You may have rules that God gave. Maybe you say that you are “Jewish” or “Christian.”

Will God say you are OK because you call yourself by a religious name? Does God think you are righteous because you do a ritual like attend church every Sunday or get baptized? Imagine your family was robbed, but the person that robbed you always went to church meetings. Should that person still be punished? Yes! It would be wrong for the judge to ignore the evil deed.

You might have rules to follow, but do you always do what is right? God looks at how you really live. You cannot hide behind a religious code, religious ceremony, or religious name.

Does that mean the people who received God's word are not special? No, they are special. But if they receive God's word, they are expected to obey it. God gave them something to care for. They have to do what God said. If they do not, they deserve to be punished.

It is not enough to know what is right. God expects you to DO right. To avoid God's punishment, you would have to truly live out a perfect life. So, you are in great danger of God's judgment too.

So all people deserve to be judged by God (3:9-20)

Everyone is under the penalty of sin. Our lives show our sins, and God's word says we are sinful. God looks at the people in the world and says "there is not a righteous man, not even one!" (3:10) Not one of them is good. They do not honor God like they should. They do not obey the truth that they know. They do not live right. We are all guilty, so we are all in danger. We all need God's gospel. God is righteous, so He requires us to be righteous. But no one has lived a righteous life, so all are under the wrath of God. The law has rules from God, but all it does is show humans that they miss the mark. All are sinners. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (3:23) Do you agree with God about this?

Three Kinds of People in Romans 1-3



What a relevant message God is teaching us!

How does God address my problem that I have sinned?

Read the next part in Romans 3:21-5:11

How God solves the problem of judgment for our sins



Bruce Hulshizer and Dan Weaver; EncourageDepending@gmail.com

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God teaches us His gospel in Romans

Part 2: Be freed from sins' penalty



Good News! Freedom from Sins' Penalty

We all need the righteousness God has provided by faith! (3:21-31)

What is good news to a guilty person in danger of judgment? God made a way to save us! If I am convinced that I am guilty before God, then I will want God's gift of salvation. The good news is that I can be right before God based on believing, rather than based on what I do. God tells us a way to avoid judgment for our sins. God can declare us righteous. This righteousness is not by us trying to do something.

Christ died on the cross for everyone's sins. He was perfect, but he took the judgment we deserved. Now anyone can be declared righteous (justified) by God if they will just trust in Christ. God is satisfied with Christ's blood when He died for sins. God offers you a righteous position. It is free. There is no way you could pay for it. Christ paid it all as the Redeemer. You just need to admit you are unrighteous, and tell God you believe that Christ died for your sins, so that then you will be "justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus." (3:24)

God has not ignored our sins. God gave us the just penalty for sins: death. Yet God provided a substitute, so we do not have to take the penalty. Christ died for our sins. Therefore, we see God is still righteous. He can be just and still justify "one who has faith in Jesus". (3:26)

Long before Jesus was born, God told the Jews to build a place so He could dwell among them. He would meet with them in the "holy of holies" above the "mercyseat" ("atonement cover"). This was a cover over a box

that had the ten commandments inside. These commandments tell us about the righteousness God expects. No one has kept these rules. How could God meet with unrighteous people there? The blood of a substitute animal was put on the mercyseat. This pictured what Christ did when He satisfied God's justice as a propitiation (atonement). He gave up his blood as a perfect sacrifice, "a propitiation in His blood." (3:25) This way God can be righteous but not have to punish us for our unrighteousness.



The only way to be justified is by faith. It is not by works of the law. No one can earn righteousness. Why? So that no one can boast because "a person is justified by faith apart from works of the Law." (3:28) Anyone who is in heaven will only be there because they believed that Christ died for them. Have you been declared righteous through faith in Christ?

Do other Scriptures teach righteousness by faith? Yes! (chapter 4)

As recorded in Genesis, God had a relationship with Abraham. If Abraham was justified by his works, he could boast to God about what he did. But no one will boast before God. The Scriptures plainly say that "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." (4:3) Righteousness was put to his account. Abraham did not get a righteous position by works but by faith. If it was by works, God owed him something. But it was by faith, so it was based on grace – God giving him something he did not deserve. Though he was ungodly, God counted him righteous because he believed. David says the same thing when he says God did not put his sins on his account.

When Abraham was called righteous, he had not been given the religious symbol of circumcision. His righteousness was not through a religious ritual. He was declared righteous simply by faith. We too can be righteous before God by faith alone. Abraham believed God could do what Abraham could not do. He believed that God would be faithful to His promise. His faith gave glory to God, because he was saying that God could be trusted. When we believe in Christ, we are also saying God can be trusted. Like Abraham, we believe God can do what we cannot do. We believe God is faithful to His promise to save those who believe in Jesus. God raised Jesus from the dead as a sign that He is satisfied with what Christ did. Our salvation is certain.

God solved our legal problem, so we are right before Him (5:1-11)

If we have put our faith in Christ as Savior, we are blessed. “Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God.” (5:1) We are not trying to make ourselves right with God. We have a settled peace and certainty. Having been justified by faith, we know that we will not be punished for our sins. We have been rescued from the judgment we deserved. Christ took our sins. We are resting in Christ’s work and God’s word.

Our legal problem has been solved by God. God the Judge is also a Savior. We were once in a position as sinners. We are now in a position of righteousness before God. We have joy as we look forward to being in heaven with God. We have no reason to be afraid. We know we will be there. We have peace and confidence and joy because everything was done by Christ. “Having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.” (5:9) There is no wrath against our unrighteousness (1:18) because Christ paid for our unrighteousness!

We have joyful confidence as we look forward to being with God. This is our hope for the future. But we also have joy in the present, even when things are hard for us in this life. We know God is using the trials to help us grow. How do we know that? Because we know we are loved by God. God’s Spirit in us helps us know God’s love for us. His Spirit points our hearts to the fact that Christ died for us when we were ungodly. We know

we are loved because of the fact that “while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (5:8)

Not only do we have joyful confidence for the future and the present, but we also have joyful confidence “in God” Himself (5:11). God is the One who reconciled us through the Lord Jesus Christ. Our confidence is in God Himself. God is the One that worked out this salvation. Someone might think it is boasting to say “I know I am going to heaven.” But I am not boasting about myself, I am boasting about God. He did it. I am saying that I know Christ did all that was needed for me to be right with God. Nothing more is required.

Romans 1-5 Summary Chart

Romans: *The Gospel of God*

Man’s LEGAL Problem and God’s Solution(1:18-5:11)

1:18 - 3:20 Man’s Unrighteousness		
Immoral Creation 1:18 - 31	Moral Conscience 2:1 - 16	Religious Law (codes) 2:17 - 3:20

3:21 - 5:11 God’s Righteousness		
Teaching Redemption 3:21 - 31	Defense Abraham Chapter 4	Results Peace/ Confidence 5:1 - 11



What a valuable message God is teaching us!

God set us free from sin’s punishment by faith that Christ died for us!

Read the next part in Romans 5:12-7:25

The problem we have with sin ruling us on the inside



Bruce Hulshizer and Dan Weaver; EncourageDepending@gmail.com
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Part 3: Realize your flesh is no good



SIN Reigns
in **ADAM**

New Life in Christ to Free from Sin's Rule!

The two races of men - Adam and Christ (5:12-21)

God has a solution to our internal problem, the deep problem of sin in us. We need to realize that everyone is either part of Adam's race or Christ's. All humans are born into Adam's race. Sin rules in Adam. We can see that sin rules Adam's race if we observe that everybody dies. Sin began to rule when Adam sinned. By his one act of sin, his whole race came under sin's rule. This is similar to Christ, who is the second Man. Christ did one act and it affected everyone in His race. But the difference is that Christ's act was a righteous act, and so His race is a righteous race. The law was added to Adam's race to show that sin had control. Grace rules Christ's race through righteousness, so all who have received Christ have eternal life in Him.

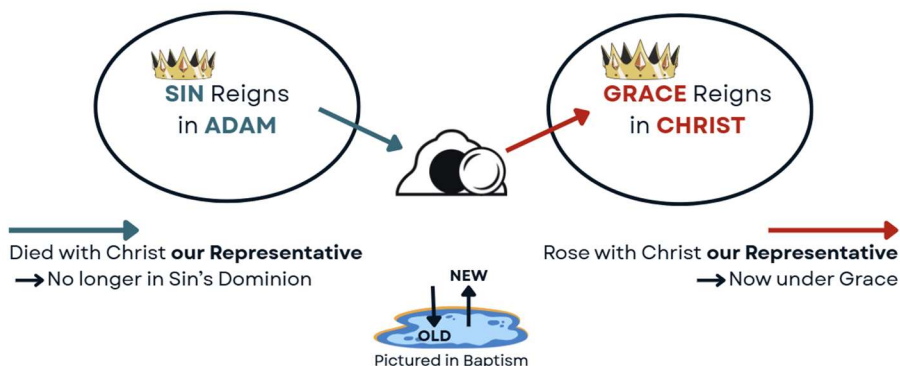
Problem Solved: Dead to sin and alive to God with Christ (6:1-14)

The old us could not live right because sin rules Adam's race. God started a whole new race in Christ. He gave up on the "old us". He had the old us put to death! Our "old man" (life as born in Adam's race) died with Christ. Christ represented all of us when He died as a man. When He died, we died. He has risen to a whole new kind of life. We rose with Him to that new life also. This way we have eternal life. We are no longer in Adam. We are in Christ. To walk right, we must walk in this newness of life.

This is addressing sin (like a root of a tree) not sins (fruit from the tree). Sin is the source of sins. We died with Christ, so sin is not in charge of us

anymore. We should now give our hands and mouth to God for Him to use. Know you died and rose with Christ, reckon it is true, then yield (present) your body's members to God, not sin. My hands can do wrong if sin controls them (like steal) or do right if God controls them (like give).

Act According to the Fact



Four Law Questions show Flesh Frustration

1. If we do not live under Law... should we sin then? (6:15-23)

If I am not scared of getting in trouble because of breaking a rule, then should I just commit sins? NO! Why would you want to serve sin? If you choose to sin, you are choosing sin as a master. Why would you want to go back and make sin your master? When you came to Christ to be saved from your sins, you said that sin was a terrible master. Now that you know God, you are ashamed of what you did when you served sin. Think of the wages that sin gives to its servants: death. Serving God is much better! You can produce holy actions that please God. What a great Master God is, Who gave you eternal life as a free gift. Let's yield our body to Him!

2. Do you realize you are free from the Law by Christ's death? (7:1-6)

If a woman's husband dies, she is free from the marriage "contract." Similarly, you died when Christ died, so you are not part of Adam's race that was put under law. Now you are free to belong to Christ who died and rose as our representative. You are joined to the risen Christ, so you

can now bear fruit that pleases God. When we were in the flesh under the law, the members of our body were ruled by desires to sin. Now we can serve God from our hearts, serving Him in the newness of spirit because we want to, not have to. Trying to keep rules is stale, but serving from the heart (desire not duty) is a joy. The law tries to control my actions from outside. God wants to control my actions from the inside.

3. If we need to be free from the Law, then is the Law sin? (7:7-12)

If I cannot bear good fruit by the law of Moses, is the law sin? No! The law shows me that sin in me. It is a light that reveals sin, so I can see it. I did not realize how I had sin in me until the law told me not to want things for myself. But the command made me lust. This came from sin inside of me. Sin used the commands of the law to make me want to do wrong. So, the law is holy, and it shows me I have a problem inside.

When I read the commands, I felt like I lost control, because sin took over! It was like I died. When a person is dead, they do not respond. The members of my body did not respond to me due to sin's control. They were listening to sin instead of listening to me. This is the "law of death."

4. Did the law which is good cause death to me? (7:13-25)

I know what is right and I may resolve to do right. But do I do the right thing? No. Though I tell my flesh to do right, I end up failing! This law of sin in my flesh took over resulting in the law of death (I didn't do what I had wanted to do). Should I blame the law for making me unable to control the members of my body? No! SIN is to blame! Sin was inside all the time and when it heard the law command me not to lust, it jumped into action and made me lust. The real problem is that sin rules my flesh, the nature I have from Adam (my natural life). With my mind I would like to do what God wants; but when my mind tries to tell the members of my body to do good, I end up doing evil. There is something else ruling my members: sin within me. My flesh does not listen, because it is ruled by sin. This makes me feel trapped like a captive in a dead body. My body does not do what my mind wants. The members of my body do not

respond to me... as if they are dead. This law of death is a terrible thing and I cannot do anything about it. Help! Someone save me!

Laws in Romans 7 and 8 (the Problem)

Law of Sin

Sin controls flesh, so it directs members to sin

LAW APPLIED

SIN in the
FLESH
responds

Law of Death

Mind tries... but can not control members

Do Evil!!

Mind

LOOKS TO

FLESH

Do Good!

Law of Mind

Mind tries to direct members to do good (do law of God)

TO BE ABLE TO...

WALK

RESULT

=

SIN

Someone get me out of this body that I cannot control. Who will deliver me? God! He made a way to set me free through Jesus Christ when I died and rose with Him (see chapter 6). Through the law, I realize I have sin in me, seeing how bad a problem I have. If I am convicted of sin in my flesh, I will want God's deliverance from sin's power in Christ.

If I try to do good through my natural life in Adam, my mind wants to obey God's law (what God wants). However, my mind is unable to do good in my body. Why? Because the flesh is controlled by the law of sin (the sad reality that sin has control of my flesh). My flesh does not do the good that I want, but instead does what sin wants. There is "nothing good" in the flesh.

What a serious message God is teaching us!

We have a real moral problem with how to do what is right!

Read the next part in Romans 8:1-39

God solves the problem of sin's power and even its physical effect



Bruce Hulshizer and Dan Weaver; EncourageDepending@gmail.com

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God teaches us His gospel in Romans

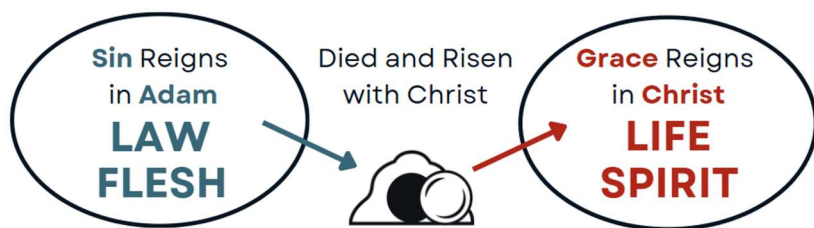
Part 4: Freed from sin's power & effect



Present Freedom from Sin's Power!

A new source of power to live right: the Spirit of Christ in me (8:1-4)

We are not in Adam anymore, so we are not in a condemned race. We were hopeless in Adam, but God has taken us out of Adam and put us in Christ (like we learned in chapter 5 and 6). We have been crucified with Christ and now Christ lives in us! (Galatians 2:20)



When I try to live in Adam, I try to do good and I find that I do evil (as we saw in chapter 7). Flesh is under the law of sin. I am not able to get the members of my body to do what I want, which is called the law of death. But the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus frees me from both of these laws. God gave me new life in Christ, taking me out of Adam. When Christ died, I died (as taught in chapter 6). He died as my representative, so the life of the risen Christ can live in me. So I need to fix my eyes on the risen Christ.

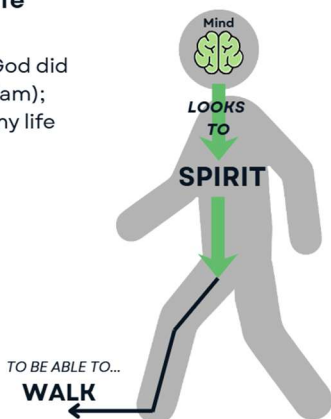
God decided that the flesh is no good. God gave up on the flesh, condemning sin in the flesh. He decided to start a new race with a new kind of life. Christ died and rose to take us out of living in Adam and give us newness of life in Christ. In Christ, the flesh is not the power to do right. Instead, the Spirit is the power of our new life in Christ.

The law said to do right things; but it tried to tell the flesh to do right. The flesh could not do it. Now I can walk a whole new way. Instead of trying to do right through my flesh, I can let the Spirit of Christ in me do right. I need to walk “according to the Spirit” rather than “according to the flesh.” This way I am delivered from sin’s power.

Laws in Romans 7 and 8 (the Solution)

Law of Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus

Give up on Flesh as God did
(my natural life in Adam);
Walk in newness of my life
in the risen Christ



**RESULT
=
RIGHT**

I should walk according to the Spirit: Christ living in me (8:5-14)

A Christian can please God in his “walk” (what he does) if he allows Christ to live His life in him. I am in Christ, and Christ lives in me. If you set your mind on the flesh to do good, you will fail and be frustrated. But if you look to the Holy Spirit, He will make it possible to do right with your body. So you will have peace. You should not really try, but instead you should trust. If you “try” by your own ability, you will fail. The flesh is not able to do what God wants. It does what sin wants, because sin rules it.

What you need to do is think of yourself as dead. Reckon yourself dead. Then, yield your body to Christ for Him to live in. Your body is “dead” in one sense, but it is “alive” in another sense. It is “dead” when you give up on the flesh. But then your body is “alive” by the Spirit of Christ. Are you living as dead to yourself, presenting your body to God to use each day?

And in fact, that very Spirit of Christ is one day going to change our bodies. One day our bodies will no longer be linked to Adam. Adam's sin causes our bodies to corrupt and die. In Christ, our bodies will be given new life, raised from the dead as a new kind of body. So, we do not owe the flesh anything. It has not helped us at all. So we should not live according to flesh. If you try, you will fail. But if you yield your body to Christ, you will find life and rest. The Spirit of God will do what God wants with your body's members. Give up on the flesh and give your body over to Christ. This is God's deliverance from sin's power!

Romans 5-8 Overview

Romans: The Gospel of God

Man's INTERNAL Problem and God's Solution(5:12-8:16)

5:12 - 21

Fact: Two Heads

Sin in Adam

Grace in Christ

6:1 - 14

**You are in Christ now
by dying with Him.**

Act as free from sin!

6:15 - 7:25

Four Answers about Law

1. Sin is an evil master

2. I died with Christ to law

3. Sin is in me

4. Sin controls the flesh

→ Realize Flesh No Good

→ Cry for Deliverer

8:1 - 16

New Power

**Free from law of
sin and death.**

Able to do right

**by Spirit of
Christ in me**



Peace & Confidence!

Future Freedom from Sin's Effect (Corruption)

We are sons of God, so can look forward to perfect bodies (8:15-25)

If you try to live by the law, you are going back to bondage. It is like slavery where you are always afraid of failing. But God has given you a spirit of sonship, not bondage. You know God and should talk with God as your Father, giving your body to God to use. This is a life of freedom and closeness to God which the Father wants. He made us to be heirs. He wants us to share how great He is. We belong where Christ is... in heaven.

What about these bodies? Our bodies have pain and weakness. These bodies are from Adam. But we now are part of Christ's race. We soon will receive bodies like Christ's body of "glory," a perfect body. Then everyone will see that we really are the sons of God. We do not look that way now. But then, our bodies will match the real us, who we are in Christ. We will be free from the pain we have in our corrupt bodies. What a hope!

As we wait, we can talk to God and trust that He loves us (8:26-39)

The Spirit in us makes us long for the day when we will have perfect bodies. While we wait, the Spirit helps us talk to God about our troubles. We may not know what to ask, but we do know God loves us. He loved us before we loved Him. When we did not love Him at all, He set His love on us. God plans that we will be like His Son. The Father wants the Lord Jesus to be at the center with thousands of us around Him. That is why God called us. He loved us and planned for us to be with Christ. Then He called us. We can be sure He will also bring us to be with His Son in glory.

God is for us! He desires us. How much? No limit. He even gave His own Son to die for us, so that we could be His! If God is for us, who could be against us? Could anyone stop us from being forever with the Lord? No! Someone would have to stop God, because He wants us with Himself. Christ is the One that died and rose for us. Could anyone say that Christ is not good enough? Who could stop God's love for us? No one!

We have difficulties, but nothing can stand between God and us. God has made up His mind that He wants us with Him forever. Can anyone stop His plans? No one! Our hearts can be at peace knowing that God loves us. We know God loves us, so we can have peace in any problem!

What a great message God has taught us!

What a great work God has done in Christ!

God's gospel overcomes what we've done (sins) and who we are (sin) and even sin's effect on our bodies. Are you living in the good of it?



Bruce Hulshizer and Dan Weaver; EncourageDepending@gmail.com

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