

The Gospel of God

Studies in
the Epistle of Paul
to the Romans



HILLCREST BIBLE CHURCH

Sunday School
Winter / Spring 2025

THE GOSPEL OF GOD

Studies in the

Epistle of Paul to the Romans

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ:
for it is the power of God unto salvation
to every one that believeth;
to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

*For therein is the righteousness of God
revealed from faith to faith:
as it is written,
The just shall live by faith.*

Romans 1:16-17

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INTRODUCTION

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). When Jesus departed from the earth to return to the presence of the Father, He gave this commission to His disciples. It remains the great work of the people of God.

Every believer has at least a rudimentary knowledge of the Gospel of God, since that is the instrument by which we are brought to our salvation in Christ. Salvation is not limited to the theologians but is understandable to the simplest child. At the same time, the work of salvation is an infinite masterpiece of the transcendent God. It is a revelation of God Himself in which He bridges the great gulf between the holy Trinity and vile humanity in such a way that His glory is magnified. In a real sense, the Gospel is the sum and substance of the entire Bible as it finds its focal point in the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the lifelong duty of the people of God to diligently seek a more complete understanding of Christ Jesus Who is the Gospel personified. The more deeply we understand this glorious Gospel, the more we will be like our Savior and the better we will be able to fulfill the Great Commission.

There is no better source for an understanding of the Gospel than the Epistle of Paul to the Romans. The letter to the Roman church is commonly considered to be “the most complete statement of the doctrine of salvation that you can find anywhere in the Word of God” (L. D. Custis, “The Message,” February 7, 1982). In it, salvation is presented clearly and systematically with an emphasis upon the righteousness of God. Paul began with a description of the horrible moral condition of mankind as willingly sinful and hostile to God. Because God is righteous, man is justly condemned and under the wrath of God. This condemnation falls equally upon both amoral pagan and moral Jew. “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). But the Gospel is good news. What is unattainable by human effort is provided by God Himself in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. He satisfied the justice of God and provides God’s righteousness to all who believe on Him. All sinners who are justified by grace now have peace with the Righteous One. If that is not enough, Paul showed that justified saints can live righteously by the Holy Spirit within us. Furthermore, our destiny is certain. God, Who has

not withheld His Only Begotten Son, will not allow anything to separate us from His love. The glorification of the believer is assured.

A major theme in Romans is the sovereignty of God. This is fundamental to the work of salvation. Paul skillfully proved this in the middle section of the letter. It is God alone Who decides to whom He will extend His mercy. Sinful man cannot obligate a righteous God. This truth is illustrated in the history of God’s people. The nation Israel was separated from the nations to receive the blessing of God. They spurned God and were set aside. But rather than show the impotence of God, this is further evidence of His sovereignty as God uses the fall of Israel to bring His blessing to the Gentiles. Furthermore, He promises even greater blessing to the world when Israel will be restored by His sovereign grace. It is no wonder that Paul exults in “...the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God” (Romans 11:33).

Paul concluded the letter to the church at Rome with instruction and exhortation in living as redeemed saints. Since we have been justified, we must “...present (our) bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God” (Romans 12:1). Without minimizing the sovereign grace of God in our salvation, Paul calls believers to respond to the truth of the Gospel in such a way that Jesus Christ is displayed and God is glorified by our daily lives. Imputed righteousness must become experienced righteousness.

Another response is required. We must proclaim this Gospel message. To help us remember the main elements of the Gospel that we might more readily preach the Gospel, the memory assignments in this book have been arranged in the format of a catechism. A catechism is a summary of truth expressed in a question and answer format. Questions about the Gospel are asked and then answered by texts from Romans. This “Catechism of the Gospel of God” will help us learn the fundamentals of the Gospel message.

May God bless and grant us a deeper understanding of the grandeur of the Gospel that we might be holy in daily living and faithful in preaching the Gospel to a sinful and rebellious generation.

SCHEDULE

	January 5	1: The Righteousness of God in the Gospel Romans 1:1-17
	January 12	2: The Wrath of God Romans 1:18-32
	January 19	3: The Impartial God Romans 2
HBC will combine these lessons	January 26	4: The Total Depravity of Man Romans 3:1-20
	February 2*	5: The Just and Justifying God Romans 3:21-31
	February 9	6: The God of Abraham Romans 4
	February 16	7: Jesus Christ, the Last Adam Romans 5
	February 23	8: The Gift of God Romans 6
	March 2	9: The Death of Christ and the Law Romans 7
	March 9	10: The Spirit of Life Romans 8:1-17
	March 16	11: The Love of God Romans 8:18-39
	March 23	12: The Purpose of God in Election Romans 9:1-13
	March 30	13: The Sovereign God Romans 9:14-33
	April 6	14: Zeal Without Knowledge Romans 10
	April 13	15: The Fall of Israel Romans 11:1-21
	April 20	16: The Unsearchable Ways of God Romans 11:22-36
	April 27	17: A Living Sacrifice Romans 12
	May 4	18: Putting on the Lord Jesus Christ Romans 13
	May 11	19: Lord of All Romans 14
HBC will combine these lessons	May 18	20: Glorifying God Romans 15:1-13
	May 25**	21: Ministering the Gospel of God Romans 15:14-33
	June 1	22: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you! Romans 16

*February 2 will be a discussion of proposed clarifications to Hillcrest's Statement of Faith

**May 25 will be a presentation from one or more local evangelistic ministries

MEMORY ASSIGNMENT: A GOSPEL CATECHISM

1. Why is the Gospel “good news”?

— Romans 1:16-17 —

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ:
for it is the power of God unto salvation
to every one that believeth;
to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

For therein is the righteousness of God
revealed from faith to faith:
as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

2. What does everyone know about God?

— Romans 1:20 —

For the invisible things of him
from the creation of the world
are clearly seen,
being understood by the things that are made,
even his eternal power and Godhead;
so that they are without excuse.

3. What does the Bible say about the condition of everyone?

— Romans 3:23 —

For all have sinned,
and come short of the glory of God.

4. Does anyone seek or understand God?

— Romans 3:10-11 —

As it is written,
There is none righteous, no, not one:

There is none that understandeth,
there is none that seeketh after God.

5. How did we all become sinners?

— Romans 5:12 —

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world,
and death by sin;
and so death passed upon all men,
for that all have sinned.

A Gospel Catechism (continued)

6. What is the result of sin?

— Romans 6:23 —

For the wages of sin is death;
but the gift of God is eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

7. How does God show His love for sinners?

— Romans 5:8 —

But God commendeth his love toward us,
in that, while we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us.

8. How can a sinner become righteous?

— Romans 3:24 —

Being justified freely by his grace
through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

9. How can a sinner be saved?

— Romans 10:9 —

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus,
and shalt believe in thine heart
that God hath raised him from the dead,
thou shalt be saved.

10. What is the result of faith in Jesus Christ?

— Romans 5:1 —

Therefore being justified by faith,
we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

11. How can a believer live a righteous life?

— Romans 6:4 —

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death:
that like as Christ was raised up from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
even so we also should walk in newness of life.

A Gospel Catechism (continued)

12. What is the believer's hope?

— Romans 8:16-17 —

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit,
that we are the children of God:

And if children, then heirs;
heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;
if so be that we suffer with him,
that we may be also glorified together.

13. Why can a believer have confidence in God?

— Romans 8:31-32 —

What shall we then say to these things?
If God be for us, who can be against us?

He that spared not his own Son,
but delivered him up for us all,
how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

14. What is the believer's response to this salvation?

— Romans 12:1-2 —

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.

And be not conformed to this world:
but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,
that ye may prove what is that good,
and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

Count Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1739
Tr. by John Wesley, 1740

William Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

1. Je - sus, thy blood and right - eous - ness My beau - ty are, my glo - rious dress;
2. Bold shall I stand in thy great day; For who aught to my charge shall lay?
3. When from the dust of death I rise To claim my man-sion in the skies,
4. Je - sus, be end - less praise to thee, Whose bound-less mer - cy hath for me -
5. O let the dead now hear thy voice; Now bid thy ban-ished ones re - joice;

'Midst flam-ing worlds, in these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
Full - y ab - solved through these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
Ev'n then this shall be all my plea, Je - sus hath lived, hath died, for me.
For me a full a - tone-ment made, An ev - er - last - ing ran - som paid.
Their beau - ty this, their glo - rious dress, Je - sus, thy blood and right-eous - ness.

Lesson 1: The Righteousness of God in the Gospel Romans 1:1-17

MEMORY: Gospel Catechism Question 1

HYMN: “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

PURPOSE: *to see that salvation comes to both Jew and Gentile through the Gospel which offers the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ.*

1. How did Paul describe himself in his opening comments?
2. Who is Jesus Christ?
3. What is the significance of the resurrection?
4. What had Paul received through Jesus Christ?
5. Why did Paul give thanks to God?
6. Why did Paul want to go to Rome?
7. How did Paul describe his obligation to preach the Gospel?
8. Why was Paul not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ?
9. What is the message of the Gospel?

Lesson 2: The Wrath of God

Romans 1:18-32

MEMORY: Gospel Catechism Question 2

HYMN: "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"

PURPOSE: *to see that all men are under the wrath of a righteous God.*

1. What did Paul say about the wrath of God?
2. What do all men know about God?
3. What did men do when they knew God?
4. Why are men described as fools?
5. What did God do to men who preferred an image of a creature to His glory?
6. What did God do to men who exchanged the truth of God for a lie?
7. What did God do to men who did not like to retain God in their knowledge?
8. What is the evidence of a debased mind?
9. How do men respond to the knowledge that God is the Righteous Judge?

Lesson 3: The Impartial God

Romans 2

MEMORY: Gospel Catechism Question 3

HYMN: “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

PURPOSE: *to see that God impartially judges all men according to their unrighteous deeds, whether Gentiles without the Law, or Jews with the Law.*

1. What is the standard for God’s judgment?
2. Why will men receive the wrath of God in the day of God’s judgment?
3. What is necessary to avoid the wrath of God in that day?
4. How is God shown to be an impartial Judge?
5. How do the Gentiles show that the work of the Law is written on their hearts?
6. What standard will God use to judge men?
7. What is the confidence of the Jew?
8. Why is the Name of God “blasphemed among the Gentiles”?
9. Who is a true Jew?

Lesson 4: The Total Depravity of Man Romans 3:1-20

MEMORY: Gospel Catechism Question 4

HYMN: “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

PURPOSE: *to see God’s assessment of the character and conduct of man.*

1. What advantage does the Jew have?
2. What did Paul answer when some said that the unbelief of the Jews cast doubt on the faithfulness of God?
3. Why did some question the justice of God?
4. What were some people “slanderingly” reporting that Paul was saying?
5. What do Jews and Gentiles have in common?
6. What is the moral condition of all men?
7. What is the spiritual capability of all men?
8. How did Paul describe the conduct of all men?
9. Why did Paul conclude that “all the world” is guilty before God?

Lesson 5: The Just and Justifying God Romans 3:21-31

MEMORY: Gospel Catechism Question 5

HYMN: “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

PURPOSE: *to see that God graciously justifies sinful men by the blood of Jesus Christ through faith.*

1. What did Paul say about the righteousness of God?
2. Why is there no difference between the Jew and the Gentile?
3. What is the natural condition of all men?
4. How can sinners be justified?
5. What has Jesus Christ done?
6. How can God be “just and the justifier”?
7. What is the role of the Law in justification?
8. How did Paul respond to the suggestion that God was the God of the Jews only?
9. Does justification by faith nullify the Law?

Lesson 6: The God of Abraham

Romans 4

MEMORY: Gospel Catechism Question 6

HYMN: “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

PURPOSE: *to see that the righteousness of God was given to Abraham by faith, apart from any prior act of obedience to God as the pattern, for all who are declared righteous by God.*

1. What does Scripture teach about the justification of Abraham?
2. How did David describe blessedness?
3. What did Paul teach about the circumcision of Abraham?
4. What is “the promise” of which Paul speaks in this chapter?
5. What does the Law do?
6. What is the result of the fact that the promise comes by faith?
7. What is said about Abraham’s God?
8. How did Abraham show faith in this God?
9. Why is this story of Abraham important to us?

Lesson 7: Jesus Christ, the Last Adam

Romans 5

MEMORY: Gospel Catechism Question 7

HYMN: "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"

PURPOSE: *to see that as all men are made sinners through the sin of one man, Adam, so are men made righteous through the righteousness of one Man, Jesus Christ, and that this is the only way to be delivered from the wrath of God.*

1. What is the result of faith in Jesus Christ?
2. Why do we "glory in tribulations"?
3. How does God show His love for sinners?
4. What is true of those who have been reconciled to God through the death of Christ?
5. How did all men become sinners?
6. Why do all men die?
7. What do we learn about sin and death from the years between Adam and Moses?
8. How is Adam a type or picture of Jesus Christ?
9. What impact did the giving of the Law have upon sin and grace?

Lesson 8: The Gift of God

Romans 6

MEMORY: Gospel Catechism Question 8

HYMN: “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

PURPOSE: *to see that our deliverance from sinful behavior comes to us by our union with Christ in His death and in His resurrection to “newness of life.”*

1. How did Paul answer the question in the first verse?
2. What did Paul say about baptism?
3. What did Paul teach about our relationship to the death and resurrection of Christ?
4. What are we to “reckon” ourselves to be?
5. What did Paul tell us about presenting our “members”?
6. What did Paul say about servants (slaves)?
7. Why did Paul give thanks to God?
8. What did Paul say about fruit?
9. What is the difference between the way we come to death and the way we come to eternal life?

Lesson 9: The Death of Christ and the Law Romans 7

MEMORY: Gospel Catechism Question 9

HYMN: "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"

PURPOSE: *to see that Jesus Christ delivers us from the dominion of the Law that we might now be His servants by the Spirit.*

1. How long does the Law have dominion over a man?
2. How does death affect the legal relationship between a woman and her husband?
3. How does a believer become dead to the Law, and what result does this have?
4. What did the Law teach Paul?
5. What did the Law do to Paul?
6. How did Paul describe the Law?
7. What struggle did Paul find within himself?
8. How did Paul account for the fact that he sinned?
9. How did Paul expect to be delivered from this condition?

Lesson 10: The Spirit of Life Romans 8:1-17

MEMORY: Gospel Catechism Question 10

HYMN: "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"

PURPOSE: *to see that it is the Spirit of God Who applies the benefits of Christ's work of redemption in us that we may live righteously.*

1. What is true about those who are in Christ Jesus?
2. What deficiency of the Law was overcome when God sent His Own Son?
3. What is the difference between living by the flesh and living by the Spirit?
4. What are the spiritual capacities of those who are carnally minded?
5. What is an essential distinctive of those who belong to Christ?
6. What is the benefit of having the Spirit of God within the believer?
7. What new obligation do we have as the sons of God?
8. What does the Spirit of God do within the believer?
9. What does it mean to be the children of God?

Lesson 11: The Love of God Romans 8:18-39

MEMORY: Gospel Catechism Question 11

HYMN: “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

PURPOSE: *to see that the glorification of the believer is absolutely guaranteed because of the incomparable love of God.*

1. What did Paul think about suffering in this lifetime?
2. What is the expectation for all of creation?
3. What is the believer's hope?
4. How does the Holy Spirit help us?
5. Why was Paul so sure that all things work together for good for those who love God?
6. How do we know that God is for us?
7. Why will the elect of God never face any charges of sin?
8. How did Paul respond to the promise of tribulation in Psalm 44:22?
9. What things will never separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus?

Lesson 12: The Purpose of God in Election Romans 9:1-13

MEMORY: Gospel Catechism Question 12

HYMN: "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"

PURPOSE: *to see that becoming children of God and recipients of the promise is due to the sovereign choice of God.*

1. What was Paul's attitude toward the people of Israel?
2. What special privileges belong to the Israelites?
3. What was Paul's view of Christ?
4. Why was Paul concerned about the effect of the Word of God?
5. Why is Isaac important for Paul's argument about the seed of Abraham?
6. Who are the children of God?
7. What is "the word of promise"?
8. How did Jacob and Esau demonstrate the purpose of God in election?
9. What is the meaning of the quotation from Malachi 1:2-3?

Lesson 13: The Sovereign God

Romans 9:14-33

MEMORY: Gospel Catechism Question 13

HYMN: "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"

PURPOSE: *to see the absolute sovereignty of God in the distribution of blessing and wrath as demonstrated in His manner of dealing with the nation Israel.*

1. Why is the righteousness of God questioned?
2. What is the role of the will of man in the receipt of the compassion or mercy of God?
3. Why was Pharaoh raised up?
4. How did Paul answer those who questioned God's right to find fault in men?
5. Why does God have vessels of wrath and vessels of mercy?
6. What did Hosea teach about the sovereign will of God for the Gentiles?
7. What did Isaiah teach about the sovereign will of God for the Jews?
8. What did Paul say about the pursuit of righteousness by Gentiles and Israel?
9. What is the "stumbling stone" or "rock of offense"?

Lesson 14: Zeal Without Knowledge Romans 10

MEMORY: Gospel Catechism Question 14

HYMN: "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"

PURPOSE: *to see that the zealous pursuit of righteousness without the knowledge of Jesus Christ is futile, but that all those who call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

1. How did Paul describe Israel?
2. What does Christ do for everyone who believes?
3. What did Moses write about righteousness?
4. How are we saved?
5. Why is there no distinction between Jew and Greek (Gentile)?
6. What has to happen before someone calls on the Lord?
7. What does it mean that "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"?
8. What has gone to "all the earth" and to "the ends of the world"?
9. What warning did Moses and Isaiah give to Israel?

Lesson 15: The Fall of Israel

Romans 11:1-21

MEMORY: Review the Gospel Catechism

HYMN: “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

PURPOSE: *to see that the fall of Israel is not an end, but a means whereby both Jew and Gentile receive the riches of the grace of God.*

1. How did Paul answer his own concern that God had cast away His people?
2. How did the LORD answer Elijah’s concern that Israel had been cast away?
3. Since election is by grace, what does that say about the place of works?
4. Why did Israel not receive the righteousness they were seeking?
5. What effect does the fall of Israel have for the Gentiles?
6. What did Paul anticipate from the restoration of Israel?
7. What analogy did Paul use to illustrate his point?
8. How should the Gentiles not respond to this blessing?
9. What warning did Paul give to the Gentiles?

Lesson 16: The Unsearchable Ways of God Romans 11:22-36

MEMORY: Review the Gospel Catechism

HYMN: “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

PURPOSE: *to see that the grandeur of God is exalted in the display of His goodness and severity in the work of redemption for Israel and the Gentiles.*

1. How do we consider the goodness and severity of God?
2. How did Paul use the analogy of the olive tree to illustrate the hope of Israel?
3. Why is Israel blind?
4. How will all Israel be saved?
5. How can we explain both the current condition of Israel and their future hope?
6. How has the disobedience of Israel affected the Gentiles?
7. How has the mercy shown to the Gentiles affected the Jews?
8. What attributes of God have so deeply impressed Paul?
9. What place did Paul ascribe to God?

Lesson 17: A Living Sacrifice

Romans 12

MEMORY: Review the Gospel Catechism

HYMN: “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

PURPOSE: *to see that the will of God is good, acceptable, and perfect for us as we present our bodies in daily service to God.*

1. What was the basis for Paul’s exhortation in the first verse?
2. What did Paul implore the brethren to do?
3. How are we to think about ourselves?
4. What did Paul teach by the analogy of a body?
5. What different gifts are found in the body of Christ?
6. What did Paul teach about our conduct toward fellow believers?
7. What did Paul teach about our conduct toward those who oppose us?
8. What did Paul teach about our attitude toward ourselves?
9. Why does a believer not need to concern himself with vengeance?

Lesson 18: Putting on the Lord Jesus Christ

Romans 13

MEMORY: Review the Gospel Catechism

HYMN: “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

PURPOSE: *to see that the life of Christ is lived in submission to governing authorities, in love to our neighbor, and in expectation of the return of Jesus Christ.*

1. What instruction did Paul give about our relationship to governing authorities?
2. What does Paul say about those who resist the governing authorities?
3. What is the purpose of government?
4. Why should we pay taxes?
5. How do we render “to all their due”?
6. What did Paul teach about love in this chapter?
7. Why did Paul tell us to “wake up”?
8. How should it affect us that “the day is at hand”?
9. What does it mean to put on the Lord Jesus Christ?

Lesson 19: Lord of All Romans 14

MEMORY: Review the Gospel Catechism

HYMN: “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

PURPOSE: *to see what it means to serve Christ in our mutual care of one another as we pursue peace and seek to edify our fellow believers.*

1. What should we do, and what should we not do, to one who is “weak in the faith”?
2. Why must believers not judge one another about eating or not eating certain foods?
3. What difference does it make that God is our Master and we are His servants?
4. What principle governs our decision to observe certain days or to eat certain foods?
5. Why did Christ die and rise to life again?
6. Instead of judging one another, what should we do?
7. What principles did Paul establish about food?
8. How did Paul describe the Kingdom of God, and how does this affect the way we live?
9. What did Paul say about faith?

Lesson 20: Glorifying God Romans 15:1-13

MEMORY: Review the Gospel Catechism

HYMN: “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

PURPOSE: *to see that we live to please one another and to glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1. What fundamental principle should guide our behavior toward our weak brother?
2. What example did Christ give for us to follow as to how we treat one another?
3. Why was the Scripture written?
4. What requests did Paul make of God for the Roman believers?
5. How are we to receive one another?
6. Why did Christ become a minister to the circumcision?
7. What do the Old Testament quotations in verses 9-11 teach about the Gentiles?
8. What did Isaiah predict about the hope of the Gentiles?
9. What did Paul want for the Romans from the God of hope?

Lesson 21: Ministering the Gospel of God Romans 15:14-33

MEMORY: Review the Gospel Catechism

HYMN: “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

PURPOSE: *to see the priorities and objectives of Paul, a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.*

1. What confidence did Paul have concerning his Roman brethren?
2. Why did Paul write so boldly to the Roman believers?
3. How did Paul account for his success in fully preaching the Gospel of Christ?
4. What was Paul’s plan as he preached the Gospel?
5. Why had Paul not come to Rome before this?
6. What plans did Paul have for getting to Rome?
7. Why did Paul plan to visit Jerusalem?
8. Why did the believers in Macedonia and Achaia give a gift to the Jerusalem saints?
9. What requests did Paul ask the Roman believers to make for him in prayer?

Outline of the Epistle of Paul to the Romans

L. Dwight Custis

June 21, 1970

- I. INTRODUCTION (1:1-17). Paul introduces himself and his message. The theme of the epistle is stated in Romans 1:16-17. It is the Gospel.
- II. THE MESSAGE OF THE EPISTLE (1:18-15:33)
 - A. INDOCTRINATION (1:18-8:38). This passage of Scripture gives us the most complete statement of salvation to be found any place in the Word of God. Paul begins by showing man's great need because of sin and then goes on to show how God has met that need through the Lord Jesus Christ.
 1. CONDEMNATION (1:18-3:20). Paul shows why man is under the judgment of God, and why he will experience the wrath of God.
 2. SALVATION (3:21-8:30). All three aspects of salvation are included: what God has done for those who are saved, what He is doing, and what He will do in the future. These are discussed in order under the following headings.
 - a. JUSTIFICATION (3:21-5:21). It is by faith that man is declared righteous before God, and thus is delivered from sin's penalty.
 - b. SANCTIFICATION (6:1-8:17). Salvation also includes present deliverance for the believer from the power of sin in daily life.
 - c. GLORIFICATION (8:18-30). Present salvation includes the guarantee of our final deliverance from the very presence of sin in our lives.
 3. SUMMARIZATION (8:31-39). On the basis of what he has written from Romans 3:21, he now shows the assurance that is ours.
 - B. CORRELATION (9:1-11:36). From Paul's emphasis on the fact that "there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek," we have these three chapters explaining God's plan for the Jew in the present dispensation and his future purpose for the nation Israel.
 - C. APPLICATION (12:1-15:33). This section gives practical instructions which show the application of the doctrine of the epistle to the daily life of the child of God.
- III. CONCLUSION (16:1-27). The final chapter is given over to various salutations and concludes with a benediction.