

Right With God

You Are Loved

Lesson Six

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

Romans

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You are Loved

One of the greatest feelings a person can have is to know that they are loved. In our Scripture for today, we hear Paul assuring the church at Rome that God loves them. He addresses his letter to "all who are beloved of God in Rome." Read Romans 1:7.

It is interesting to note that previously he said, v 5, that God loved the whole world...the Gospel was for all people, even the Gentiles. Here he says that it is the saints who are called the "loved by God." They are His family, His dear children. Sinners should believe that God loves them and gave His Son for their redemption. That's John 3:16. But, Saints are the beloved of God. Non-Christians are never called God's beloved. Think of it this way, we love our neighbors. However, the members of our immediate family are our beloved. I John 3:1 says, "See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are."

The phrase "called as saints" means called to Jesus and saved by Him. We are called to Jesus by God the Father through the ministry of God the Holy Spirit. God does the calling. God created, according to Genesis 1:1. According to John 1, Jesus made all things and without Him was not anything made that was made. And, according to Genesis 1, God's Holy Spirit moved upon the face of the deep and was thus the action character in creation.

So it is with Christians. God calls us through the work of His Holy Spirit. He calls us to believe in Jesus. Jesus assures us that His sacrifice on the cross will pay the debt for our sins. When we accept His sacrifice for our sins, we become part of the family of God. And, that means that we are beloved saints.

The called of Rome are greeted with "Grace and Peace." Paul begins every one of his letters with that greeting. He connects grace and peace in his greeting to all the saints to whom he writes. Grace is always pronounced from God our Father...the source, and our Lord Jesus Christ...the channel of blessing.

What a magnificent thought: we are the recipients of God's grace. A grace that is beyond human understanding or imagination. A grace that is greater than any other grace. A grace that assures us of eternal life with God, Himself. And that should...that must...bring peace. All other peace is temporary...a respite, but not an eternal peace. This is a peace that we cannot possibly understand or measure. It is a peace that exists not only in the mind, but also in the soul. It is God's peace

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Paul uses the term saints. The word means set apart or separated. It is a positive term indicating those set apart or dedicated to the service of God, in Christ. The New Testament never refers to an individual saint. The term is always plural, pointing to believers as a group, a community set apart for God. The term is not applied to someone just because they demonstrate some good behavior. The Bible does not recognize the idea of "saintliness." Here and elsewhere in Scripture it refers to belonging to God. What a fantastic thought! We belong to, we are chosen, we are dedicated to God.

God does not make saints by exalting persons, people are considered saints in the New Testament who exalt Jesus. So, you have as much right to the title of saint as did Paul or Peter or John.

Paul tells us, as he was telling the Romans long ago, our sainthood is a blessing, grace and peace, but it is also a responsibility: Live like you are God's child.

Scripture Memory: "To all who are the beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 1:7

*Underlined statements in this Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.

For the Teacher:

Lesson Goal: To guide students to understand that all Christians are called to serve God.

- 1. "Grace and Peace." Paul connects grace and peace in his apostolic greeting to all the saints to whom he writes, as does Peter in his two letters. Grace is always pronounced from God our Father...the source, and our Lord Jesus Christ...the channel and the sphere of blessing.
- 2. The Greeks typically understood peace as a negative thing...the absence of war. But in the New Testament, the word has a singularly positive connotation of the Hebrew word, Shalom. To the Hebrews, peace was not so much the absence of turmoil, as in war, but the presence of positive blessing. There is significance in the order of the words. Grace must precede peace.
- 3. The combination of grace and peace harks back to the Priestly Blessing, as found in Numbers 6:24-26:

"The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make His face shine upon you

And be gracious to you;

The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace."

4. A little later in this very letter Paul admonishes the Romans "by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:1

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Student Worksheet

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A Roman Road to Salvation:

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Everyone is a sinner and needs salvation.

Romans 6:23a "For the wages of sin is death." The law of God is unchangeable. If someone sins the penalty must be paid, and that payment is death

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us." God loves us so much, according to John 3:16, that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins.

Romans 6:23b "But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." The debt for sin is spiritual death, but God, through the death of Jesus on the cross, paid that debt and now everyone can have eternal life. See also, II Corinthians 5:21

Romans 1:9, 10 "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." To personally receive the gift of God, eternal life in Christ Jesus, you trust God to be what He says He is. Believing that "God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead" is to accept all that the Bible says about God and His Son, Jesus. Then you speak (confess) the words, "Jesus is Lord," as a statement of faith. Believing "with your heart" means that you believe with your mind and with all that you are.

Romans 10:13 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." You have the promise of God Himself that if you do what Romans 10:9, 10 says, you will become God's child and have eternal life.

Romans 12:1, 2 "I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." Becoming a Christian is a life-long act of faith and worship.