



# Romans

**Right With God**

# God Has No Favorites

**Lesson Thirteen**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

# Romans

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### God Has No Favorites

We have been discussing bad news about which Paul wrote the church in Rome. He wanted them to know all the truth. Sometimes we must hear things that upset us, simply because it helps us get the whole story. In our Scripture lesson today, we are going to see just how completely fair God is.\* (Read Romans 2:4-11)

First, however, we need to think about some words Paul used to describe God in verse four: Kindness – God is always kind. That’s just who He is.

Tolerance – God is always giving us opportunity to repent and amend our ways. But, there is a limit to this. Judgment will come.

Patience – God doesn’t always punish sin immediately after we do it. That doesn’t mean that He cannot punish you, or that He is powerless, it is proof that He is very patient.

We must also realize “that God’s kindness leads you toward repentance.” The word kind describes something a person is. Anyone can do kind acts. However, a kind person will ***always*** be kind. God is kind: He is gracious, good, loving. That, when we understand it, should lead us to be sorry for our sins (the things that displease God) and ask His forgiveness.

Paul says that we try God’s patience. We continue to sin and are not sorry for it. Just because God has not yet punished us, just because we have not experienced the wrath of God, doesn’t mean that it will not happen. We must realize that God doesn’t forget anything. He can see what we do, have done, and will do all at the same time. He doesn’t have to have a computer with memory. And, all must be judged, and punished, with fairness.

What we must never do is see God’s kindness, His patience, and His tolerance as blanket permission to sin. Paul knew that the religious leaders of his day were taking God for granted. They were depending on His choice of the Jewish people to give them a free pass to do whatever they wanted to do.

Think about it this way: Allison stole something from Walmart. Her parents were very disappointed and very hurt. But, they told her again and again that they loved her and they helped Allison deal with the police and the courts. They forgave her. Now, Allison had two choices. She could continue to do bad things, expecting her parents to help her and forgive her over and over. Or, she can be so grateful to her parents for their love and forgiveness that she is determined never to do anything like that again.

Paul says that, with God, there are two kinds of people. First, those who believe in God and

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demonstrate that faith by doing good things. They seek a life that leads to glory, honor and immortality. In the other group are those who are “self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil.” This group is headed for “trouble and distress.” And Paul points out that this applies to everyone, no matter what their nationality or background.

Finally, when you study this Scripture carefully, you will discover a basic truth in Paul’s beliefs. For Paul, faith was that which connects us with God. He said simply we are saved by faith because of the grace of God. However, for Paul, faith that did not lead a person to do good things was not faith at all. Faith and works are forever bound together. In this Scripture, especially in verses seven through ten, it is obvious that Paul believed that God was going to judge us, and reward us, by what we do in response to our faith.

### Scripture Memory: “For God does not show favoritism.” Romans 2:11

\*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 help students to understand that God sees all people alike and has no favorites among us.***

1. What a great lesson this is. You have the opportunity to challenge your students to understand the three beautiful attributes of God. Another way of understanding them is: Kindness = Grace, Love, Goodness; Tolerance = Patience on steroids, Goodness keeping on, Withholding judgment; Patience = Long-suffering, God keeps waiting, it literally means “longspiritedness.”
2. For additional Scripture related to God’s patience and His kindness which leads to repentance, see II Peter 3:9; 3:15a. Paul said that he preached about repentance all the time. See Acts 20:21
3. In verse seven, Paul speaks of seekers. They are not depending on their good works, but seeking God who gives glory, honor and immortality. For more on seekers, see, Acts 17:27. Also refer to the Ethiopian eunuch, Acts 8; and Cornelius Acts 10. Both these men had some light, but sought its source.
4. Paul continues to level the playing field between the Jews and the Gentiles. We must understand that this was a major issue in the early church. There were those who insisted that it was necessary to obey the law of the Jews to be a “complete” Christian. Paul is insisting, on the other hand, that it really makes no difference whether you are Jew or Gentile. There is a great lesson to be learned here. We will discuss in later lessons the importance of seeing everyone as equal in the eyes of God. In teaching this lesson, you may want to deemphasize the terms Jew and Gentile, and focus more on the thought that it is immaterial who you are or where you came from when hearing God speak through Paul.
5. William R. Newell in discussing “persistence in doing good” says “to Abel that meant approaching God as a sinner...to Noah it meant building an ark to preserve life on earth...to Abraham it meant leaving his country, his relatives and his father’s house to become a stranger and pilgrim on earth...to Job it meant bowing before the presence of God in dust and ashes...to Matthew it meant rising from his business and following Jesus...to Lydia it meant hearing the Gospel and following in obedience and faith.

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### *Student Worksheet*

## God Has No Favorites

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=Tolerance – God is always giving us opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ and amend our ways.

=Patience – God doesn’t always punish \_\_\_\_\_ immediately after we do it.

=God is \_\_\_\_\_: He is gracious, good, \_\_\_\_\_. That, when we understand it, should

lead us to be \_\_\_\_\_ for our sins (the things that displease God) and ask His \_\_\_\_\_.

=What we must never do is see God’s \_\_\_\_\_, His \_\_\_\_\_, and His \_\_\_\_\_

as blanket permission to \_\_\_\_\_.

=For Paul, faith that did not lead a person to do \_\_\_\_\_ things was not faith at all. \_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_ are forever bound together.

**Scripture Memory: “For God does not show favoritism.” Romans 2:11**

#### **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, the 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 penalty for sin is spiritual death, but God, through the death of Jesus on the cross, took the penalty for the sins of all people, and now everyone can have eternal life. See also, II Corinthians 5:21

**Romans 10:9, 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 everything 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.