



Romans

Right With God

**From All Bad
To
All Good**

Lesson Twenty

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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From All Bad to All Good

We ended the last lesson with Paul's words, "All sin, and all fall short of the glory of God." That means that, as we said, even at our very best, even when we are as good as we can get, we are pathetic when compared to the goodness...the glory...of God.

Now, we move quickly with Paul from being all bad to being all good. How in the world can that happen? Read Romans 3:24-26.

Though all have sinned, not all are justified. Justified means that we are made right with God.* Made right doesn't mean that we are made perfect morally...sinless. What it does mean is that we are made right with God based on the good and moral, the perfect life of Jesus, His sacrificial death and His resurrection, which demonstrated His power over death. We haven't been made good enough, we have been made acceptable because God doesn't see us as sinners, He sees Jesus in us.

Notice also that this is a free gift. It is not something we earn. When you receive something given as a true gift, you have done nothing to deserve the present. Paul has already made this perfectly clear, and will continue to say this through this letter to the Romans.

We are told that if Santa Claus is going to visit us, we must be good all year. Well that's not the case with God. No matter how bad you are, God invites you to ask Jesus to be your Savior and by God's grace, you will be saved. The very definition of grace makes this clear. Grace is the "unmerited favor" of God. That means that you cannot do anything to deserve God's favor...His goodness. In verse five of the first chapter, Paul said that grace was from Jesus. Now, according to verse twenty-four, grace is also from God. So we see that grace is from both Jesus and God. That's a lot of grace.

In Paul's mind, everyone is going to stand before God someday. All will be judged based on their sins. When a person comes to this judgment, having placed their faith in Jesus, God is going to say, "not guilty." Because of Jesus' sacrifice, people who have faith, will be seen by God as having Jesus' righteousness...that is, being right with God.

Believers are redeemed. That word was applied, in Paul's day, to prisoner's of war being ransomed. When an army lost a battle, or some of its soldiers were captured during the battle, they could be ransomed and brought home. The nation to which they belonged, paid a price set by the conquering nation for their freedom. Jesus paid the price for our salvation, He ransomed us from the control of sin and gave us freedom through His grace.

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We must understand that Jesus didn't come to earth as an actor playing a part and dying a fake death. He was born like any other baby, he grew up like any other child, He had a body that was just like yours. Pain was as real to Him as it is to you. All the terrible things they did to Him when He was crucified hurt just as much as they would if that happened to you.

Paul ends this paragraph with an amazing statement. He says that all this was done so that God would be seen as just and as the justifier. He actually makes us just...that is, all good.

Now, it probably would seem right to us to say, since God is perfect, just, and the perfect judge, He should condemn all sinners to death. Paul is going to say in chapter six, verse twenty-three that the "wages of sin is death." But, the Bible tells us that God is both **just** and **merciful**. When Jesus died on the cross, God's mercy became perfectly clear, and His justice was forever satisfied. The just One becomes the merciful justifier. The judge becomes the one who makes it possible for us to be free.

Scripture Memory: "We are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Romans 3:24

*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 encourage students to understand that God wants everyone to be justified by His grace.

1. Verse 24: There are two ways to interpret the "gift" which brings about our salvation. First, justification. This is a legal word. It pictures a person in court, charged with a crime. At the end of the trial, the judge pronounces the person "not guilty." Even if that person had committed the crime, as far as the law was concerned, the person was no longer guilty. The other word is redemption. This lesson describes the meaning of redemption as paying a ransom. It is used of people being bought out of slavery. Romans 8:21-23 speaks of all of creation waiting for redemption...our adoption by God into His family.

2. We need to see Jesus as real. He lived a life much harder than we live today. His world was much more primitive. It was without all the travel, social, medical and communications improvements we have today. And, He experienced excruciating pain when they whipped Him. He bled from the thorns when they pressed the crown of thorns on His head. He actually did fall under the weight of the cross and skinned His knees on the street made of stones. He felt every strike of the hammer and the piercing of the nails in His hands and His feet. The blood He shed was real blood.

3. Verse twenty-five is better understood from a literal translation of the first part of the verse. It is translated in some versions, "God present Him as a sacrifice of atonement through faith in His blood..." However more literally (as in the New American Standard Bible) it reads, "whom God displayed publically as a propitiation in His blood through faith." The difference is that Paul has been discussing the wrath of God. Harsh, but true. He uses the word which we translate propitiation. It literally means "the removal of wrath." So, Jesus hung on the cross, lifted up so all could see Him and know that the wrath of God is no longer inescapable. The result of God's wrathful judgment for sin was clearly visible when His only Son died in such a humiliating and painful way for our sins.

4. The bottom line is that the one who is justified (just as if they had never sinned) is the one who has faith in Jesus.

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Student Worksheet

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=Though all have sinned, not all are _____. Justified means that we are made _____ with God. We haven't been made _____ enough, we have been made acceptable because God doesn't see us as _____, He sees _____ in us.

=No matter how _____ you are, God invites you to ask _____ to be your Savior and by God's _____, you will be saved.

=Jesus paid the price for our salvation, He ransomed us from the control of _____ and gave us freedom through His _____.

=We must understand that Jesus didn't come to earth as an _____ playing a part and dying a _____ death.

=The Bible tells us that God is both _____ and _____. When Jesus died on the cross, God's mercy became perfectly clear, and His justice was forever _____.

Scripture Memory: "We are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Romans 3:24

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.