



Romans

Right With God

**Love
Wins!**

Lesson Twenty-Four

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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Love Wins!

We begin today's lesson with Paul declaring that we are justified (just as if we'd never sinned) through faith. Actually, he is repeating what he said in the last verses of chapter four. (Read Romans 5:1-11)

Paul has told us earlier in Romans that sin will be judged. He says that all have sinned, see 3:10, 23.* He has made it perfectly clear that doing good things (works) will not make us right with God. We just can't be good enough. And, we come to the central problem of humanity. That is, God is good and humans are not. How can a sinful human come into the presence of the perfect God?

The New Testament tell us that there is only one way. We come into God's presence through faith in the cross. Jesus died on the cross, sacrificing Himself for us. That cross is the place of sacrifice for sin. Because He was sinless, and because God the Father accepted his sacrifice for our sins, we are justified...we are made right with God...He accepts Jesus' righteousness as our righteousness. God can say, "Not guilty."

When Paul says, in verse one, that we have peace with God, he is talking about the end of war between sin and God. Because God hates sin, He declared war on sin. But because of Jesus, there can be peace.

Verse two says that we have gained access, but it should say that someone has introduced us. We do not gain access by anything that we do, we are introduced to the King of all things by His Son. We are introduced into God's grace and we stand in that grace with confidence. Our hope is in the certainty of God's grace now and in the future.

In verses three through five, Paul tells the Romans, and us, that it is right to find joy even in hardships. The hardships to which he refers are not minor inconveniences. The people to whom he wrote were suffering persecution which included at times hunger, lack of shelter, ridicule, and even death. But Paul says that we should rejoice because this is leading to growth as humans and as children of God. Let life throw what it will at the Christian. In Christ, not only will we overcome, but we will grow and become better Christians because of it. Suffering teaches us perseverance (determination that overcomes). Perseverance teaches us character (pure living). Character brings hope (expectation of the best).

Then, bless his heart, Paul reminds us that our hope is certain because it is of God. And, we know that because God has poured out His love. Can you believe it? Can you imagine what

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God's pouring love is? God's great, eternal, perfect love not dripping, not trickling, not running down, but pouring...it's a gusher!

In verses six through eleven, there are two things to consider. Scripture refers to the need of redemption for humans. This is very clear. And it refers to God's timing. God had a plan from before the beginning. Jesus' coming was not accidental. God had always intended to rescue humans. The sacrificial death of Jesus took place just as God the Father had planned it.

Paul speaks here of the love of Jesus. He died. But he wants us to understand that it is the love of God the Father that we are experiencing. Jesus was God. God was in Christ. All of this is proof of God's love. In spite of everything that humans could do in our determined effort to thwart the purpose of God, Love wins. Anywhere there is love, God-kind-of-love, it will win. It wins over sin every time. It will win over anything else. Love wins!

Scripture Memory: "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

*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 see the relationship between hope and faith.

1. True life in Christ; see verse 10, also: Romans 6:8; John 14:19; Ephesians 1:22, 23; Hebrews 7:25; Revelation 1:18.
2. This would be a good lesson in which to discuss Paul's use of the word justification. Of the thirty-nine times it is used in the New Testament, twenty-seven of them are in Paul's writings. He uses it fifteen times in Romans. It literally means "to acquit." It is the word normally used when some is declared "not guilty." Deuteronomy 25:1 is a good example of this idea. Paul uses the word justify to mean "to declare just." God sees in believers the righteousness of Jesus and declares us to be righteous, not guilty of sin.
3. In today's text, we have some of the most memorable verses Paul ever wrote: 5:1, 3-5, 6, 8. We could list every verse, but these stand out.
4. God's timing: God had a plan from eternity. In other places in Scripture, we read of Jesus coming at the consummation of the age. (I Corinthians 10:11; Galatians 4:4; I Timothy 2:6; Titus 1:3; Hebrews 1:2; 9:26)
5. God demonstrates His love for us: I John 4:10 says, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."
6. Think about it: someone could have grabbed a man, beat him, falsely accused him, tortured him and crucified him. That probably happened on numerous occasions, just as innocent humans are accused, tried and punished today. However, in this case, God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." (I Corinthians 5:19) It was all intentional. What Jesus did, God did. The truly innocent man died.
7. We are going to be saved from the wrath of God...in this case, I think that Paul is talking about the eternal punishment for all sinners. God has saved us now. But, He has also, already saved us from God's wrathful condemnation of sinners to eternal suffering. (See also, Romans 12:19; I Thessalonians 1:10)

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Student Worksheet

Love Wins!

=Paul has told us that sin will be _____. He says that all have _____, see Romans 3:10, 23.

=Paul has made it perfectly clear that doing _____ things (works) will not make us right with _____. We just can't be _____ enough.

=Because Jesus was _____, and because God the Father accepted his _____ for our sins, we are _____...we are made right with God...He _____ Jesus' righteousness as our _____.

=Our hope is certain; it is of God. We know that because God has _____ out His love.

=In spite of everything that humans could do in our determined effort to thwart the _____ of God, _____ wins. Anywhere there is love, God-kind-of-love, it will _____. It wins over sin _____. It will win over _____ else. Love _____!

Scripture Memory: "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

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.