



# Romans

**Right With God**

# Stand Before God

**Romans 14:7-12**

**Lesson Forty-Four**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

# Romans

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### Stand Before God

In the middle of Paul's discussion of how we should treat one another, he reminded the Romans that when we stand before God to "give account of ourselves," we will be alone. Read Romans 1:7-12.

Now, in this life, we are never really alone. There is always the fact that we can't get away from the past. Our parents are in us...the DNA is there. Our childhood and youth experiences are always with us.

There is the fact that we can't fully escape the present. We live in a world with many, many influences. More than any other time in history, we are close to other people. We have instantaneous communication in almost every part of the world. And, as pointed out by Paul in our Scripture for today, we cannot be alone in the future. We carry around with us all the influences of the past and present, and pass those things along to family, friends, workmates and others. The influences of the present carry over into the future. So, through our children's lives and the lives of others we influence, we will not be without a future and never alone in it.

This fact is especially true of the Christian and his or her future. Paul emphasizes, to the church at Rome, the truth that even if it were possible to get away from all others and all other influences, "we live to the Lord" and "we die to the Lord."\* He assures us that Jesus has power to make that happen, because He had power to rise from the dead. We are never completely alone. If we read verse eight again, we will find the phrase "to the Lord" repeated three times. Paul is emphasizing God's supreme place in life and death of a Christian. God is definitely in our future. That should be comforting to us all, as well as a challenge to us all.

These words are written in the middle of Paul's discussion of what people were eating and what days they were celebrating. So, obviously, people were being critical, accusing other Christians of doing a bad thing. This must have happened to the point of disrupting the fellowship of the church and hurting those who were being judged. All their "holier than thou" talk was making them look bad instead of making other people look bad.

Then, in verse ten, Paul calls their attention to what they surely already knew, "we will all stand before God's judgment seat." There was, according to verse eight, *living to the Lord* and there was *dying to the Lord*, and they fully understood that after they died there would come a *judgment*. You can almost hear Paul say, if you think that your little judgments here are important, think how small they are compared to the day when God judges all people. He

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goes on to say that on judgment day, everyone will stand alone before God. "Each," he said, "will give account of himself before God's judgment seat." And, though on earth we are never alone, on that day, all of us will stand alone while God and all angels and all humans who ever lived look on. He quotes Isaiah 45:23 emphasizing "*every* tongue will confess."

What a challenge for us! In the middle of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged." Matthew 7:1. This judging business is serious. The people in the Roman church were doing what Christians do to this day. They were judging people, which is God's role alone.

One more thought: For the Christian, we will not have to appear absolutely alone. Scripture clearly teaches that Jesus pleads our case before God, so though we are accountable, and though we will stand alone before God, Jesus will be there to speak in our behalf.

**Scripture Memory: "So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God."  
Romans 14:12**

\*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 challenge students to be careful about judging others and remember that we will all appear before God to give account of our actions on earth.**

1. This lesson will be a challenge to teach. It should humble the teacher. It should make teachers examine themselves at the point of being judgmental. That kind of attitude is easy to see and most students who know the teacher well will have that figured out.
2. There are many Scriptures about God as the judge. Check it out, beginning in Genesis 18:25 where God says of Himself, "Will not the judge of all the earth do right?" See also, Psalm 9:8; Romans 2:16; II Timothy 4:1, 8 and many others.
3. For Scripture on the final judgment, see The Revelation 20:11ff.
4. II Timothy 2:23 says, "Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because they produce quarrels. And, the Lord's servant must not quarrel." Also see Philippians 2:14, 15.
5. Denny said, of verse 12, "Every word in this sentence is emphatic." Leon Marsh continues, "Each makes the judgment universal; each one of us is caught up in it and there is no escaping it. Of us makes it personal; we cannot see this as applying to our neighbor but not ourselves. And we should notice that Paul is including himself with his readers. Give an account is an expression often used for the keeping of financial records. A reminder that the judgment we all face is a fitting conclusion to the discussion. The fact that each will render account for himself leaves no room for despising and judging others. The verdict on them is from God, not from us."
6. Daniel Webster, highly respected senator from Massachusetts and Secretary of State, who lived from 1782 to 1852, was once asked what was the greatest thought that ever crossed his mind. His response was, "The greatest thought that ever crossed my mind is my responsibility to God." It would be a different world if all of us thought like that. This lesson is a reminder that we should think like that.

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### *Student Worksheet*

#### Stand Before God

=Paul emphasizes, to the church at Rome, the \_\_\_\_\_ that even if it were possible to get away from all others and all other influences, "we \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord" and "we \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord."

=God is definitely in our \_\_\_\_\_. That should be comforting to us all, as well as a \_\_\_\_\_ to us all.

=You can almost hear Paul say, if you think that your little \_\_\_\_\_ here are important, think how \_\_\_\_\_ they are compared to the day when God \_\_\_\_\_ all people.

=Everyone will stand alone before God. "Each," he said, "will give \_\_\_\_\_ of himself before God's \_\_\_\_\_ seat."

=This judging business is \_\_\_\_\_. The people in the Roman church were doing what \_\_\_\_\_ do to this day. They were judging people, which is God's \_\_\_\_\_.

=Though we will stand \_\_\_\_\_ before God, \_\_\_\_\_ will be there to speak in our behalf.

**Scripture Memory: "So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God."**

#### **Romans 14:12**

##### **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.