

Romans Study - Lesson 6

Text :

Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 25
Romans 3:19-31
Galatians 2:17-21
1 Corinthians 1:26-31

What strikes you about these passages? What observations do you make?

And Can It Be

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Saviour's blood!
Died he for me who caused his pain!
For me who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left his Father's throne above
(so free, so infinite his grace!),
Emptied himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine;
Alive in him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Charles Wesley, 1738

Exposition: Religioustolerance.org found that 53% of Americans think they can get to heaven by good works. 30% believe that works do not earn you a place in heaven. 45% believe that religious beliefs won't determine where you spend eternity. 63% of the people polled believe they had a good to excellent chance at reaching heaven. 43% believe that Jesus committed sins during his ministry.

Exercise: on the back of this sheet, re-write each sentence in this passage in your own words. I found this really helpful in understanding what I was reading.

Development: Is anyone righteous, and by what standard do we judge? (Rom. 3:23)

According to verses 23-24, all men are equal in two ways. List those ways:

What does propitiation mean? (found in vrs. 25)

To obtain righteousness, what did the Israelites of the Old Testament have to do? (Deut. 1:25)

How does that contrast to what Romans 3 has to say about righteousness? From where does righteousness come?

Recapitulation: Looking back on what we learned today, what can we boast about? What is the good news we can take from this and share with others?

Book of Romans

Author: Romans 1:1 identifies the author of the Book of Romans as the Apostle Paul. Romans 16:22 indicates that Paul used a man name Tertius to transcribe his words.

Date of Writing: The Book of Romans was likely written between 56-58 A.D.

Purpose of Writing: Paul was excited about being able to at last minister in this church, everyone was well aware of that fact (Romans 1:8-15). It was written from Corinth just prior to Paul's trip to Jerusalem to deliver the alms that had been given for the poor there. He had intended to go to Rome and then on to Spain (Romans 15:24). His plans were interrupted when he was arrested in Jerusalem. He would eventually get to Rome as a prisoner. Phoebe who was a member of the church at Cenchrea near Corinth (Romans 16:1) most likely carried the letter to Rome.

Key Verses: Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the Salvation of every one who believes, first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."

Romans 3:9-11, "What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. As it is written: 'There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.'"

Romans 3:21, "But now a righteousness from God apart from the Law, has been made known, to which the Law and Prophets testify."

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

Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:9, "you however, are controlled not by the sinful nature, but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ."

Romans 8:37-39, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

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."

Romans 12:1, "Therefore, 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."

Romans 12:19, "Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord,"

Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 16:17, "I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them."

Brief Summary: The Book of Romans can be divided into four sections: Righteousness Needed, 1:18 - 3:20; Righteousness Provided, 3:21 - 8:39; Righteousness Vindicated, 9:1 - 11:36; Righteousness Practiced, 12:1 - 15:13. The main theme of this letter is obvious of course, it is Righteousness. Guided by the Holy Spirit Paul first condemns all men of their sinfulness. He expresses his desire to Preach the truth of God's Word to those in Rome. It was his hope to have assurance that they were staying on the right path. He strongly points out that he is not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is what every one need to direct them to Salvation.

Paul points out again that God did not demand that men have their lives straightened out before coming to Christ. Because, it is a fact that while we were still sinners He, Christ died on a cross for our sins. When we turn our lives over to Jesus Christ, we are no longer controlled by our sin nature, but we are controlled by the Spirit. If we make confession that Jesus is Lord, and believe that He is raised from the dead, we are saved, born - again. We need to live our lives offered to God as a living sacrifice to Him. Because, that should be our highest desire to worship Him so. We cannot please Him by living according to this world and its pleasures. We need to keep our eyes on Jesus at all times.

Never seek to take revenge on anyone because it is God's place to repay, and we need to leave it Him. We need to feed the hungry and quench their thirst. Nothing is ever accomplished if we are overcome by evil, but evil, we need to overcome evil with good. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Practical Application: It is very difficult to summarize the Book of Romans. It is so full of truth! The Book of Romans tells us about God, who He is and what He has done. It tells us of Jesus Christ, what His death accomplished. It tells us about ourselves, what we were like without Christ and who we are after trusting in Christ. Perhaps the best application of Romans would be to apply Romans 1:16 and not be ashamed of the Gospel. Instead, let us all be faithful in proclaiming it!