

Paul's Greeting to the Christians at Rome Romans 1:1-7

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. The gospel of God was promised in God's Word:
a. In the prophetic statements of Scriptures.

b. In the prophetic pictures of the Old Testament.

2. The gospel of God is focused in God's Son:
a. In His incarnation.

b. In His resurrection.

Practical Application

1. Remember that you, too, are called to be an apostle.

Questions

1. How and when was the church at Rome begun?
2. From where and under what circumstances did Paul write the epistle to the Romans?
3. Who was the Gaius spoken of in Romans 16:23?
4. What is the theme of this epistle?
5. The gospel of God was promised in God's word. Explain.

Answers

1. It is most likely that this church got its start soon after Pentecost as new converts carried the gospel back to Rome from Jerusalem. People were converted, Bible studies started, and the church at Rome came into being.
2. Paul wrote from Corinth. He was on his third missionary journey.
3. Gaius was Paul's host, and the host of the whole church. From this we could conclude that he and his wife were committed to hospitality.
4. The righteousness of God and the gospel of God. In Romans, the gospel is not only proclaimed, it is taught.
5. It was promised in the prophetic statements of Scriptures, and in the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament. Secondly, it was promised in the prophetic pictures of the Old Testament, such as the Old Testament sacrifices that pointed to the great sacrifice to come.

Discuss / Consider

1. Review and consider the gospel of God as promised in some of the prophetic statements of Scripture. Recall and consider some of the Old Testament pictures or types that looked forward to the gospel of God.

2. Paul had a mission strategy, plans to evangelize people wherever he was located. Do you have a strategy to evangelize your neighbors and your colleagues? What kind of effect are you having on their lives?

Challenge

1. Paul was called to be an apostle, or a "sent one," to show forth the gospel of God. The great commission applies to all believers (Mark 16:15). Remember that you, too, are called to be an apostle.

The Theme of Romans
Romans 1:8-17

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. The gospel of God reveals the power of God.

2. The gospel of God reveals the righteousness of God.

Practical Application

1. Are you paying off your debts?

2. Are you ashamed of the gospel?

3. Don't be discouraged if God says "No" to your godly plans.

Questions

1. Refer to Romans 1:8. Why was Paul giving thanks?

2. When did Paul write this letter to the Romans?

3. How does the gospel of God reveal the power of God?

4. Does God lower His standards to save sinful people?

5. Is sharing the good news optional for the believer?

Answers

1. He was thankful for the believers at Rome and thankful for their Christian testimony, which was known throughout the whole world (that is, the Roman Empire).
2. About 57-58 A.D.
3. The good news is the power of God. Intrinsic to the gospel is the power of God to save and transform lives when the good news is believed.
4. No, although we are saved by God's grace and mercy, He does not lower or compromise His standards. Believers are declared righteous as they accept by faith the sacrifice of Christ.
5. No. Paul wrote that he was a debtor to both Greeks and barbarians, both to the wise and unwise. The Lord brings us into contact with many people from all walks of life. We are the means God used to get the good news to them. It is our responsibility, not an option.

Discuss / Consider

1. The Roman persecutions followed the great fire in Rome in AD 64, when Nero blamed the Christians for the fire. Some of these Christians would be martyred for their faith in Christ. Would you be so faithful under such conditions?

2. Paul prayed for the Christians undergoing persecution. How faithful are you in praying for believers around the world who are even now undergoing great persecution?

Challenge

1. Have you experienced the power of God to save and transform your life? Have you experienced the power of God to save you from the penalty and power of sin in your life? Are you sharing this good news?

The Whole World is Guilty Before God
Romans 1:18-23

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. God does not condemn people for ignorance of the truth.

2. God does condemn people for willful rejection of the truth.

Practical Application

1. Don't be brain washed with the study of man's religion.

Questions

1. In the epistle to the Romans, we have good news and bad news. What is the good news? What is the bad news?
2. Does God condemn people for ignorance of the truth?
3. What is it called when evidence is seen in creation?
4. Creation not only gives evidence of the power of God, but also of His divine nature. Explain.
5. Does God condemn people for willful rejection of the truth?

Answers

1. The good news is that God loves us and has provided a way of salvation for us. The Lord Jesus Christ died for us as our substitute, paying the penalty for our sin so that we can go to heaven. The bad news is that everyone is guilty before God. Everyone has sinned and the wrath of God is directed against sin.
2. No. Instead they are condemned for negative volition (that is, an act of the will against God). God has given everyone clear evidence of Himself. No one has an excuse for not responding and submitting to the true God.
3. Natural Revelation. See Psalm 19:1-4 for an example of evidence seen in creation.
4. God's invisible attributes are clearly seen, even His Godhead or Divine Nature. Note the wonderful, intelligent, and amazing design in creation, as seen in the atom or DNA molecule. This is more than design, it is information being conveyed.
5. Yes, for they have rejected God Himself in their rejection of God's revealed truth. Furthermore, not only is truth rejected, but it is repressed, held down in unrighteousness.

Discuss / Consider

1. No one has an excuse. What about the heathen or those who have never heard about Christ?

2. Consider the wonderful, intelligent, and amazing design in creation. What is your answer to those who say that the world and everything in it came about by chance?

Challenge

1. Don't be brain washed with the study of man's religion. Would you compare man's study of God, his search for God, and his idea of God against what God has revealed in His word, and in latter days through His Son?

The Consequences of Rejecting God
Romans 1:24-32

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. People who reject the truth of God are abandoned to the consequences of sexual fornication.

2. People who reject the truth of God are abandoned to the consequences of sexual perversion.

3. People who reject the truth of God are abandoned to the consequences of a debased mind.

Practical Application

1. Does Romans 1:32 have application for you?

Questions

1. "God gave them up." What is the idea here?
2. What lie is addressed in Doctrinal Point #1?
3. Is homosexuality a legitimate alternate lifestyle?
4. Describe a "debased mind."

Answers

1. God is not to blame for man's sin. God does not force someone to do what is right, nor does He manipulate people. If people willfully reject the truth, God leaves the people to reap the sad consequences of their sin.
2. The lie is that the creature exists independent of the Creator. The truth is that God has created us, and we find our fulfillment and enjoyment in obeying the Creator and following His guidelines for our lives. But people believe the lie that by doing their own thing they can find happiness, fulfillment, and freedom.
3. No. It is sin, not a sickness. In Leviticus 18 and 20, this sin is called an abomination before God and was punishable by death. See also 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 for some who found freedom and forgiveness.
4. A debased mind is one that has rejected the truth of God. Sin affects both the body and the mind. When God and His truth are rejected the mind is debased, no matter how educated. Notice the list, beginning in Romans 1:29-31.

Discuss / Consider

1. Has America believed the lie that the creature exists independent of the Creator, that people can find happiness and fulfillment in doing their own thing?

2. Why is it that the sins of a debased mind are so widespread and increasing in our country?

Challenge

1. Does Romans 1:32 have application to you? Consider the application of this verse both to the unsaved and to the saved.

Even "Good" People are Guilty Before God
Romans 2:1-5

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. Moral people are guilty before God because they don't aspire to their own standards.**
- 2. Moral people are guilty before God because they don't acknowledge the grace of God.**
- 3. Moral people are guilty before God because they don't admit they are wrong.**

Practical Application

- 1. Would you live below a dam that was about to break?**

Questions

1. Is everyone guilty before a holy and righteous God?
2. Are the pagan and heathen, who haven't had a chance to hear about Christ, guilty?
3. Give an example of people who not only reject the truth, but suppress it.
4. What does it mean that people don't aspire to their own standards?
5. Explain doctrinal point #2.

Answers

1. Yes. Apart from salvation in Christ, everyone is guilty, and therefore under the judgment of God. The one exception, of course, is Jesus Christ, who lived a perfect and sinless life.
2. Yes. Romans 1 answers that question. God does not condemn people for ignorance, but no person is ignorant because God has revealed Himself and His truth in creation with enough evidence for everyone to respond to Him.
3. Many people today would rather believe that the universe is eternal or created itself without a Creator. They promote their own theories rather than acknowledging God's spoken word.
4. They don't attain or live up to their own standards. Even though they may have higher standards than others, they condemn themselves when they judge others who don't live up to those standards.
5. Moral people think they are good enough on their own, and that they don't need the grace of God.

Discuss / Consider

1. Rather than admit to wrong, moral people compare themselves to people whom they consider inferior, or they change the standards relative to their situation. Are there moral people like this in our country today? Are you praying that they will see and acknowledge the truth of God?

2. Would you live below a dam that was about to break? Would you warn others about this dam?

Challenge

1. *"Do you despise the riches of God's goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering?" Romans 2:4*

The Basis of God's Righteous Judgment
Romans 2:6-16

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. The coming judgment of God will be according to works.**
- 2. The coming judgment of God will be according to privilege.**
- 3. The coming judgment of God will be according to conscience.**

Practical Application

- 1. Remember, no favorites and no secrets.**
- 2. Is Paul's gospel your gospel?**

Questions

1. What is the only name given whereby men must be saved? Support your answer with Scripture.
2. Romans 2:7-10 sounds like a works salvation. How do you harmonize these verses with Ephesians 2:9 and Titus 2:5, that salvation is not by works?
3. Is the coming judgment of God according to privilege?
4. Where did a person's moral conscience come from?
5. Does God show partiality? Are there secrets before God?

Answers

1. Jesus. Acts 4:12 and John 14:6.
2. The overall context is not that good works can save a person. No one apart from salvation does good works (*"no, not one"* – *Romans 3:12*). Good works are not a means of salvation but characterize and give evidence of salvation.
3. The Jews had the law of God given to them, a great privilege and a great responsibility. The Gentiles did not have the law given to them, but they had their God-given moral conscience and the evidence of God in creation. God takes all of this into account when He judges. Because of these differences, there are degrees of punishment in God's judgment.
4. It is God-given and in line with God's moral law.
5. There is no partiality with God (*Romans 1:11*), and there are no secrets before God (*Romans 2:16*).

Discuss / Consider

1. All are guilty before God, and God holds people accountable in this universe that He has created. God will and He must judge sinners. God's judgment is certain and it is universal. Contemplate the day and wrath and the righteous judgment of God.

2. The judgment of God is according to truth (not circumstantial evidence, but facts; not man's idea of what truth is, but what God has revealed as truth). Is there any relativism with God concerning His judgment?

Challenge

1. "Is Paul's gospel your gospel?" Does it include both the love of God and the judgment of God?

Even the Religious Jews Were Guilty Before God
Romans 2:17-29

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. God condemns religious hypocrisy.

2. God condemns religious ritualism.

Practical Application

1. Is the name of God blasphemed because of you?

Questions

1. Why were the Jews considered religious hypocrites?
2. Give an example of God condemning religious ritualism.
3. When is a religious ritualism like circumcision honored by God?
4. How was the name of God blasphemed by the Jews?

Answers

1. They claimed to be keepers of the law, even boasting in the law of God; they claimed to know God's will and do only what was good; they claimed to be guides to the blind and light to those in darkness; and they claimed to be spiritually mature teachers of God's word. But they taught others and not themselves; they preached God's warnings but failed to heed them. They were hypocrites, and God condemns hypocrisy.

2. Circumcision is profitable if you keep the law, but if you break it, it becomes uncircumcision. The Jewish people were not honoring God or following His law, even though they were still practicing circumcision.

3. When the heart and not just the flesh is circumcised.

4. The Jewish people claimed that they were following God, but at the same time they were breaking God's law by lying and stealing and committing adultery. As a result, the Gentiles had no respect for the God of the Jews.

Discuss / Consider

1. Is it possible that you are a religious hypocrite? Are you wearing some kind of religious mask? Are you in fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ, but behind their backs slander them? The Lord Jesus said, "*Woe to you, you hypocrites.*"

2. Is it possible that you are practicing religious ritualism to impress people or to justify yourself? Or are you giving honest praise to God Himself?

Challenge

1. The Jewish people claimed that they were following God, but at the same time they were breaking God's law. Be sure that you are a hearer and a doer of God's word, lest you blaspheme His name before the unsaved.

All the World Is Guilty Before God
Romans 3:1-20

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. All objections to God's judgment are answered.**
 - a. There is no advantage to being one of God's chosen people.**

 - b. God is not faithful to His promises.**

 - c. God is unjust to punish unrighteousness because man's unrighteousness highlights God's righteousness.**

 - d. Since God's truth and glory are enhanced because of man's lying and sin, then God is wrong to judge.**

- 2. All the world is guilty before God.**

Practical Application

- 1. Where are you on God's scale of righteousness?**

Questions

1. Is there an advantage to being one of God's chosen people?

2. Is the charge true that God is not faithful to His promises?

3. Is God unjust to punish unrighteousness because man's unrighteousness highlights God's righteousness?

4. Respond to Doctrinal Point 1d.

5. What is the conclusion and summation of the argument of Romans?

Answers

1. Even though the Jews were especially privileged to have the oracles of God committed to them, they did not have an advantage over Gentiles.
2. No, it is not true. God is faithful to His promises. The Jews are guilty for not believing them.
3. No, for whom else would God judge the world? God's righteousness is what judgment is all about.
4. Their condemnation is just. See Romans 3:7-8. Refer also to Romans 6:1.
5. That the entire world is guilty before God.

Discuss / Consider

1. There are a number of quotations from Psalms in this passage under study. The purpose of these quotes is to show that Paul's argument, that the entire world is guilty before God, is based on Scripture. Compared to God's standard of righteousness, there is none righteous. Are you able to use Old Testament quotations to prove that there are none righteous?

2. Show from this Romans 3:16-18 that sin has affected every part of us.

Challenge

1. Where are you on God's scale of righteousness? Do you have a tendency to consider yourself more righteous than others?

God's Wonderful Plan of Salvation for Everyone
Romans 3:21-31

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. God's plan of salvation does not compromise the righteousness of God.**
- 2. God's plan of salvation is not foreign to the Old Testament.**
- 3. God's plan of salvation requires faith, but no works.**
- 4. God's plan of salvation includes redemption and propitiation.**
- 5. God's plan of salvation covers sins committed before the cross.**
- 6. God's plan of salvation is for all people.**

Practical Application

- 1. You can't jump across the Grand Canyon.**

Questions

1. Does God's plan of salvation compromise His righteousness?
2. What does it mean to be justified?
3. Is God's plan of salvation seen only in the New Testament?
4. Does God's plan of salvation include works?
5. God's plan of salvation includes redemption and propitiation. Explain these two terms.

Answers

1. God's plan of salvation is such that He can both maintain His own righteousness and also make righteous the sinner.
2. Justified means to be declared righteous.
3. No, the righteousness of God is witnessed by the law and the prophets. God's way of salvation has always been by grace through faith.
4. No, God's plan of salvation requires faith, not works. See Romans 3:22, 24, 27-28. See also Ephesians 2:8-9.
5. Redemption in Christ Jesus is the idea of being bought out of the slave market of sin, our condition before salvation. The price of our redemption has been paid by the blood of Christ. Propitiation means satisfaction. The righteous demands of a holy God were satisfied by His Son on the cross.

Discuss / Consider

1. Examine Romans 3:22, 24, 27-28, which speak of salvation by faith alone. How, then, do you relate this truth to James 2:26?
2. God's plan of salvation covers sins committed before the cross. How is this possible?
3. Show from Scripture that God's plan of salvation is for all people.

Challenge

1. Can you jump across the Grand Canyon? Can you satisfy God's standards of perfection? Take the bridge and live!

God's Way of Salvation is Not a New Way
Romans 4:1-8

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. Abraham was justified by grace through faith.

2. David was justified by grace through faith.

Practical Application

1. Remember, righteous means righteous.

Questions

1. What does "justified" mean?
2. How was Abraham, the father of the Jewish people, declared righteous by God?
3. Is Romans 4:3 a contradiction to James 2:21?
4. What is the point everyone must come to in order to be justified by God?
5. How was David justified by God?
6. What did the law have to do with Abraham and David being justified?

Answers

1. Justified means to be declared righteous.
2. By faith alone, not by works.
3. No. Abraham was declared righteous by God many years before he was called to sacrifice his promised son, Isaac on the altar. By the willingness to sacrifice his son, however, Abraham showed that he had the right kind of faith, and his works of obedience proved the reality of his faith.
4. The realization that all have sinned and come short of God's glory. This must be personalized.
5. By faith through grace alone.
6. Nothing. Abraham came before the law; David came after the law had been given. Both came by faith through grace alone.

Discuss / Consider

1. Do you have even the slightest tendency to justify your works before God as helping to gain your salvation? If a person is saved by works, or even partly by works, then there is something to boast about. There will be absolutely no boasting before God. Salvation is by grace alone. See Ephesians 2:8-9.

2. We still sin in practice, but our standing before God is one in righteousness. We've been justified and declared righteous. Remember, righteous means righteous.

Challenge

1. Has your sin been removed from your charge account and put on Christ's account? Is your charge account stamped righteous?

Salvation is Apart from Any Rituals or Rules
Romans 4:9-15

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. Justification is not by religious rites.

2. Justification is not by religious rules.

Practical Application

1. Remember the initials, BMOC.

Questions

1. Both Abraham and David were Jews. They had the sign of the Abrahamic Covenant – they were circumcised, the chosen people, and in a place of privilege. Is God's grace then pure grace? Doesn't it favor the Jews?

2. Can justification be obtained by religious rites?

3. What happens if the law of God is broken? How does this relate to justification by faith alone?

4. Can a person be saved by baptism?

5. What do the initials, BMOC stand for? What do they mean?

Answers

1. God's grace is pure grace. God does not favor the Jew over the Gentiles when it comes to salvation. Justification has nothing to do with being a Jew.
2. Not. Man is justified apart from the deeds of the law.
3. Once you have the law, there are consequences of breaking it, but it is not a factor in justification.
4. No. Baptism is good, but it does not save a person. Baptism follows salvation to show a person's identification with Christ, that he dies and is resurrected in newness of life with Christ.
5. - Basis for salvation: the basis for salvation is the finished work of Christ on the cross.
 - Means of salvation: the means of salvation is the same throughout history, by grace through faith alone.
 - Object of faith: the object of faith is the one true God, the God of the Bible.
 - Content of faith: the content of faith is more in the New Testament than in the Old Testament because Jesus died and was raised and the gospel is proclaimed. Content is what God reveals at a certain time in history.

Discuss / Consider

1. Some people think that they are going to heaven because they have undergone the religious rite of baptism. What would you say, using Scripture to someone who is counting on their baptism to get them to heaven?

2. Justification is not by religious rules, and not by having or keeping rules. God does not justify people because they go to church every Sunday. If you met someone who justified himself on the basis of going to church "religiously," how would you respond?

Challenge

1. Abraham didn't believe the content of faith that we have now been given, but he responded to what God had revealed to him. How important is it that you respond to the content that God has revealed to you?

Salvation has Always Been by Grace Through Faith Alone
Romans 4:16-25

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. Righteousness was reckoned to Abraham by faith alone.

2. Righteousness is reckoned to the children of Abraham by faith alone.

Practical Application

1. All you have to do is say, “Amen” to God and really mean it.

Questions

1. Will Abraham be in heaven? On what basis?

2. What kind of faith did Abraham have? What kind of faith was God looking for?

3. What did God promise Abraham?

4. Righteousness is reckoned to the children of Abraham by faith alone. Who are the children of Abraham?

5. Are God’s plans and promises to Abraham’s natural seed, the Jewish people, still valid?

6. What does the word, “reckoned,” mean?

Answers

1. Yes. Not by works but by faith. See Romans 4:2-3.
2. Not a feeling kind of faith. Abraham simply believed what God had said, and it was reckoned to him as faith.
3. That he would be the father of many descendants (Genesis 15).
4. Abraham is the spiritual father of all who believe, the faithful. See Galatians 3:7, 29. This does not mean that there is no longer any natural seed of Abraham.
5. Yes, and some day they will come to fruition.
6. It means “accounted to, imputed to, or credited to.” Righteousness was accounted to Abraham and written as imputed to all believers.

Discuss / Consider

1. God is able to reckon us as righteous by faith alone because Jesus took our sins and was raised from the dead. God is satisfied and we are justified. Ponder this.

2. Saying “Amen” to what God has said describes saving faith. It starts with believing what God has revealed in Creation, by His Word, and in His Son. Selah.

Challenge

1. Are you saying “Amen” to God?

Blessings and Benefits for Christians
Romans 5:1-11

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. God's package of salvation includes peace with God.
2. God's package of salvation includes favor with God.
3. God's package of salvation include hope of glory.
4. God's package of salvation includes joy in tribulations.
5. God's package of salvation includes assurance of salvation.
6. God's package of salvation includes our reconciliation.

Practical Application

1. Let's not forget to thank the Lord for more than fire insurance.

Questions

1. What does it mean to have peace with God?
2. What does it mean to have favor with God?
3. What does it mean to have the hope of glory?
4. What does it mean to have assurance of salvation?
5. What does it mean that God's package of salvation includes our reconciliation?

Answers

1. It means that the believer is no longer at odds with God or alienated from Him. Peace has been declared because of what God has done for you in Christ.
2. It means the believer has access to the Father, being in the family of God. This is their position before Almighty God; it is the standing of the believer.
3. Believers look forward to heaven, being with the Lord in glory.
4. The subjective proof of assurance is that you have the Holy Spirit indwelling you. The objective proof is that Christ died for us when we were sinners. Will He not finish the job and keep us safe and secure?
5. We are brought into a wonderful, beautiful, harmonious relationship with God.

Discuss / Consider

1. A quick review and preview:
 - Romans 1-3: the whole world is shown to be guilty before God
 - Romans 4: God has a plan of salvation for guilty sinners (by grace through faith)
 - Romans 5-8: the great privileges of the justified believer and some of the blessings and benefits of our salvation.

Review and preview your life in relation to these benefits and blessings in our package of salvation.

2. Tribulations are used of God to teach us patience and perseverance, to build Christian character, and to give us hope. Do you find joy in tribulations? Remember that God is at work in your life when you have tribulations.

Challenge

1. Take a good amount of time to thank the Lord for your salvation, then take a good amount of time to thank Him for the blessings and benefits of Romans 5:1-11. Let's not forget to thank the Lord for more than fire insurance.

What We Lost in Adam, We Regain in Christ
Romans 5:12-21

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. In Adam, we lost everything.

2. In Christ, we gain everything.

Practical Application

1. Remember, there are no appellate courts in the hereafter.

Questions

1. The Bible not only teaches that we are sinners because we sin, but we sin because we are sinners by nature. When did we become sinners by nature?

2. As a result of Adam's sin, we lost everything. What did we lose?

3. Contrast what we lost in Adam with what we gained in Christ.

Answers

1. When Adam sinned. See Romans 5:12, 19.

2. We lost life. Death, the penalty of sin, spread to all mankind. Sin was in the world and death is the penalty of sin.

3. In Adam, we die; in Christ, we receive the free gift of salvation and eternal life. In Adam, there was judgment; in Christ, there is justification. In Adam, death reigned; in Christ, believers reign now and will reign with Him in His kingdom. In Adam, mankind was condemned; in Christ, justification is offered to mankind; in Adam's disobedience, we were constituted sinners; in Christ's obedience, all who believe are constituted righteous.

Discuss / Consider

1. Is it fair that we are considered sinners just because Adam sinned?

2. See Romans 5:18. Does this mean that there is universal salvation?

Answers

1. It has to do with our spiritual position in Christ. When you become a Christian, God not only forgives your sins, but He declares you righteous, and He sees you in Christ, identified with Him.
2. Baptized means to immerse or plunge into. See Galatians 3:27.
3. It symbolizes our position in Christ and our identification with Him. We are buried with Him by water baptism. Water baptism symbolizes our death and burial with Christ, and it also pictures our resurrection with Christ (Romans 5:4-5). When our Lord Jesus was raised on Easter morning, we were raised positionally with Him. That's the way God sees the believer, in our spiritual position.
4. *"Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?"*
Romans 6:1-2

Discuss / Consider

1. Normally, R&R means rest and relaxation. In the context of Romans 6, however, it means Realize and Reckon. Take time to appreciate and enjoy your position in Christ. First, realize your spiritual position in Christ, then reckon or count it true and act on it.

2. Consider baptism by immersion if you enjoy and appreciate your spiritual position in Christ – dead, buried, and raised.

Challenge

1. Raised, we live in newness of life. We have new life in Christ both in quality and in time. As such, the Holy Spirit gives us power and freedom to overcome sin. Are you experiencing His power in your life?

Further Exhortation Concerning Our Sanctification
Romans 6:12-14

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. As to practice, a believer should not yield to sin.

2. In practice, a believer should yield to righteousness.

Practical Application

1. Let's make Good Friday and Easter Sunday personal.

Questions

1. What does the word, "sanctification," mean?

2. What is the duration of the process of sanctification?

3. What is the Christian's part in the process of sanctification?

4. Is it possible for a Christian not to sin?

5. Is there a time coming when Christians will not sin?

6. Is it possible that a Christian can keep sin from having dominion over him? If so, how?

Answers

1. Sanctification means to be made holy.
2. The process is going on all the time in a believer's life. See Philippians 1:6.
3. He is to take time to realize and reckon his spiritual position before God (He sees us in Christ). Therefore, the Christian is to reckon himself to be dead to sin, but alive in Christ.
4. No. As long as we are alive on this earth, we will sin. See 1 John 1:8. However, we are not to let sin reign.
5. Yes. When Christians receive their resurrected bodies.
6. Yes. As a Christian, under grace, we have new life empowered by the Holy Spirit. You don't have to commit sin. Christians are not sinless, but they should sin less by availing ourselves of the power of the Holy Spirit. Just say "No" to temptations and walk away from them. Yield to righteousness.

Discuss / Consider

1. Review Romans 6:12-13. "Reign" is the key word here. It doesn't say that a Christian does not sin, but we are not to let sin reign in our bodies. R&R your position in Christ, and stop reading and watching things that incite sinful thoughts.

2. How do you yield your members to righteousness? Remember that you, as a believer, are free from the law of sin and death, free to serve the Lord.

Challenge

1. On Good Friday, we remember the death of Christ; on Easter Sunday, we remember the resurrection of Christ. These are foundational truths of the Christian life. How do you personalize these truths?

Because of God's Grace, Believers Are Free
Romans 6:15-23

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. The believer is no longer a slave of sin.

2. The believer is now a slave of righteousness.

Practical Application

1. We are not sinless, but we should sin less.

Questions

1. The question is raised that there might be a tendency to sin because it's covered by God's grace. What is the biblical answer?

2. How do Romans 6:1 and 6:15 differ?

3. List the snowball effect of continuing in sin.

4. Paul speaks of the human weakness having two different masters. What are these two masters?

5. Paul speaks of two different methods. What are these methods?

6. Paul speaks of two different results. What are they?

Answers

1. The answer is that we should not continue to practice sin, because we are dead to sin and raised to newness of life. Sin should be done away with.
2. In Romans 6:1, the question is raised about continuing to practice sin because sin is covered by God's grace. In Romans 6:15, it is not a matter of continuing or practicing sin, but even sinning a little bit.
3. You will see the fruit in those things you were ashamed of, and you will reap the wages of sin.
4. Sin or God
5. Wages or gift
6. Death or eternal life

Discuss / Consider

1. Ponder what it means that we are not sinless, but that we should sin less. What does this have to do with Adam and our indwelling nature? What does this have to do with our new divine life in Christ?

2. Ponder life in heaven with our resurrected bodies. Are you thrilled with the prospect ahead?

Challenge

1. We are not sinless, but we should sin less. Let this truth go from your head to your heart and out into your lifestyle. Whose slave are you?

God Had a Purpose in Giving the Mosaic Law
Romans 7:7-13

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. The Law is not sinful, but it reveals what is sinful.**

- 2. The Law is not sinful, but it arouses what is sinful.**

- 3. The Law is not sinful, but it exposes what is sinful.**

Practical Application

- 1. Test yourself on the Ten Commandments.**

Questions

1. The Law cannot save or sanctify us. Why not?
2. What is the purpose of the Law?
3. The Law arouses what is sinful. What does this mean?
4. How could the Law, which is good and holy and righteous, actually stir up sin?

Answers

1. Because by the law is knowledge of sin, but Jesus Christ alone can save. We are saved by grace through faith, not the law.
2. To reveal what is sinful. Without the law, we would not have known what was sinful.
3. When you see sin, it arouses sinful desires in the human nature.
4. The problem is not in the law, but in the sinful nature of mankind.

Discuss / Consider

1. The law exposes what is sinful. The problem is not in the law, but in the sinful nature of a person. Do you find this to be true in your life? What can you do about it?

2. We are free from the law. Free to do what?

Challenge

1. Test yourself on the Ten Commandments, going through them one by one. See Exodus 20. Is there one that is particularly difficult for you?

Inward Struggles
Romans 7:14-20

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. The sinful nature in the believer is not removed in this lifetime.

2. The sinful nature in the believer is not reformed in this lifetime.

Practical Application

1. Don't kid yourself into thinking that you do not have a problem with sin.

Questions

1. The sinful nature in the believer is not removed in this lifetime. What is the root of this problem?

2. Why don't we as Christians think nice thoughts all the time?

3. Will our sinful nature ever be removed?

4. The sinful nature in the believer is not reformed in this lifetime. Why not?

5. Sin dwells in and is manifested in the carnal believer. How about the mature believer?

6. Is there no hope in this lifetime to be free from sin?

Answers

1. Sin dwells in us, starting with the sin of Adam.
2. The sinful nature in the believer is not removed in this lifetime.
3. Not in this lifetime, but it will be removed when we are in our resurrected bodies.
4. Because nothing good dwells in us. The flesh is a sinful nature, and is as evil today as when you were an unbeliever.
5. The mature believer still has the sinful nature.
6. There is hope to be free from sin. See 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Discuss / Consider

1. Some Christians become discouraged because they don't understand the dichotomous nature of the believer. Discuss this in light of the hope that we have in the indwelling Christ and in the indwelling Holy Spirit.

2. How can you let the Holy Spirit enable and empower your new life in Christ?

3. Some believe a doctrine that says we can be sinless. Is this true?

Challenge

1. Don't kid yourself into thinking that you do not have a problem with sin. See 1 John 1:8,10.

Victory Over Sin by Following Biblical Directions
Romans 7:21-25

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. The new nature in the believer serves the law of God.

2. The old nature in the believer serves the law of sin.

Practical Application

1. Remember it's Who, not what.

Questions

1. What is it like to try to live as a Christian apart from the Holy Spirit?
2. Give an illustration from your life relating to Question #1.
3. What is the problem here?
4. What does it mean to have a new nature?
5. Does the new nature have to work at pleasing God?
6. In what does the new nature delight?

Answers

1. There is a great inner struggle, and doing the right thing is not automatic. We do what we don't want to do, and we fail to do what we want to do.
2. Personal answer. The illustration in the Talk was falling asleep while praying.
3. Sin still indwells us as believers.
4. When we become Christians, we receive new life, we are born again, and we are given a divine nature from God Himself. See 2 Peter 1:4.
5. No. Whoever is born of God does not sin. See 1 John 3:9.
6. It delights in the law of God.

Discuss / Consider

1. We still sin because we still have the flesh or the old nature. It acts as an evil principle in our bodies, always trying to bring us down into sin. So we cry out with Paul, "*O wretched man that I am.*" What can we do about this dilemma?

2. The law of sin is in operation to disrupt us from the worship of God. Bear this in mind when you are diverted from the worship of God.

Challenge

1. Who will deliver you from sin? Remember, it's Who, not what. The solution is focused in God Himself.

The Solution to Sin in Our Lives
Romans 8:1-11

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. The power of the Spirit overcomes the law of sin and death.
2. The power of the Spirit fulfills the requirements of the law.
3. The power of the Spirit gives life and peace.

Practical Application

1. Feed the new and starve the old.

Questions

1. People and birds are both subject to the law of gravity. Why, then, can't we fly?
2. Does the law of the Spirit eliminate the law of sin and death?
3. The law of God is good, and it shows God's standards, but the Ten Commandments cannot give us power over sin. True or False?
4. Even though we have the sin nature, the Holy Spirit is free to come in & empower the life we have in Christ. True/False?
5. How do we walk after the Spirit?

Answers

1. We are both subject to the law of gravity, but birds are subject to another law as well, the law of flight. It doesn't eliminate the law of gravity, but it overcomes gravity.
2. No, but it overcomes it. The new life, in itself, cannot overcome the law of sin and death.
3. True
4. True
5. By getting involved in the things the Spirit of God is involved in; more occupation with Christ, in reading Scripture, and in Christian service.

Discuss / Consider

1. Believers are not in the flesh, but still have the flesh, so it is possible to walk after the flesh and not after the Spirit. Walking after the flesh means separation from God, not in relationship, but in fellowship. Peace comes when we walk after the Spirit.

2. Do you want to experience abundant life? It's available. Walk more according to the Spirit and less according to the flesh.

Challenge

1. Feed the new and starve the old.

Answers

1. The primary idea here is not disease, but suffering for the sake of Christ. Sufferings include persecution, both verbal and by action.
2. Separation means that we must put to death the sinful deeds of the body. Because of indwelling sin, sin is still with us.
3. By feeding the new nature (the spiritual nature) and starving the old nature (the sinful flesh).
4. By avoiding the things that appeal to the flesh – reading what is not pleasing to God, watching questionable TV shows, going to movies that degrade.
5. We are heirs to God, our Father, if we are believers. We are joint heirs with God’s Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Discuss / Consider

1. How much suffering have you experienced as a result of being a Christian? These sufferings are called “light afflictions” in light of glory.

2. Consider your status as a Christian – heirs and joint-heirs with Christ. Does this challenge you to live more fully in the Spirit now?

Challenge

1. When you say “Abba, Father,” do you think of the love and affection and trust you have in the Lord?

God's Purpose in Our Lives is to Conform Us to the Image of Christ
Romans 8:19-30

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. The creation groans awaiting the revealing of the sons of God.
2. The Christian groans awaiting the redemption of the body.
3. The Comforter groans awaiting the reality of God's purpose.

Practical Application

1. Don't forget Romans 8:29-30.

Questions

1. What is God's ultimate purpose for the Christian?
2. List the three groanings in this passage of Scripture.
3. What does it mean that creation groans?
4. What does it mean that the Spirit groans?
5. Name our two Intercessors.

Answers

1. To conform us to the image of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ
2. The creation groans, the Christian groans, and the Comforter groans.
3. Even though the heavens still declare the glory of God, there is disease and decay, death and disaster, and the universe is becoming more disordered and dying. Creation will be delivered from the bond of corruption, so creation is eagerly awaiting the day when all things are subject to the Lord Himself.
4. The Christian eagerly awaits the adoption. All of the Christian's groaning can be traced back to the effect of sin. The main idea is that we groan because of the sinful nature we still have.
5. The Spirit Himself groans to help us in our weakness of sin. He groans as He prays for us in the right way, the way pleasing to God. His groanings are beyond speech, but in line with God's ultimate purpose
6. The Spirit within us and our Lord Jesus Christ, now at the right hand of God in heaven.

Discuss / Consider

1. The adoption process as sons of God will one day be complete. See Romans 8:24-25. It's a sure hope! How great is your anticipation of this?

2. Consider our two Intercessors. Does this encourage you that prayers are answered, and more importantly, that they are in line with God's will for our lives.

Challenge

1. Don't forget Romans 8:29-30, God's ultimate purpose for every believer.

If God is For Us, Who Can Be Against Us?
Romans 8:31-39

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. No one can bring a charge against the Christian.
2. Nothing can separate the Christian from the love of God.

Practical Application

1. Don't worry about life on other planets.

Questions

1. Can anyone bring a charge against the Christian? Support your answer with Scripture.
2. Is there someone who tries to bring a charge against the Christian?
3. Are Satan's accusations valid? Will they hold up in court?
4. Who condemns the believer?
5. What can separate the Christian from the love of God.

What About God's Program for the Nation of Israel? Romans 9:1-5

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. The Jewish people were given MFN (Most Favored Nation) status in:**
 - a. Adoption**

 - b. The glory**

 - c. The covenants**

 - d. The giving of the law**

 - e. The service of God**

 - f. The promises**

 - g. The fathers of Israel (the Patriarchs)**

 - h. The Messiah**

Practical Application

- 1. How great is my passion for souls?**

Questions

1. In the Epistle to the Romans, what is the great doctrine presented?
2. Give a brief outline of Romans
 - a. Chapters 1-3
 - b. Chapter 4
 - c. Chapters 5-8
3. What is the main question not fully answered in the first eight chapters?
4. How is Paul's concern for his Jewish brothers shown in this epistle?
5. What does it mean that the Jewish people were given MFN status?

Answers

1. The great doctrine of Romans is justification by faith.
2.
 - a. Chapters 1-3: the whole world is shown to be guilty before God
 - b. Chapter 4: God's way of salvation is clearly presented, which is by grace through faith
 - c. Chapters 5-8: the benefits and blessings of the package of salvation
3. The question concerning God's plans for the nation Israel
4. When Paul is accused, he bares his own soul, so much that if possible, he would take God's judgment upon himself for God's people Israel. Refer to Romans 9:2-3.
5. Israel was certainly granted Most Favored Nation status by God Himself. God called Abraham out of idolatry of the ancient world, and began with him a new people, the Jewish people. The chosen people became a nation greatly favored by God. Romans 9:4-5, 8 speak to the great blessings that emphasize this status.

Discuss / Consider

1. Review the blessings God gave to Israel that showed the MFN status. You listen to the Talk again, if necessary.

2. The Messiah was the climax and great blessing. Contrast this blessing with the fathers of Israel.

Challenge

1. Paul's concern for his kinsmen was so great that he would have taken God's judgment upon himself for them (Romans 9:3). How great is your passion for souls?

God's Sovereign Plans for Israel
Romans 9:6-1

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. God has not gone back on His word to Israel**
 - a. Because God's promises were never made to all the descendants of Abraham.**

 - b. Because His sovereign plans never included all the descendants of Abraham.**

Practical Application

- 1. Let's not misinterpret God's promises.**

Questions

1. Compare Romans 8:35-39 with Romans 9:2. Note Paul's contrasting emotions.

2. Did God reject His people Israel?

3. Has God broken His unconditional promises to Israel?

4. Which of Abraham's descendants did God chose for the line of blessing and promises?

5. What do God's elective purposes have to do with a person's moral reference in life?

6. What does it mean, "*Esau I have hated?*" Does God really hate Esau?

Questions About the Doctrine of God's Sovereignty
Romans 9:14-24

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. God's sovereign choice does not make God unfair.

2. God's sovereign choice does not put God at fault.

Practical Application

1. Let God be God

Questions

1. Why is Romans 9, the doctrine of election, one of the most difficult chapters in the Bible?
2. Why is the human mind reluctant to give God the first and the last word concerning our destinies?
3. What is the teaching of Ephesians 2:1-2?
4. Who must make the first move if someone is to be saved?
5. Is there unrighteousness with God because He chooses some for salvation and does not choose others?
6. Was God unfair to harden Pharaoh's heart? (Romans 9:17-18)

Answers

1. It is not difficult because of what is being taught, but because it's hard for the human mind to submit to what is being taught.
2. Because we are convinced that in our own human moral strength and natural love for goodness we would have chosen God and have come to faith on our own.
3. Apart from Christ every human being is dead in trespasses and sins, and walking according to this satanic world system.
4. God
5. See Romans 9:14-16. The key word is "mercy" (quoted from Exodus 33:19). God showed mercy to the people after the golden calf incident. God would have been just, righteous, and fair in wiping out the whole nation for their gross sins of immorality and idolatry, but He showed mercy. The same is true for us. We deserve nothing but the wrath of God, but in His mercy, He chose some to be saved.
6. No. See Exodus 4:21 and Exodus chapters 5-14. Pharaoh hardened his own heart, and God allowed it. If God does not choose to act in mercy, and leaves the person to his own choice, his heart will be hardened. This does not make God unfair.

Discuss / Consider

1. Review Romans 9:15-16 and Exodus 33:19, and consider God's mercy both then and now.

2. Consider the illustration of the potter and the clay (Romans 9:21-24). Does this help you to understand God's sovereignty with human lives?

Challenge

1. Do you have difficulty in letting God be God? Remember that there is the doctrine of man's responsibility as well as the doctrine of God's sovereignty. God answers prayer in reference to the unsaved. What is your part in this?

God's Plan Was to Have Both Gentiles and Jews Known as His People
Romans 9:25-33

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. God's sovereign grace does extend to Gentiles as well as Jews
2. God's sovereign grace does not exclude the need for faith.

Practical Application

1. How long will you continue to stumble?

Questions

1. What is the great doctrine of God presented in Romans Chapters 1-8?
2. What is the good news of this doctrine?
3. Why aren't more individual Jews becoming Christians?
4. Is it a relatively new idea that God extended His grace to the Gentiles?
5. What is the doctrine of the sovereignty of God?
6. Does the doctrine of the sovereignty of God deny, negate or set aside the doctrine of responsibility of man?
7. Who did the "vessels of mercy" include in Romans 9:23-24?

Answers

1. It is the doctrine of justification by faith. The key to attaining righteousness is not the works of the law, but faith.
2. The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died on the cross for the sins of the world. Anyone, Jew or Gentile, who comes by faith and receives Christ as personal Savior is given eternal life. This is the gospel.
3. It was never God's intention to save all the Jews, only those who exercised faith.
4. No. It was always God's intention, a part of His sovereign plan, to extend His grace to Gentiles.
5. God is the ultimate authority in everything, including who is to be saved.
6. No. Both doctrines are true and they run parallel courses through the Bible. Refer to John 3:16 ("whosoever") and John 6:44 ("the Father must draw them").
7. The Gentiles as well as the Jews.

Discuss / Consider

1. God, in His sovereign grace, has always reserved a remnant of Jewish believers. In His justice, God could have wiped them out many times, but even yet and in the future He will have a remnant. Consider this.

2. Does God's sovereign grace exclude the need for faith?

Challenge

1. Review the Practical Application, "How long will you continue to stumble?" How does this apply to the unbeliever? How does this apply to the believer? Which one applies to you? Do you know someone to whom Christ is a stone of stumbling?

The Righteousness of the Law and Faith
Romans 10:1-13

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. Righteousness based on the law is utterly impossible.**

- 2. Righteousness based on faith is readily available.**

Practical Application

- 1. How do you spell salvation?**

Questions

1. Paul's Epistle to the Romans answers the question, "How can a sinner be saved?" What is that answer?
2. What is the divine side of our salvation?
3. What is the human side of our salvation?
4. Why couldn't Israel be righteous?
5. How did Jesus show the rich young ruler that he couldn't keep the Ten Commandments, despite his claim that he did?
6. How is the law like a mirror?
7. What is meant by the imputed righteousness of Christ?

Answers

1. The answer is the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. God Himself in the person of His Son, became man, went to the cross, and died for our sins. The penalty for our sins was death, but the Lord Jesus died as our substitute. The result is that a holy and righteous God can save unholy and unrighteous people.
2. The divine side of our salvation is all of God. God in His mercy chose us. Our salvation is 100% God's grace.
3. The human side of our salvation is that God has created us as free moral agents, and we are responsible to respond and believe the message of the gospel and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior.
4. Israel had a zeal for God and wanted to be righteous, but they went about it the wrong way. They thought they could establish their own righteousness by keeping the law of Moses. However, no one can keep the Ten Commandments.
5. The Lord Jesus tested him on the first commandment, and he failed. The rich young ruler said that he kept all the commandments, but he refused to put God first.
6. The law is like a mirror in that it can show you that your face is dirty, but it cannot wash you. The law shows us that we are sinners, but it can't save us from our sins.
7. When you believe and confess, God no longer sees you in your sins, but He sees you in the righteousness of His Son.

Discuss / Consider

1. How do you harmonize the divine side of our salvation and the human side of our salvation? Are you content to live in the tension of these two wonderful doctrines?

2. Many people today believe that they can make it to God and to heaven by keeping the Ten Commandments the best they can. How would you speak to such a person?

Challenge

1. Have you responded by faith to God's grace?

The Means God Uses to Bring People to Salvation
Romans 10:14-21

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. The gospel must be preached before it can be believed.

2. The gospel must be believed before it can save.

Practical Application

1. How beautiful are your feet?

Questions

1. What is the divine side of our salvation?

2. What is the human side of our salvation?

3. Israel had a zeal for God. Israel engaged in a sincere effort to follow the law of God. Was this enough for salvation?

4. List the five links in the chain of evangelism, moving from effect to cause.

5. What was the link that Israel missed in the message of salvation?

**What About God's Plans and Program for the Jewish People?
Romans 11:1-10**

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. There has always been a remnant of Jewish believers.**

- 2. There has always been the rest of Jewish unbelievers.**

Practical Application

- 1. Let's not change the definition of God's grace.**

Questions

1. Are the Jews no longer God's chosen people? Has God withdrawn His promises to the Jewish people as a nation? Has God cast away His people?

2. Has there always been a remnant of Jewish believers? Support your answer from the Bible.

3. What is the believing remnant called?

4. Why did the unbelievers fail to believe?

5. Does God still have a program for the Jewish people?

Answers

1. The answer is “no” to all questions. However, in the meantime God brought in the Church, but He also has continued plans with the nation Israel.
2. Yes. Paul himself was such a person, and there were 7,000 believers in Elijah’s day.
3. God’s “elect,” according to His grace.
4. God blinded the eyes of those who would not see, and He hardens the hearts of those who will not believe. But it began with unbelief.
5. Yes. One day, in the future, God will again focus on the nation Israel.

Discuss / Consider

1. Consider the good news of Romans 1-8, that anyone can believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved. Do you know someone who needs Christ, who seems hard to the gospel? Tell him/her the good news and pray that he/she will be saved.

2. Grace is God’s unmerited favor toward men. Works have no part in God’s grace. Human effort infringes on God’s grace and the character of God Himself. How would you deal with people who have a problem seeing this?

Challenge

1. In Elijah’s day, the 7,000 believing remnant were silent about their faith. Why? Are you silent about your faith? If so, why?

Israel Will Return to the Lord in the Future
Romans 11:11-24

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. Israel's rejection has resulted in great blessing to the world.**

- 2. Israel's restoration will result in great blessing to the world.**

Practical Application

- 1. Let's preach both the goodness and the severity of God.**

Questions

1. Why has the nation of Israel been temporarily set aside?
2. What will happen when the nation of Israel turns back to the Lord?
3. Can the promises made to the Jewish people be spiritualized to the church?
4. Who and what is the Church?
5. How has Israel's rejection of their Messiah resulted in blessing to the world?
6. How will Israel's restoration result in great blessing to the world?
7. Why should both the goodness and the severity of God be preached?

Answers

1. Because of their unbelief
2. At that time, all the promises made to Israel in the Old Testament will be fulfilled literally.
3. No. The Church is the Church, and Israel is Israel. The Church is not spiritual Israel.
4. The Church is comprised of believers, at this time primarily Gentile. It is the body of Christ and is being formed as the bride of Christ.
5. The gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, Israel's Messiah, has gone out to the Gentiles all over the world, and salvation has come to the Gentiles. See Romans 11:11.
6. When Israel is restored, they will be a light to the Gentiles. Refer to Romans 11:15.
7. When the goodness of God is preached, many will listen, but when the severity of God is preached as well, it may result in fewer, but genuine believers.

Discuss / Consider

1. Review Paul's two metaphors to show that Israel's restoration is consistent with God's character and His way of dealing with mankind. Refer to Romans 11:16-24.
 - The first fruit and the lump.
 - The root and the branches.

2. Consider the time when Israel will become a light to the world.

Challenge

1. Are you preaching Christ? Are you preaching both the goodness and severity of God?

God's Program and Promises for Israel
Romans 11:25-36

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. God's plan for both Jews and Gentiles is classified as a mystery.

2. God's plan for both Jews and Gentiles is characterized by mercy.

Practical Application

1. Let your study of doctrine result in doxology.

Questions

1. True or False: God's sovereign plans for Israel have always included the fact that Israel would be temporarily set aside, and the Gentiles would be brought into the place of privilege and favor.

2. Does God make promises and then take them back?

3. What does the word "mystery" mean as used in the Bible?

4. God's plan for both Jews and Gentiles is characterized by mercy. How is this shown to both?

5. Is mercy dependent on some kind of merit on the part of either the Jews or the Gentiles?

6. How long will Israel be set aside?

Answers

1. True. Israel has been set aside temporarily, but Israel will return to the Lord in the future.
2. No. Israel is God's elect and beloved, and the gifts and calling are irrevocable.
3. A mystery is a truth concealed in the Old Testament, but now revealed in the New Testament.
4. God's plans in setting aside Israel temporarily to bring in the Gentiles involves mercy. God's plans for showing favor to Israel again involves mercy.
5. No. Nothing could have been done by either to incur God's mercy.
6. Until the church is raptured out of this world. Then God will focus on Israel and they will become again the favored people.

Discuss / Consider

1. How would you answer someone who asked you, "What are God's plans and program for the Jewish people?"

2. How would you answer the question, "If God has set aside His elect, the Jewish people, might He not turn His back on me, a Christian?"

Challenge

1. Paul concludes this great chapter with a doxology of praise. It is the conclusion of the doctrinal division of Romans chapters 1-11. Do you respond, like Paul, in a burst of praise when you realize God's wonderful plan of salvation and the doctrine of election?

The Biblical Formula for Knowing the Will of God **Romans 12:1-2**

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. The godly believer practices the biblical method of knowing God's will. There are three steps:**
 - a. Present your body a living sacrifice to God.**

 - b. Don't be conformed to this world.**

 - c. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.**

Practical Application

- 1. Let's not crawl off the altar of sacrifice.**

Questions

1. The structure of Paul's letter to the Romans is two-fold. The first part of the letter (chapters 1-11) is concerned with _____, and the second part (chapters 12-16) with _____.

2. What is the great doctrine of the book of Romans?

3. God, who is righteous can justify (declare righteous) sinners. How?

4. List the three steps from Romans 12:1-2 that tell us how we can know God's will for our lives.

5. What will be the result of the application of these three steps?

6. How is your mind transformed?

Answers

1. doctrine; practical application
2. Justification by faith
3. Because the Lord Jesus became our substitute and took the penalty for our sins. He died for us on the cross, in our place.
4. a) Present your body a living sacrifice to God
b) Don't be conformed to this world
c) Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
5. You will prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. You will come to know the will of God.
6. By reading Scripture and filling your mind with the word of God. Then the Holy Spirit is able to change your way of thinking, and your life is transformed.

Discuss / Consider

1. The values and attitudes and views of this world system are contrary to God's value system and the Christian world view. Give some examples of these opposing views, then ask yourself, "Am I conformed to the world's way of thinking, or to Christ's?"

2. In view of the great doctrine of Romans 3:23 and 6:23, and in view of this truth summarized in Romans 12:1, ask yourself, "How then shall I live?"

Challenge

1. Many Christians dedicate themselves to the service of the Lord after a challenging sermon, or during a retreat, but there's little staying power. They crawl off the altar of sacrifice. Where are you? On or off the altar?

Believers are Responsible to Serve Others in the Body of Christ
Romans 12:3-8

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. The godly believer practices the biblical concept of body life by:
 - a. Realizing that you aren't the only member of the body.

 - b. Realizing that you are a body member, not a club member.

 - c. Realizing that you are a gifted member of the body.

Practical Application

1. Ask not what the body can do for you, but what you can do for the body.

Questions

1. What is the believers' responsibility as a member of the body of Christ?

2. Paul was called to be an apostle, especially to which group of people?

3. To whom was revealed the great truth that the Church is the body of Christ?

4. Who is the head of the church?

5. Who are the members of the body?

6. Who is needed for the proper functioning of the body?

Answers

1. To serve others in the body of Christ
2. The Gentiles
3. The Apostle Paul
4. Jesus Christ
5. Those who are believers in Jesus Christ
6. Every believer

Discuss / Consider

1. Believers are to minister as good stewards one to another. Review the list of gifts given to believers in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4 and 1 Peter 4. Select one of these gifts that you believe God has given to you. How did you discern and develop this gift?

2. How involved are you in using your gift(s) to build up the body of Christ?

Challenge

1. Ask not what the body can do for you, but what you can do for the body.

Maintaining Peace and Harmony in the Christian Family **Romans 12:9-1**

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. The godly believer practices the biblical directives for peace with fellow believers:

- a. Love without hypocrisy.**
- b. Abhor what is evil and cling to what is good.**
- c. Show brotherly love to one another.**
- d. Honor one another above yourselves.**
- e. Continue to be diligent.**
- f. Be fervent in spirit.**
- g. Serve the Lord.**
- h. Rejoice in hope.**
- i. Endure affliction.**
- j. Persevere in prayer.**
- k. Share with the saints in need.**
- l. Practice hospitality.**

Practical Application

1. Remember to do your daily dozen.

Questions

1. How should your salvation by grace through faith be worked out in your daily life? Answer in light of a) Romans 12:1-2 and b) Romans 12:3-8.
2. The working out of the teaching point is given special credence in Psalm 133:1. How does this relate to peace and harmony with fellow believers?
3. Select one of the directives that seems to come naturally for you and explain why.
4. Select one of the directives that is difficult for you and examine why.
5. Select yet another directive that needs both study and practice in your life.

Answers

1. a) our response should be in reference to ourselves in order to know what the will of God is for our lives, and b) our response should be in reference to the church and the proper use of our spirituals gifts.

2. Psalm 133:1 shows that this is pleasing to God and gives blessing to His people who live in peace and unity one with another.

3-5. Individual responses

Discuss / Consider

1. Review. In view of the great doctrinal teachings of Romans 1-11, how should you live?

2. How many of these directives do you practice daily? How could you do better?

Challenge

1. Remember to do your daily dozen.

Guidelines on How to Relate to Unbelievers
Romans 12:14-21

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. The godly believer practices the biblical guidelines for peace with fellow men:
 - a. Don't badmouth people.
 - b. Do identify with people.
 - c. Don't think you are better than other people.
 - d. Don't try to get back at people.
 - e. Do avoid suspicion of people.
 - f. Do strive for peace.
 - g. Do let God zap people.
 - h. Overcome the evil of people with good.

Practical Application

1. Your kindness will have an effect on the unbeliever.

Questions

1. Cite a biblical example of the first guideline.
2. How could you practice the second guideline?
3. How could you practice the third guideline?
4. What should you do when you are hurt by someone?
5. How can you avoid being suspicious of people?

Answers

1. Stephen, when he was being stoned to death. See Acts 7:59-60. The Lord Jesus, when he was being crucified. See Luke 23:34.
2. Be glad when a fellow worker is promoted, rather than being jealous.
3. Associate with those who may be ostracized by others. In other words, don't be proud of your social status.
4. Don't retaliate, lest you become bitter. Pray, and let the Lord handle it.
5. By regarding good things, and be careful to do what is right yourself, in the little things. For example, do not take supplies from the office for your personal use.

Discuss / Consider

1. Do you consciously strive for peace, even when you are maligned or taken advantage of? Inasmuch as possible, try to live with others in peace.

2. "*Vengeance is Mine, saith the Lord.*" Do you let God handle all your unjust situations?

Challenge

1. The Apostle Paul urges believers to live a godly life on a personal, individual level. Then we move on to relate to both fellow believers and unbelievers in a positive way. Is this your desire and goal?

Believers are to be Subject to Governing Authorities
Romans 13:1-7

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. Believers must submit to governing authorities.

2. Capital punishment has a biblical basis.

Practical Application

1. Let's not fall into the trap of separation between church and state.

Questions

1. List the four channels of authority ordained by God.
2. What is meant by, "We salute the office, but not necessarily the officer"?
3. Is there an exception to answer #2?
4. What is the biblical basis for capital punishment?
5. What is the reason and biblical affirmation for capital punishment?
6. Is capital punishment ordained by God because of a low view of life?

Answers

1. Home, church, labor, and civil government
2. We may not honor the officer, such as Caesar, but the office, as an authority structure ordained by God, means that we submit, even if we don't agree.
3. Yes, when the command runs counter to God's commands. See Acts 5:29.
4. See Genesis 9:6
5. See Romans 13:4. God is the avenger or minister of capital punishment.
6. Quite the contrary. It is ordained because God has a high view of the sanctity of life. Because man is created in the image of God, if you dare take a life, you forfeit your own life.

Discuss / Consider

1. Recall a time when you deliberately disobeyed one of the authorities ordained by God. Why was it so difficult for you?

2. Discuss the guidelines for separating church and state issues. Give examples.

Challenge

1. There are times when you do not "feel" like submitting to an authority ordained by God. At such times, what is your responsibility before God? Remember the One you are disobeying. Do you want a clear conscience? Then do what is right.

Answers

1. Yes. We can never pay the debt of the love of God. See Romans 13:8.
2. Agape means the voluntary denial of self in the interest of others.
3. Romans 13:9.
4. By putting on the protection of the armor of God, by walking in the light, and by denying lustful things. See Romans 13:12-13.
5. If you love your spouse with agape love, you will not commit adultery. If you really love your neighbor, you will not covet what he has.

Discuss / Consider

1. Are there legitimate cases to borrow money? Where is the line of keeping yourself out of debt? What does this mean for you in practical, day-by-day living?

2. Are you ready for the Lord's return? What does His return mean to you?

Challenge

1. Agape love – how do you show it?

Weak Christians and Strong Christians
Romans 14:1-9

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. Weak and strong Christians should live together in happy fellowship.
2. Weak and strong Christians should not judge or despise one another.
3. Weak and strong Christians should look to the Lord and not to each other for approval.

Practical Application

1. Let's not use false tests for spirituality.

Questions

1. Give an example of a matter that is morally neutral but affects the conscience.
2. What does it mean to have scruples?
3. Who is the weak Christian? Who is the strong Christian?
4. Give an example of an area of scruples in the early church.
5. To whom should weak and strong Christians look for approval?

Answers

1. Wearing jeans to church on Sunday (is it OK? OK for men? OK for young people?). Another example is, "Is it OK to have a glass of wine with dinner?" Or, "Are drums and guitars acceptable in church?" Still another issue is what activities are proper for Sunday afternoons.
2. It is to be reluctant to do something because of a tender conscience in a matter that is of secondary importance and is essentially morally neutral.
3. The weak Christian is the one with a strong opinion. The weak Christian is more hung up in areas of controversy. The stronger Christian is more freed up in the neutral areas.
4. Whether you should eat meat that had been dedicated to a pagan god. Another area was the matter of keeping the Sabbath and other special days of the law.
5. To the Lord, and not to each other.

Discuss / Consider

1. Supposing that one Christian enjoys current music and a variety of instruments in the church. Another Christian prefers standard hymns, organ, and piano music. They are both on the music committee. How should they approach and deal with this difference?

2. The stronger Christian tends to despise the weaker one, and the weaker one tends to judge the stronger Christian. What does the Bible command?

Challenge

1. Let's not use false tests for spirituality. Do you have a tendency to do this at times or with certain groups?

The Judgment Seat of Christ
Romans 14:10-13

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. All believers will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ.**

- 2. All believers will give an account at the Judgment Seat of Christ.**

Practical Application

- 1. Let's teach the Judgment Seat of Christ to our children.**

- 2. Let's not be grumblers or stumblers.**

Questions

1. Romans 14 is a very practical portion of Scripture. Explain.
2. Why aren't we to judge one another in matters of scruples?
3. What is the Judgment Seat all about for believers?
4. What is the judgment spoken of in Revelation 20:11-12? Who is affected by this judgment?
5. What is the destination for those affected by this judgment?
6. What will believers do at the Judgment Seat of Christ?

Answers

1. Romans 14 deals with problems that confront us every day, such as things that are neither good or bad, and things that are morally neutral, but that affect the conscience.
2. We don't have to because we will all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ to be judged rightly. We each answer to the Lord, now and then.
3. It is not a judgment to determine whether the believer is saved or lost, but it is a judgment of our lives as believers and what we have done in service for Him.
4. It is known as the Great White Throne Judgment. It is for unbelievers, whose names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life.
5. Hell
6. Believers will give account of how they used their time, talents, and money in their service for the Lord.

Discuss / Consider

1. Christian communities around the world and in different time spans are affected by scruples. Give some examples of this.

2. There is a tendency for parents to breathe a sigh of relief when their children are saved, but there is more. Instead of setting down a lot of rules, remind them that one day they will give account of their lives to the Lord. Give some examples of how you might do this.

Challenge

1. As Christians, we have a tendency to grumble, especially about things that happen in the church setting. Resolve to make a conscious effort to avoid having a critical spirit.

The Believer's Use of Christian Liberty
Romans 14:14-23

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. Christian liberty should be governed by the principles of a clear conscience.**
- 2. Christian liberty should be governed by the principle of not stumbling.**
- 3. Christian liberty should be governed by the principle of peace and edification.**

Practical Application

- 1. When in doubt, don't.**

Questions

1. How should we treat areas of disagreement in the church?
2. Is it important to have both unity and uniformity within the church?
3. Christians disagree in the area of scruples, matters that are morally neutral in themselves. Some of these might include, "Is it OK for a man to wear an earring?" "Is it OK for women to wear heavy makeup?" Are these areas to be a test of fellowship or spirituality?
4. How should a Christian be governed by his conscience?
5. How else should Christians be governed concerning their Christian liberty?

Answers

1. If there is a doctrinal or moral problem, the church leaders must deal with it. In such areas as which hymn book to use, which translation of the Bible, the format of church services, or even the color of the walls, you work them out so it's best for most people involved, and best for the work of the Lord.
2. It is important to have unity, but there will not be uniformity.
3. No, nor are Christians to judge or despise one another in these areas. Christians are to properly use their Christian liberty in this area.
4. The Christian has liberty, but if he has a guilty conscience about doing something, then it becomes sin.
5. By the principle of not stumbling another believer. It also should be governed by the principle of peace and edification.

Discuss / Consider

1. Referring to Romans 14:16-19, discuss how Christian liberty should be governed by the principle of peace and edification.

2. Select an area that might stumble another believer. How should you deal with this?

Challenge

1. When in doubt, don't. If you are a weak Christian and are bothered in your conscience about something, don't do it. If you are a strong Christian but might stumble a weaker brother by using your liberty, don't do it.

Answers

1. Part One - Doctrinal, Chapters 1-11
Part Two - Practical, Chapters 12-16
2. How Christians should function and relate
 - a) in society
 - b) to governing authorities
 - c) in Christian ministries
 - d) with other believers
3. Dealing with the questions of how weak and strong Christians should relate to one another in matters of conviction and conscience.
4. That what strong Christians do is not weakness, but is done in Christian liberty.
5. They are to support them.

Discuss / Consider

1. The strong Christian should support the weak Christian because of the example of Christ. Refer to Romans 15:1-3, 7. Elaborate.

2. The strong Christian should support the weak Christian because of the exhortation of Scripture. Refer to Romans 15:4-5. Elaborate.

Challenge

1. Review Romans 15:6. Select an area in which you disagree with another Christian. How should you deal with this disagreement?

**Paul Begins His Closing Remarks for This Great Epistle
Romans 15:14-21**

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. Characteristics of a Spirit-led ministry:

a. No believer is exempt from exhortation.

b. Converts are considered a sacrifice to God.

c. All boasting is Christ-centered.

d. God confirms the ministry with power.

e. The ministry meets a definite need.

Practical Application

1. Did you ever think of your neighbor as a sacrifice?

Questions

1. To whom was Paul specifically called to minister the gospel?

2. List the five characteristics of a Spirit-led ministry.

3. Are we to shy away from exhortation?

4. What do the following Scriptures tell us about a Spirit-led ministry: Romans 15:17-18, Galatians 6:14 and 2 Cor. 10:16-17?

5. What does it mean, "the ministry meets a definite need"?

Paul Continues with His Closing Remarks
Romans 15:22-32

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. Three characteristics of Spirit-led plans are:

a. Spirit-led plans are logical.

b. Spirit-led plans may be hindered.

c. Spirit-led plans can be revised.

2. Two characteristics of Spirit-led prayers are:

a. Spirit-led prayers are earnest.

b. Spirit-led prayers are unselfish.

Practical Application

1. Let's be flexible when it comes to making plans

Questions

1. Paul had an intense desire to get to Rome. What was this desire?

2. List the three characteristics of Spirit-led plans.

3. List the two characteristics of Spirit-led prayers.

Answers

1. His interest in going to Rome was to fellowship with the Christians there, and to share and help them to grow. Also, he thought they might help him on his way to Spain.
2. Spirit-led plans are logical, may be hindered, can be revised.
3. Spirit-led prayers are earnest and unselfish.

Discuss / Consider

1. Spirit-led prayers are earnest. Are you earnest in your prayers? Are you striving in your prayers? Give examples of times you believe your prayers were earnest.

2. Spirit-led prayers are unselfish. Keep a record this week of your prayers. Are they truly unselfish? Give examples.

Challenge

1. Be flexible when it comes to making plans. Godly plans can be revised. Paul's were.

Paul's Greetings to Christians at Rome
Romans 16:1-16

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. Committed Christian women can be greatly used by God.**

- 2. Committed Christian couples can be greatly used by God.**

Practical Application

- 1. Don't forget to commend faithful believers.**

- 2. Would you make it on Paul's greeting list?**

Questions

1. How was it that Paul, having never been to Rome, knew so many Christians there?

2. Where did churches meet in the early days of Christianity?

3. Name two committed Christian women of the Bible.

4. Name two committed Christian women you know.

5. Name a committed Christian couple of the Bible.

6. Name a committed Christian couple you know.

Answers

1. He knew many by name because he had been told about them and he had crossed paths with some of them elsewhere.
2. In homes of believers and even in catacombs.
3. Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2) and Mary (Romans 16:6), and there are many others that could be named.
4. Personal answer
5. Priscilla and Aquila, and there are others.
6. Personal answer

Discuss / Consider

1. Paul knew the Roman Christians by name. He knew about them, and he knew what they were doing to serve the Lord. Do you have such a pastor's heart?

2. Paul commended faithful believers and thus encouraged them. Do you habitually do this?

Challenge

1. Would you make it on Paul's greeting list? There are church attendees and there are those involved in the church. How faithful and how involved are you in the work of the Lord?

Dangers of False Teaching and Effects of Unsound Doctrine
Romans 16:17-20

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. False teachers and their followers cause divisions.**
- 2. False teachers and their followers produce offenses.**
- 3. False teachers and their followers serve themselves.**
- 4. False teachers and their followers deceive the simple.**

Practical Application

- 1. Ignorance is bliss.**
- 2. Satan is no match for your obedient feet.**

Questions

1. In this section, Paul writes about two warnings. What are they?
2. To whom was Paul referring in these warnings?
3. Give an example of a false teacher who produces offenses.
4. How does a false teacher serve himself?
5. How do false teachers deceive the simple?

Answers

1. The dangers of false teaching and the effects of unsound doctrine.
2. Probably to the Judaizers, the legalists of that day.
3. Someone who teaches theistic evolution
4. He makes wealth his God by preaching the “prosperity” gospel, that all should be rich (quite contrary to the way Jesus lived).
5. By using smooth words and deceitful speech. They make false teaching look good.

Discuss / Consider

1. We are warned to beware of false teachers. How can we discern false teachers? Give an example of a false teacher.

2. What does it mean, “Ignorance is bliss”?

Challenge

1. Are you in despair; are you demoralized or discouraged? If Satan has you defeated spiritually, check it out. Are you being obedient to God’s word?

Closing Greetings and Benediction
Romans 16:21-27

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. **Believers are established by the preaching of Christ crucified.**

2. **Believers are established by the teaching of church truth.**

Practical Application

1. **Don't feel bad if you are only a Tertius or a Quartus.**

2. **Aren't you glad that God is wise?**

Questions

1. Why wasn't Paul able to visit the Christians in Rome, as he had planned?
2. Who were some of Paul's associates named here?
3. What is Paul's closing benediction called?
4. What does Paul mean by "my" gospel?
5. What was the two-fold ministry that Paul was committed to by the Lord?

Answers

1. He was arrested in Jerusalem and imprisoned in Cesarea.
2. Gaius and Erastus. Erastus was a high ranking city steward. His name is inscribed in the ruins of ancient Corinth.
3. A doxology (praising God for Who He is)
4. Paul was given a special commission by the Lord to proclaim the gospel to the Gentiles. According to “my” gospel, it means proclaiming Christ and Him crucified.
5. That of proclaiming the gospel and of revealing the mystery (the Church).

Discuss / Consider

1. Discuss how believers are established by the teaching of church truth.

2. God knows all the facts, and He is in control of all the facts (including the present world crises). Aren't you glad that He is all-wise?

Challenge

1. Tertius and Quartus were converted Roman slaves. Their names mean third and fourth, only numbers. But whatever they did for Paul, it was important to the Lord's work. Sometimes you might feel like just a number, but remember that what you do for the Lord is of great importance.