



# Romans

**Right With God**

## Good News From God

**Lesson Three**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

# Romans

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### Good News From God

Paul states the purpose and the theme very early in this letter. As we see, he spoke of the Gospel in the first verse and continued the thought in the second verse. (Read Romans 1:2.) In the last lesson we said Paul's calling was to be a preacher, but also to commit himself to the Gospel way of life. He was preaching the Gospel, the "Good News," and he was living it out in his everyday life.

In this verse we will see how different this letter is from all of Paul's other letters. In all the other letters, he is responding to some specific need or problem. His connection with the other churches or persons motivate his writing, and the writing is personal. This letter is to some people he doesn't know in a congregation with which he has had no personal contact. The lack of some immediate trouble, some pressing problem, some threatening danger, gives Paul the opportunity to write about his beliefs. He was summarizing in this letter, some details of his faith and beliefs.\*

The word Gospel refers to the Good News that God loved the world; that He sent Jesus, His only Son, to the earth; that the purpose of Jesus was to live perfectly, die in our place, and rise from the dead; and that He now lives permanently in the presence of God the Father. The Gospel includes Jesus' plan to save the world through the witness of His disciples, and He intends for His disciples to get together in His church. It is impossible to see the Gospel as anything other than the vision and the work of God. In the Gospel of John alone, we find Jesus saying 19 times, that He was sent by God.

Last time, we said that the central focus of this letter is God. It is Paul's statement of his belief about God. And, in the very beginning, he is saying that the Good News comes from God. The Good News...the Gospel...was promised by God a very long time before Jesus came to earth.

Jesus existed long before the prophets. He was in the beginning. According to John, chapter one, He was not only from eternity, but He made everything that we know anything about, except God Himself. And then, at just the right time, He became flesh and lived among us humans. However, before that happened, many prophets told humans that Jesus was coming. One such prophet was Jeremiah. In 23:6, he said, "In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteousness." The "Lord of Righteousness" is Jesus.

Paul says that the way the Good News came to humans was through humans. He calls them

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prophets. He is speaking of people who belonged to God...people who became the teachers of God's message. When a promise is given through people like that, then clearly it is the promise of God.

Paul says that the teachings of the prophets have been handed down to us. He, and we, call them "Scriptures." We call them the "Word of God." Note that Paul calls them *Holy* Scriptures. The power of the Scripture isn't what is on paper, it is what those words mean to believers. The value of Scripture is what the message does in the life of the believer.

Finally, Paul wants the church, the Christians in Rome, to understand that he represents the Gospel...the Good News of God. He also wants them to realize that he respects the Gospel as the fulfillment of God's promise made to the very first humans.

**Scripture Memory: "The Gospel He promised before hand through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures." Romans 1:2**

\*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 let the student understand that the Gospel is a gift from God.***

1. Prophecy: The promise began in Genesis and existed in the minds of God's prophets for centuries. Genesis 3:15, 12:2, 3; 28:14; 40:10. There are many, many scriptures in the Old Testament about Jesus...more than 20 in Isaiah alone. Jesus is the great Promise of God from the very beginning.

2. Prophets: There are many theories about how these men were inspired. As a matter of fact many books have been written on the subject. Great debates have taken place as to whether they were simply mechanical tools used to record words God dictated, persons who were inspired to write and, in their own thought processes and their own words told the story, or by some other means of communicating with them and they with us. What we can know for sure is that their prophecy was right on, and they did foretell accurately the coming of Jesus.

3. Scriptures: Remember, Jesus Himself said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" Matthew 24:35. Psalm 119:89 says, "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven."

4. This lesson is another opportunity to share the "Gospel." As noted last lesson, Paul uses the word 60 times out of the 76 times it is used in the New Testament. His most famous statement about the Gospel comes a little later in the letter to the Romans: Romans 1:16. If Paul thought it was that important, should not we, teachers of Scripture, take it most seriously and share it at every opportunity. Use the "Roman Road" found in the "Student Guide."

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### *Student Worksheet*

## Good News From God

=Paul was summarizing in this \_\_\_\_\_, some details of his faith and \_\_\_\_\_.

=The word \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the Good News that \_\_\_\_\_ loved the world; that He sent

Jesus, His only \_\_\_\_\_, to the earth; that the purpose of Jesus was to \_\_\_\_\_ perfectly, die in our place, and \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead; and that He now \_\_\_\_\_ permanently in the presence of God the \_\_\_\_\_.

=The Gospel includes Jesus' plan to \_\_\_\_\_ the world through the witness of His disciples, and He intends for His \_\_\_\_\_ to get together in His \_\_\_\_\_.

=The Good News was promised by God a very long time before Jesus came to \_\_\_\_\_.

=The power of the Scripture isn't what is on \_\_\_\_\_, it is what those words mean to believers. The value of Scripture is what the \_\_\_\_\_ does in the life of the believer.

**Scripture Memory: "The Gospel He promised before hand through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures." Romans 1:2**

#### **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, and that 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 debt for sin is spiritual death, but God, through the death of Jesus on the cross, paid that debt and now everyone can have eternal life. See also, II Corinthians 5:21

Romans 1:9, 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 all 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.