



# Romans

**Right With God**

**No  
Shame**

**Lesson Nine**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

# Romans

## Right With God

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### No Shame

You may remember the story of the Apostle Peter. When Jesus was arrested and was on trial, Peter said on three different occasions that he didn't know Jesus. He was ashamed of the Gospel. The Gospel, of course, is the story of Jesus, and Peter was denying that he even knew Jesus, much less what Jesus was about.

Peter later became very unashamed of the Gospel. He preached to thousands on the day of Pentecost; see Acts, chapter two. He lived a strong missionary life, and ultimately was killed in Rome for his faith. However, at the trial of Jesus, he was just like many of us. He was afraid. It is not unusual for Christians to see opportunities to share God's Good News as something to fear. When we treat those opportunities like that we are making the Gospel less important and acting like we are ashamed of it.

Fences of fear: fear of the opinion of other people; fear of being able to tell the story well; fear of failure; are emotional, not rational. We sit in a circle of friends or family and listen to just about anything. We participate in workplace gossip sessions. We exchange words about the weather, sports and the latest Hollywood gossip with near strangers. We can talk about many things, but when the opportunity comes to talk about the Good News, fences go up and we get very silent. The opportunity to share the Gospel comes in almost every conversation, and when it does, we are pretty good at changing the subject. So, why not change the subject to something like their relationship with God as revealed in Jesus.\*

Paul faced that temptation over and over again. However, in spite of so many reasons not to continue, Paul kept telling the Gospel story again and again. **Read Romans 1:16, 17.**

He has called himself a servant, a bond slave of the living God. Paul was writing the Romans as one called, set apart, for the Gospel. He wanted to know nothing else. In I Corinthians 2:2, Paul said, "I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." Paul was not, in any way, ashamed of the Gospel...the Good News of Jesus.

Up to this point, Paul had been getting their attention. Now, he states the theme. Paul says that he is proud to preach this Gospel. It is amazing, if you think about it. Paul had been imprisoned in Philippi, chased out of Thessalonica, smuggled out of Berea, laughed at in Athens, preached in Corinth where his message was "foolishness to the Greeks and a stumbling-block to the Jews." That and many more difficulties would make us wonder why, sitting in Corinth waiting to go to Jerusalem, he says to his scribe, write, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel..." Here is a man who understood that the Gospel made him victorious over all

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that humans could do to him.

The Bible commentator, William Barclay, points out that there are three powerful ideas in these two verses. First is Salvation. When we become His children, God saves us from all that the world can do to us. He saves us in this life and saves us to eternal life with Him. Second, Paul says that faith is our way to God. Faith is accepting what God says, and trusting completely in who He is. And, third, our faith makes God's righteousness our righteousness. We are no longer judged on our goodness, we are judged by God's goodness. To God, it is as if we had never sinned. We are now God's beloved children, and He treats us like that.

One final thought: all this, our fearless sharing of the Gospel and the salvation that God makes available to us, is by the power of God. You can't find power greater than that!

**Scripture Memory: "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."** Romans 1:16

\*Underlined statements in this Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.

### **For the Teacher:**

***Lesson Goal: To encourage students to witness with boldness.***

1. Barnhouse speaks of "Scarecrows." People are afraid of things that the rest of us see as stick figures, wrapped in old clothes, carrying a stick, immobilized by the stake that holds them upright. These scarecrows are things that keep us from following God's will, especially in witnessing. People expect the funny scarecrow figure with hat brim flapping in the wind to shoot them down with the crooked stick the farmer has stuck under his spindly arm.
2. We must rest our faith and our witness on Jesus' words in John 14:6. He said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except by me." When we, through faith, live and prepare to die by those words, we will have a boldness that is unshakable. Let God bring you to the place where all scarecrows are just scarecrows. There is no room for uncertainty. Martin Luther, when faced with options, said, "I can do nothing else!" Can we...do we...dare do anything else?
3. Peter boldly stood before the greatest enemies of Jesus and said, "...there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12
4. Many great classical concertos begin with a loud chord, and then state the theme. The reason is that when they were written, they were first performed at private gatherings in the great homes of the day. When the pianist first seated himself at the piano, there was still the buzz and hum of conversation. He played the crashing chord to attract the attention of the crowd, and then when that attention was obtained, the theme was stated. Paul has the Romans' attention and now, in verse 16, states his theme.
4. This salvation is for everyone...everyone who believes. Paul covered it, in his mind, by saying that it is first of all for the Jew, but also for the Greek. That's everyone as far as Paul was concerned.

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### *Student Worksheet*

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=The opportunity to share the Gospel comes in almost every \_\_\_\_\_, and when it does, we are pretty good at changing the \_\_\_\_\_. So, why not change the subject to something like their relationship with \_\_\_\_\_ as revealed in \_\_\_\_\_.

=In I Corinthians 2:2, Paul said, “I determined to know nothing among you except \_\_\_\_\_, and Him crucified.” He is not, in any way, ashamed of the Good News of Jesus.

=Three powerful ideas are in these two verses. First is \_\_\_\_\_. When we become His children, God saves us from all that the world can do to us. Second, Paul says that \_\_\_\_\_ is our way to God. And, third, our faith makes God’s righteousness our righteousness.

=Our fearless \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel and the salvation that God makes available to us is by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. You can’t find \_\_\_\_\_ greater than that!

**Scripture Memory: “I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.” Romans 1:16**

#### **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.