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## Calvary Church: Coordinated Curriculum 2007-2008

### Romans: The Transforming Power of the Righteousness of God

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#### **Postlude**

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This postlude lesson is intended to:

allow us to review—we have spent a year going through the details of Romans, now it's time to step back and see the big picture again

allow us to examine felt needs based on the truths taught

in the last section of Romans, Paul reminded the Romans of his desire to visit them and his obligation to the Christians in Jerusalem, he addressed individuals demonstrating affirmation and thanksgiving for them, warned about false teachers and ended with a climatic doxology to the enabling power of a wise God—how does this section help us understand our times?

allow us to insure that we are understanding and applying the main point of the last section and of the book. . .

What is the main point of the book?

What are the key lessons we have learned about:

God

Human nature

God's plan of salvation

God's provision of salvation

Relating to other believers

#### **Main idea**

Review and application

#### **Teaching ideas**

This lesson is primarily to help us review—we have been in Romans for a long time and there have been key lessons learned and we need to review to be reminded to keep applying those truths.

Notice that there are two handouts. One is a full review of Romans (44a), the other a partial review with accompanying applicational questions (44b), the last one is the one recommended for most classes.

#### **Recommendation**

Plan for group interaction.

#### **Brief Review**

1:18-3:20

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Mankind, left to their own devices, will turn from God toward evil

3:31-5:20

All can be saved by the grace of God in Jesus Christ's cross-work through faith

6-8

Those who place their trust in God are freed from bondage to sin, but are incapable through self-effort to overcome sin apart from the work of the Holy Spirit on behalf of those who surrender to Him.

9-11

God's sovereign plan for the salvation of both Jews and Gentiles began with the Jews and will conclude with them. But know the focus is on Gentiles.

12:1-15:13

God's goal in saving individuals is to transform them by conforming them to the image of Christ. This transformation is seen in how individuals love others, submit to rulers and interact with those who disagree.

# Romans

Stephen C. Kilgore

<b>Prologue</b>	<b>Justification: The Need for it</b>  God's Righteousness reveals man's sin  1:1-17 1:18-3:20	<b>Justification: What it is</b>  Way of Salvation  3:21-5:21	<b>Justification: How it affects me</b>  Life of Salvation  6:1-8:39	<b>Justification: Why Israel rejected it</b>  Scope of Salvation  9:1-11:36	<b>Duties Toward the Assembly</b>	<b>Duties Toward the State</b>	<b>Duties Toward Weak &amp; Strong</b>	<b>Epilogue</b>
	What a Mess! <u>Sin</u>	What a 5:1 God! <u>Salvation</u>	What a 8:1 Difference! <u>Sanctification</u>	What a Program! <u>Sovereignty</u>	12:1 How to Live! <u>Service</u>			
<b>Doctrine</b>					<b>Practice</b>			
<b>The Righteousness of God <u>Revealed</u></b> What to Believe					<b>The Righteousness of God <u>Reflected</u></b> How to Live			
<b>The Transforming Power of the Righteousness of God</b>								
<b>Romans 1:16-17</b> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." (ESV)					<b>Romans 12:1-2</b> I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)			

## Full Review

### Romans 1:1-17 Prologue: Paul's Commission to Preach Christ to the Nations

Paul received a special calling from God to proclaim Jesus for the obedience of faith, for the sake of His name among all nations.

He writes to the church in Rome to explain his mission and ask for their participation because the gospel is the transforming power of God in which God's righteousness is revealed.

### Romans 1:18-11:36 Doctrine: Justification—The Righteousness of God Revealed

*God's Gracious Provision of Righteousness is Acquired by Faith in Jesus Christ*

#### Romans 1:18-3:20 The Need for Justification

*What a Mess!*

*The Righteousness of God Revealed in Condemnation: The Universal Need of Righteousness*

*The Bad News: All condemned for sin—no exceptions*

Paul makes it clear that all humanity (Gentile and Jew) are without excuse before God because they have:

#### 1:18-32

Suppressed the truth of God's self revelation and replaced it with idolatry, immorality and all kinds of sin revealing the folly of:

- worshipping something other than God
- seeking fulfillment in unnatural relations

God has made Himself known through creation and conscience so that men are without excuse when they suppress the truth of who God is and reject the natural order. They are therefore subject to God's wrath and death.

### **2:1-29**

Even those (Jews) who have a privileged position by having God's Word and promises, rather than dealing uprightly have become judgmental and self-righteous, condemning the sinfulness of Gentiles but make excuses or diminish their own sinfulness. God, on the other hand, is righteous and judges everyone (Jew and Gentile) impartially according to their works not their heritage, religious rights or religious rites. No one is immune from judgment.

Inward righteousness, the transformation of heart is the key issue. External behavior should be a result of inward change.

### **3:1-20**

Simply stated:

All are without excuse and under sin  
All turn from God  
None seeks God

**Key point from the first section**—all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God—all are justly condemnable and separated from God because of sin.

## **Romans 3:21–5:21 What Justification Is**

*What a God—The Way of Salvation*

*Justification: The imputation of righteousness to all who believe*

Understanding the wonder of our salvation—the totality with which God provides salvation to those who are sinners (1:18-3:21; 5:8), ungodly (5:6); enemies (5:10) by nature condemned (5:12-21) solely on the basis of Christ's cross-work of justification, redemption and propitiation (3:21-31) provided by simple faith (chapter 4) allow us to have assurance of our reconciliation with God (5:1-11)—we should seek to honor God with our lives.

### **3:21-31**

God has revealed His righteousness

but mankind has rejected it and they find themselves enslaved to sin

“But now the righteousness of God has been manifested. . .”

in Jesus Christ

through faith

for all who believe

it is a gift of God's grace which

justifies (declared righteous in Christ)

and redeems man (purchased through exchange)

and satisfies God's righteousness (propitiation)

so man can claim no personal accomplishment—it's all of God

### **4:1-25**

Paul uses Abraham as a test case of the main point of 3:27-31

—a right relationship with God—a righteous God—is only made possible by the substitutionary death of Christ which is obtained through faith

Abraham, in spite of his lofty status has nothing to boast about for he was justified by faith alone (4:1-8) not circumcision (4:9-12) nor the law (4:13-17)

Abraham's faith was firm, despite circumstantial evidence, allowing him to enjoy God's promises (4:18-21)

Christians receive Christ's righteousness through that same faith (4:22-25)

### 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

In light of what God has done through Christ, we can have assurance of a present and permanent relationship with Him.

Christ's payment on the cross for our sins (debt) has settled the claims against us and judicially declared us righteous, therefore without a barrier between us and God—we have full access.

The salvation God provides is permanent because of how it was provided and it is able to withstand trials. The Holy Spirit's presence is an assurance of the future and of God's love in the present.

### 5:12-21

Sin's entrance into the world by Adam resulted in death for all men.

The entrance of the Law revealed the sinfulness of man's sin but this is surpassed by the sufficiency of God's grace and results in eternal life.

Sin affects everyone and everything.

Justification is available to everyone, everywhere.

#### **The Gospel**

What we just reviewed is the gospel.

Mankind is alienated from God due to sin. Sin must be punished (death).

God provides a substitutionary sacrifice for man in the God-Man Jesus Christ, Whose death enables anyone, through faith, to be declared righteous in God's eyes, to be credited with Christ's righteousness, to have full access to God based on the removal of sin's guilt—to be in a right relationship with God.

## **Romans 6:1–8:39 How Justification Affects Me**

*Sanctification: The Impartation of Righteousness*

*The Purpose of Salvation: Conformity to Christ's Image*

### **6:1-23 The Believer and Sin**

In chapter 6, Paul taught us that believers are dead to the controlling authority (domination) of sin (6:1-14) and that we must be slaves to God (6:15-25). We have been transferred from the realm of sin to the realm of righteousness; we are not in a neutral state.

### **7:1-25 The Believer and the Law**

In chapter 7, Paul explained that neither the Law nor our will is capable of overcoming the allure of sin. Our struggle with present sin—even though we are dead to sin and dead to the Law (7:1-6), is heightened through the Law which arouses in us desires by making something forbidden. On our own we have a great struggle with sin and an inability to overcome sin (7:13-25). We are therefore incapable of either doing what we desire to do, or what we do not want to do.

### **8:1-39 The Believer and the Holy Spirit**

Chapter 8 has 19 references to the Spirit—it is the Spirit that enables the believer to walk in a manner that pleases God. Paul seeks to help believers understand how to live out the freedom from sin that they have been granted through faith in Christ's cross-work.

### **8:1-11**

The indwelling presence of the Spirit provides the empowerment for the transformation process which we were incapable of doing on our own and which the Law was too weak to accomplish because of sin.

**8:12-25**

We are children of God, with the presence of the indwelling Spirit to enable us to overcome sin—but the motivation is relationship, not rules. We have an intimate relationship with our adopted Father (Abba) which should motivate us to maintain that relationship even when suffering, in light of the wonders yet to come of our ultimate salvation and glorification.

**Romans 9-11 Why Israel Rejected Justification**

*Vindication: Israel's Rejection of God's Righteousness*

**9:1-29** Israel's Rejection Considered in Light of God's Sovereignty, Justice and Mercy

**9:1-13**

Having taught about the sinfulness of all men, the means of salvation and sanctification for all men, Paul turns to the question about the place of the Israelites, God's chosen people. Had God set them aside? Paul's answer, "God is faithful to His word, He has said some will be saved."

If God is faithful to His Word (9:6) and has provided a means for Gentiles and Jews to be saved, a means which He initiates, what is man's responsibility?

**9:14-29**

God has the right to do as He pleases yet He is pleased to demonstrate mercy on those who are undeserving (remember 1:18-3:20) both Jew and Gentile, in order that He might save some.

God's actions are just even when we don't understand them.

God doesn't always explain Himself  
God doesn't have to explain Himself

God is free to act as He chooses and He has chosen to act in accordance with His character which means He is always faithful to accomplish what He has said and He is merciful in His interaction with mankind

**9:30-10:21** God's Present Dealings with Israel

Paul moves his discussion from the right God has to sovereignly initiate the salvific process, to God's justice and mercy, now to man's responsibility.

He develops two aspects of man's responsibility: the responsibility to believe the gospel and the responsibility to proclaim gospel.

**11:1-36** Israel's Rejection is Not Complete or Final: God Will Save

**11:1-10** Paul asserts God's continued commitment to Israel in the present by saving a remnant.

**11:11-32** Paul asserts God's continued commitment to Israel in the future by promising to save "all Israel."

## **Romans 12:1-15:13 Duties of the Justified—The Righteousness of God Reflected**

*The Justified Believer is to Act According to His Position before God*

### **12:1-8**

The mercies of God motivate us to a consecrated life (living sacrifice) that does not allow the world and its belief system to force us into its mold, but which results in transformation by the renewing of our minds, leading to doing the will of God particularly in humble service within the Body of Christ.<sup>1</sup>

#### **12:1-2 (Pivot section)**

Paul urges us to view God’s mercies which have been delineated in chapters one through eleven, and in light of this, to offer our bodies to God as a “living sacrifice.” This in fact, is a reasonable response—our worship. We are called upon to reject being pressed into the mold of the world and to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

### **12:9-13:14**

Love one another and the things that are good, hate what is evil. But in the midst of evil, seek to live at peace with all, not retaliating evil for evil, bless and minister to those who are against you. Submit to governing authorities who have been given authority by God. Seek to fulfill the Law by loving neighbors and doing good and living right (righteously).<sup>2</sup>

### **14:1-15:13 Duties toward the Weak**

It is with this kind of love that we are to approach our relationships with other Christians—especially when we disagree on disputable matters—accepting one another for the glory of God.

#### **14:1-12**

A practical demonstration of love is seen in our acceptance of other believers, differences and all. Seeking to do all we do, to the Lord and out of love and humility we seek the greater good of others to the glory of God.

#### **14:13-23**

Not judging their practices and it may require forgoing freedoms for the sake of the weak, so as not to cause them to stumble. Sacrificing our individual rights demonstrates love of others and a submission to God. We must seek to maintain peace and build others up.

Don’t judge

Don’t cause an offense

Don’t flaunt your freedom

#### **15:1-6**

The strong are not to use their Christian liberty as an excuse for selfishness but rather they must put others first. They have an obligation to please and build up the weak for their good—for unity is required for God to receive glory.

#### **15:7-13**

All believers are to accept each other—to welcome or receive each other (even into their homes), because Christ has welcomed them as a means of demonstrating God’s blessing on both the Jew and the Gentile in fulfillment of Scripture. Therefore as Christ was a servant for the glory of God, so should all Christians be with each other.

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<sup>1</sup> The mercies of God motivate our consecration which results in transformation, leading to doing the will of God particularly in humble service within the Body of Christ.

<sup>2</sup> Love without hypocrisy, and be so devoted to each other that we honor one another above ourselves (Romans 12:9-10). Paul exhorts us to live in harmony, not to be proud, but be willing to associate with those of low position, and as far as it depends on us, to live at peace with everyone (Romans 12:16, 18). This requires that we submit to governing authorities because God had delegated authority to them (Romans 13:1-7). And finally, we are instructed to “love your neighbor as you love yourself,” for love does no harm to its neighbor (Romans 13:9-10), but doing what is good and living uprightly.

## **Romans 15:14-16:27 Conclusion: Paul’s Mission to Proclaim Christ where He had not been**

### **15:14-33**

Stating the reason for his delay in visiting Rome, along with the purpose for his trip to Jerusalem—to deliver an offering from the church in Macedonia and Achaia (15:14-21), as in the introduction to the letter, Paul reaffirms his desire to visit the Romans and to be assisted by them in proclaiming the gospel where it has not been proclaimed (15:22-33).

### **16:1-16**

As Paul wraps up his letter, he greeted a wide ranging group of people present in Rome, affirming their ministry to him, the church and their significance for the expansion of the gospel.

People are important!

**16:17-20** Warning against false teachers: those who hurt the church

**16:21-23** Greetings from Paul’s companions: those who help the church

**16:25-27** Benediction: climatic doxology to the enabling power of a wise God

## **Review Romans 15:14-16:27**

In the last section of Romans, Paul has reminded the Romans of his desire to visit them and his obligation to the Christians in Jerusalem, he has addressed individuals demonstrating affirmation and thanksgiving for them, warned about false teachers and ended with a climatic doxology to the enabling power of a wise God.

Last week we saw that as Paul wraps up his letter, he finishes with a warning against those who hurt the church and an affirmation of those who helped the church.

How does this section help us understand our times?

Are we prepared to defend the church against those who might want to cause division through false teaching?

How are we preparing ourselves and our children to deal with changing times?

How are we preparing ourselves and our children to deal with competing “truths”?

## **Key Lessons**

Perusing the book of Romans or the review provided,

What are key truths that we must hold on to?

What are key truths that we must strive to apply?

As we review the whole of the book of Romans,

What truths do you still struggle to understand or believe?

What are the key lessons that will help you remember and apply the truths we have studied in the book of Romans? Write at least 3 key lessons.

*Possible answers:*

All people are in need of Jesus as their Savior—only through faith in Jesus can individuals be in a right relationship with God.

Once someone has been justified by faith, they are different and their lives should change.

One key way people are to be different is through how they relate to others. Believers are to love their neighbors even those who disagree with them.

Thinking through the last major section of the book, Romans 12:1-15:13 what lessons are we challenged with? Write down several key lessons.

Romans 12:1-2 We are to be different than the world—how different are we?

Romans 12:3-8 We are to seek the good of others above our own—how are we doing?

Romans 12:9-21 We are to foster mutual love and no vengeance within the Body—are we nurturing unity?

Romans 13:1-7 We are to have a positive contribution to community life including our submission to governing authorities—how will this impact our voting?

Romans 13:8-14 We are to love our neighbors and put off the works of darkness—walk uprightly—are we making a significant impact in our community, in Lancaster county?

Romans 14:1-15:13 We are not to judge or condemn the “freedoms” or lack of freedoms individual Christians practice. In “gray” areas or in areas of differing opinions we must show concern for the individual not the practice, seeking to develop and maintain unity—are we gracious to those who are different and who have different standards?

What do we learn from the conclusion of the letter, Romans 15:14-16:27 about. . .

Paul?

He saw people as important

Ministry?

Ministry includes sacrifice

The church?

It must be protected

What difference will the truths of Romans and the application/lessons learned make on:

You personally (your thought life, your virtues and values, your finances, your involvements, etc.)

Your relationship with your spouse

Your relationship to your children

Your relationship with those in the church

Your interaction with those in your neighborhood, workplace, and/or community

### **Applicational Questions to Ask**

1. Is there an example to follow?
2. Is there a sin to avoid?
3. Is there a promise to claim?
4. Is there a prayer to repeat?
5. Is there a command to obey?
6. Is there a condition to meet?
7. Is there a verse to be memorized?
8. Is there an error to mark?
9. Is there a challenge to face?