

Romans L16 – Lessons 9-15 Study Summary

Lesson 9 – Romans 4:1-15 Abraham was Justified by Faith

- Q1, 2 – Abraham came from Ur, which is near modern-day Basrah in Iraq, close to the Persian Gulf. He moved with his father's family to Haran (about where the southcentral border of Turkey meets Syria), from where God called him to leave and go to a land God would reveal. He did this, and God "counted his belief" as righteousness.
- Q3 – God's approval does not come in response to our good works or efforts; we don't have to "prove" ourselves to Him first. Rather, God's forgiveness comes as a gift --- which we call "grace" --- in response to the genuinely repentant who put faith in Jesus for deliverance!
- Q5, 6 – Abraham's faith came before his circumcision, which was the sealing sign of his covenant of faith with God. Therefore, he is considered to be the "father of all who believe," both the circumcised and uncircumcised, from all nations...!
- Q7 – There are two types of "righteousness" discussed in this lesson: the righteousness of Jesus, and one's own self-righteousness. Self-righteousness is inadequate for salvation. To be saved, we must have the righteousness of Jesus, which is given to us when we express saving faith in Him.

Lesson 10 – Romans 4:16-25 Abraham's Hope Results in Promises Fulfilled

- Q2 – Salvation is guaranteed to ALL people of many nations --- i.e., to those everywhere who 'share' the faith of Abraham.
- Q3 – It took about 25 years for Abraham to father a child "of promise" with Sarah. He accepted God's Word without doubting, though he was approaching 100 and Sarah 90, with her also being barren her whole life. "In hope, he believed against hope" that God would keep His promise.
- Q4 – Abraham's determined hope to trust in God led to a growing faith as he emphasized giving glory to God in this matter. Whenever believers "act in faith" to a promise given them by God, His actions and answers often cause our faith to experience "growth spurts."
- Q6 – Romans 4:20 says that Jesus was "delivered up (to death) for our trespasses (sins), and raised for our justification" (i.e., forgiveness of sins, restored to 'right' standing with God).

Lesson 11 – Romans 5:1-11 Faith in God Results in Peace

- Q2 – Supporting one another in 'body life' is important and invaluable, and openness about life's issues keeps us both humble and genuine in regards to faith. Here, Paul notes that we gain endurance (patience, not quitting, hanging in there), character (maturity, integrity, a solid reputation), and hope (confidence in God and His future) when we are honest with each other about life's issues.
- Q4 – Romans 5:6 says we (humans) were 'weak' (i.e., lacking moral strength) while v. 8 states directly that we are 'sinners.' These conditions apply to us being described by God as "the ungodly." Humans are a sin-marred and broken creation on this earth. God the Father developed a salvation "plan" from before the foundation of the world that unfolded through OT prophecy.

Jesus became "human" according to the timeline the Father established (Galatians 4:4-5), and then died as the 'propitiation' to appease God's anger and wrath (at sin) to bring salvation to all who believe and trust in Him (Romans 3:25).

- Q6, 7 – Romans 5:10 speaks of two things God, in His great love, will do: He will now SAVE us because of the life Jesus sacrificed on the cross for our sin; and He will BE RECONCILED to us. This leads to peace with God as we become His and are drawn closer to Him in relationship. Being reconciled through Jesus we gain life --- an abundant (and full) one --- now and eternally!

Lesson 12 – Romans 5:12-21 Sin Brought Death – Jesus Brings Life

- Q1 – Sin was in the world before God gave His Law through Moses. Everybody from Adam through Moses --- except Enoch --- physically "died," though they 'sinned' differently...!
- Q4 – Sin brings judgment and condemnation, but God's free gift through Jesus brings justification through His righteousness (v. 17, which brings us salvation).
- Q5 – The Bible teaches us in Genesis and Romans that Adam, the first man, is responsible for bringing sin -- and death -- into our human world. This sin changed our attitude towards God, too, affecting our relationship with Him. In Romans 8:7, it says that our flesh(sin)-focused minds became hostile towards God. While some believe that the

Genesis Creation Story and the Fall of Man account is only a moral 'story' (allegory), Jesus spoke very clearly about these folks as real people in real times.

Q6, 7 – The wrath of God is being stored up for the disobedient (Romans 2:5). V. 20 states that just as Adam's personal sin introduced an inherent sinful nature into all mankind --- so that everyone is naturally a sinner --- wherever sins increased and abounded, Jesus' death and resurrection providing God's grace, forgiveness, and righteousness abounded even more! Grace > Sin!

Lesson 13 – Romans 6:1-14 Should Christians Continue to Sin?

Q1, 2 – The suggestion is that we SHOULD sin more and more so that in "forgiving us" God's wonderful grace is magnified to all. His grace is amazing, so let's 'showcase' it for the world. Paul's response? "Rubbish! Nonsense! You died to sinful behavior!" We are not expected to continue living the same way we always have AFTER we come to Jesus by faith. We are expected to walk in "newness of life" (v. 4); this transformation will glorify the Father!

Q4 – Romans 6:6 says our "old self" was being crucified with Jesus. He told us that anyone who follows Him must take up his own personal cross DAILY. Saying "no" to sin doesn't happen just one time, such as when we first receive Jesus by faith. While the Holy Spirit comes into our life at that time, a new "war" for bodily control begins between God's influence and our own flesh's influence --- it is a daily battle!

Q5, 6 – We cannot sin after we actually die. Once we die, sinning is no longer possible. We should be as responsive to sin's temptations after receiving salvation through faith --- as a true corpse!

Q7 – Romans 6:12 says, "Let not sin reign in YOUR mortal body!" The choice to be made is: "Will I live for God?" or "Will I live for myself?". With my choice, my body becomes involved in various actions. With my body I can serve God in righteousness or myself in unrighteousness.

Lesson 14 – Romans 6:15-23 We are All Slaves to Something...!

Q1 – In response to the question, "Why shouldn't we keep sinning so that when God extends forgiving grace, He gets more glory?", Paul responds, "God forbid!!" To live sinfully under this rationale is to twist God's Word to suit ourselves. With this kind of mind set, everyone would want to live exactly as they like because --- there would be no consequences. "May it never be like that!!" is the emphasis of Paul's response.

Q2 – We are slaves to whatever we surrender ourselves to. Life is described as being a slave to one of two masters: sin (ourselves) or God. Sin is our 'default' slave-master; we must 'choose' to step out from sin (i.e., repent) to become a slave to God...and then work at keeping that commitment.

Q4 – Paul's basic message is that we used to live one way before coming to faith in Christ, and now we need to embrace a new way. The old self-serving way promotes impurity and lawlessness, but God's way leads to righteousness and sanctification, which leads to eternal life. Therefore, make an informed decision: stop living for yourself, and start living for God!

Q7 – Paraphrasing Romans 6:23 may go something like this: "the end result of ignoring God and sinful living is eternal death, but for people who repent of their sins and embrace faith in the true, Living God, God's gift is eternal life through Jesus."

Lesson 15– Romans 7:1-12 Christ Delivers Us From the Law

Q1-6 – When a spouse dies, people can remarry without violating man's or God's law. There are only 3 acceptable reasons given for divorce in a marriage: 1) sexual immorality (e.g., adultery, family sexual abuse, Matthew 19:9); 2) being unwilling to have sexual relations (conjugal rights, 1 Corinthians 7:4-5); and 3) the non-Christian spouse quitting the marriage to the Christian spouse because of conflicting beliefs (1 Corinthians 7:15). Reconciliation with the divorced spouse, if possible, should be the focus. We have an obligation to share this truth with Christians who look to remarry a new person after divorcing their spouse. (Romans says this is a sin). BUT, keep in mind - divorce is NOT the unforgivable sin!!

Q7-10 – Paul uses the marriage analogy to explain our relationship with God's Law, calling it our "first husband." We are to die to the Law so we can be joined to Christ. The Law served as our 'guardian' until Christ came. It is holy and righteous, and it was given as a guide to "aide" us until Jesus came (Galatians 3:21-26). The Law does NOT cause us to sin, but the Law does define what sinful behavior is. So, by it, we stand convicted and under judgment. That's the dynamic of the struggle: the Law is perfect, but in people it points out our imperfections!

We are to serve God according to the spirit of the Law. Jesus said this was possible by valuing just two key laws: Love God with all our heart; and love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves.