

Romans L8 – Lessons 1-7 Study Summary

Lesson 1 – Romans 1:1-15

Paul Desires to Go to Rome

- Q1 – Jesus was declared to be the Son of God by virtue of His resurrection. No other religions were founded by a leader publicly put to death, placed in a guarded tomb, who rose from the dead, and appeared publicly again to His followers (a proof of His teachings).
- Q3 – The New Testament use of ‘saint’ refers to genuine believers worshipping God in their churches.
- Q4, 5 – Paul was inspired by what he heard about the church in Rome, so he prayed for an opportunity to visit it and mutually edify one another. In the Body of Christ, it is good to pray and intercede for one another. We should commit ourselves to this essential ministry!

Lesson 2 – Romans 1:16-23

Righteousness and Unrighteousness

- Q1 – The Christian Gospel is this: Jesus became a man according to the Father’s plan, lived a perfect life, died as mankind’s sin-bearer, and was raised by the Father to be the Savior of all. Believers must repent of their sins and ask for forgiveness. By faith in Jesus, they will be saved.
- Q2 – God uses the “folly” of preaching as the primary means of spreading the Gospel message.
- Q3 – Paul claims he was not embarrassed by the Gospel, because it brings God’s saving power. However, sometimes believers (us) can be embarrassed to pray publicly or speak openly about Jesus....
- Q5-7 – The wicked of this earth “suppress God’s truth” by their unrighteousness. God’s creation of the world is evident, but they want no part of it. In their rejection, their thinking becomes futile and their minds darkened. Refusing to worship God, they claim to be ‘wise,’ but they become fools by their insistent stubbornness. God will not overlook this; they will be subject to His full wrath!

Lesson 3 – Romans 1:24-32

God “Gave Them Up...”

- Q1, 2 – From vs. 24, 26 and 28, God gives these stubborn, unbelieving people up to sexual impurity, shameful lusts, and depraved minds. They exchange the truth of God for lies, worshipping His creations instead of Him, the Creator --- and they degrade themselves.
- Q3, 4 – Normal (God-ordained) human sexual relations between a husband and his wife are exchanged for male/female homosexuality (same-sex), prostitution (sex for \$), and fornication (sex before or outside of a marriage commitment [also covers adultery]).
- Q5 – Participants in these sexual perversions receive the “due penalty within themselves.” It is a present judgment from God; whether something physical or mental, they have a price they pay.
- Q6, 7 – God allows people to reject Him, and those that do begin doing things they “ought not” to do....
- Q8, 9 – Many fleshly behaviors result from the ungodly. Sadly, some behaviors and attitudes also affect members of the Church (e.g., jealousy, envy, strife, and gossiping). Those whom God ‘penalizes’ in their deviancy go on to encourage disobedience and even inventing new sinful acts in others.

Lesson 4 – Romans 2:1-11

God’s Righteous Judgment

- Q1 – Christians should be cautious about judging the sexually perverted (lesson 3 above). This is especially true for hypocrites --- those who condemn it publicly but hide doing it personally!
- Q2, 3 – Christians do have a ‘duty’ to judge, better ‘discern’, right from wrong, but never from a position of hypocrisy. There are several texts directing proper judgment in a church environment.
- Q4, 5 – When Christians commit ‘presumptuous’ sins, i.e., “It’s okay to sin; God will forgive me later when I repent...,” they are despising the riches of God (His grace). God’s kindness is meant to lead us to repentance, not further sinning. We cannot afford to be stubborn and unrepentant, believers who are actually living so as to store up God’s Wrath upon ourselves.
- Q7 – God promises to honor those believers who patiently go about doing good, but the self-seeking and disobedient are subject to His future fury and wrath, and distress in this lifetime.
- Q8 – Whether judgment or reward, God will begin with His own household and His chosen people....

Lesson 5 – Romans 2:12-29

The Law, Circumcision, and Judgment

- Q1, 2 – Gentiles --- those growing up without God's (written) Law --- will still be judged by God according to their consciences. Though without the law, God's laws are known within mankind's hearts (a basic understanding of right from wrong). Those with the Law will be judged by God's Law.
- Q3 – Christians, as Christ's Church – like Jews, as God's Chosen People – can fall into a similar trap. We know God's ways and are in a position to influence our culture, but when we publicly fail, we blacken the eyes of God and our faith community. We must live genuinely and purely; we cannot afford to be found guilty of the very things we oppose.
- Q4-6 – One of the most common complaints against people of Christ's Church is that we are hypocrites, guilty of doing the things we condemn in others. This passage in Romans says only those who are 'doers' of the Law will be deemed righteous by the Lord. The advantage of growing up knowing God's Law is lost to me if I fail to obey it...!

Lesson 6 – Romans 3:1-20

God is Righteous --- NOT People!

- Q1 – The Jews are God's covenanted people by circumcision, having been entrusted with His Words and many having personal encounters with Him over the years. They were to be a witness of the one, true God in our world, a light to the nations. Christians, today, join the Jews in this duty.
- Q2 – Unfortunately, being raised in a Jewish or Christian home is no guarantee that the children will embrace the faith of their parents. Each individual must come to his/her own faith. Though He may be rejected in new generations, God remains faithful to us.
- Q3 – Unlike Gnostic teachings, Paul NEVER taught that Christians ought to live sinfully in their bodies so that God may be glorified by forgiving us again and again (because only our spirit counts!).
- Q4 – The religious term TOTAL DEPRAVITY does not mean people are incapable of doing right things, but that no human being is capable of never doing wrong things. Every human being has been tainted by sin's stains (influence). Our contaminated nature is to be true to SELF, not God.
- Q5 – Even using God's Law like a checklist, no one can pressure God by saying "I deserve to be here." God's verdict has been decreed: There is NO ONE who is righteous, no not one! Everyone sins!

Lesson 7 – Romans 3:21-31

Righteousness Comes by Faith

- Q1 – Since man's 'self-righteousness' is incapable of earning salvation for people, God introduces a new solution for salvation, the righteousness of Jesus Christ. The acceptable righteousness of Jesus, by virtue of a perfect life, is freely "given" (grace) to those who put their trust and faith in Him (i.e., my filthy rags of righteousness are exchanged for the perfect righteousness of Jesus).
- Q2 – All mankind has sinned and fallen short of God's glory (and expectations).
- Q3, 4 – Grace is free to people, but it cost the Father the life of His Son. God paid a price to redeem us.
- Q5 – Jesus is the 'propitiation.' This religious term means that He is the 'acceptable sacrifice' to appease the Father's wrath and anger over the sinfulness of mankind. What men could not do, even through the blood of animals, God has accomplished through Jesus's life and spilled blood on the cross. The Father is satisfied with this solution; He raised Jesus from the dead for seeing His plan through.
- Q6, 7 – Mankind has no room to boast; it cannot, did not, secure its own deliverance. Salvation is available by faith alone, not by any good works.
- Q8 – Though the Jews are his 'light' to the nations, God is the creator of all people and nations. He is not the God of just the Jews, but the God of all men!