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# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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## ALL HAVE SINNED ROM 1:16-20; 3:9-20

The headings on the Gospels and epistles that we find in our modern Bibles were not in the original text. Someone added the word *saint* to names such as Matthew and John (for example), resulting in “The Gospel According to Saint Matthew” or “Saint John.” Interestingly, the word for *saint* (meaning “holy one,” or someone “set apart,” thus describing any Christian) never occurs in the singular form in the New Testament. It is always plural. Songs in Heaven are not going to be solos. They are going to be sung by “a great multitude that no one could count” (Revelation 7:9). The Christian life was never intended to be a solo. It is designed to be lived with and for *others*. It is true also that all of us together are plagued by the curse of sin. Each of us has fallen short of the glory of God, just as the first human beings, Adam and Eve, did. The seductive summons from our fleshly side has pressured all of us, has been most enticing, and cannot be successfully resisted in our own strength. “Misery loves company,” an old saying tells us. We have abundant company in the misery caused by sin, but in Christ we have company in the victory that he provides (company that we can really love!).

Paul, formerly Saul the persecutor of Christians, is the author of the letter to the Romans. He is sending it to the congregation of believers in Rome, with the hope that he would follow the letter personally before very long (Romans 1:10, 11). Some of the men and women whom he had loved and taught and led to Christ seem to have traveled to Rome ahead of him for one reason or another (persecution, employment, or other factors). That is clear from the list of personal greetings that Paul includes at the end of the letter in chapter 16. A church was growing in Rome, made up of individuals who were likely present in Jerusalem on Pentecost (Acts 2:10) and of newly converted believers. It seemed most important to Paul that they grow in the right direction. They needed a strong doctrinal base, and they needed some practical spiritual direction. In this letter they received both. Paul wrote Romans about the year A.D. 56 or 57, which would have been approximately twenty years after his own conversion. Apparently the letter was written from Corinth during Paul’s third missionary journey. He refers to the hospitality of a man named Gaius in Romans 16:23; Gaius was a convert of Paul’s in Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:14). The contents of Romans reflect Paul’s experience in presenting a gospel that is both thorough and orderly, as well as one that deals with some of the normal daily issues and relational matters faced by growing Christians. He is in the prime years of his ministry, and he is able to present the fruit of his personal familiarity with bringing people to Christ and providing an atmosphere for their growth. He is prepared to send a letter that covers many important issues, counters some spiritual errors, and emphasizes core truths of the Christian faith. The maturity of the church in Rome was already well known. “Your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world,” Paul writes in Romans 1:8. He wanted to meet the Christians there and share in their growth. His desire was to help them, while also benefiting from their gifts (Romans 1:12).

### Displaying the Righteousness of God A Study in Romans

Date	Lesson	Text
07/06	Introduction	
<b>07/13</b>	<b>All Have Sinned</b>	<b>1:16-20; 3:9-20</b>
07/20	God's Judgment	2:1-16
07/27	God's Promises	4:2-25
08/03	Justified By Faith	5:1-21
08/10	Victory in Christ	6:1-14
08/17	Life in the Spirit	8:1-16
08/24	Salvation in Christ	10:5-17
08/31	Marks of a Christian	12:1-21
09/07	Responsible Citizens	13:1-14
09/14	Do Not Judge	14:1-15:6

### Food for Thought

Your **WALK** talks **LOUDER**  
than your **TALK WALKS**.

Blessed are they whose ways  
are blameless, who walk  
according to the law of the  
LORD.

Psalm 119:1

(supplied by a Class Member)

(adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### ANSWER TO SIN (ROMANS 1:16, 17)

#### *Gospel of Christ (v. 16)*

The gospel is an answer because it is the good news of God (Luke 2:10-11)

The gospel is an answer because it proclaims that Jesus died for sins (1 Cor 15:2-4)

The gospel is an answer because it is the blessing of Jesus (Rom 15:29)

#### *Power of God (v. 16)*

The power of God is the answer because it saves (1 Cor 1:18)

The power of God is the answer because it is manifested in those God has called (1 Cor 1:24)

The power of God is the answer because it demolishes all evil strongholds (2 Cor 10:4)

The power of God is the answer because it works in those who believe (1 Thess 2:13)

#### *Righteousness by Faith (v. 17)*

Righteousness by faith is the answer because God's faithfulness cannot be nullified (Rom 3:3)

Righteousness by faith is the answer because it is apart from the law and available to all who believe (Rom 3:21-22)

Righteousness by faith is the answer because it is through faith that God is pleased (Heb 11:6)

Righteousness by faith is the answer because it provides hope (Heb 11:1-2)

### RESPONSIBILITY FOR SIN (ROMANS 1:18-20)

#### *Ungodliness Revealed (v. 18)*

Ungodliness is revealed through God's word (Rom 7:7-9)

Ungodliness is revealed through how one lives (1 John 1:5-8)

Ungodliness is revealed through whether one loves others or not (1 John 3:10)

Ungodliness is revealed through the judgment (1 Cor 3:13)

#### *Ungodliness Inexcusable (vv. 19, 20)*

Ungodliness is inexcusable because everyone should be prepared for Jesus' return (Matt 25:26-29)

Ungodliness is inexcusable because if one knows what to do and doesn't it is a sin (James 4:17)

Ungodliness is inexcusable because deliberate sin causes destruction (Heb 10:26)

Ungodliness is inexcusable because God doesn't recognize evildoers (Matt 7:21-23)

### EXPERIENCE OF SIN (ROMANS 3:9-12)

#### *Failure in Everyone (v. 9)*

There is none good except God (Mark 10:18)

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23)

Even if we claim to be without sin, we lie (1 John 1:8)

If angels are not pure, what chance does man have to be pure (Job 15:14-16)

Even our most righteous acts are like filthy rags in God's sight (Isa 64:6)

#### *Failure to Seek God (vv. 10, 11)*

Fail to seek God because of relying on earthly powers (Isa 31:1)

Fail to seek God because of not forsaking evil ways and thoughts (Isa 55:6-7)

Fail to seek God because of having a mind hostile to God (Rom 8:7)

Fail to seek God because of turning away from God (Ps 14:2-3)

Yet, in God's mercy He will sometimes reveal Himself despite our not seeking Him (Isa 65:1)

#### *Failure to Do Good (v. 12)*

There is no one who does good (Ps 53:1)

There is no one who never sins (Eccl 7:20)

All have gone astray at one time or another (Isa 53:6)

All have followed the desires of their sinful nature (Eph 2:3)

Even when we are obedient, we have only done our duty (Luke 17:10)

### CHARACTER OF SIN (ROMANS 3:13-18)

#### *Affects Our Tongues (vv. 13, 14)*

Sin affects tongues because the tongue can corrupt the whole person (James 3:6)

Sin affects tongues because the tongue can cause one to be unclean (Matt 15:11)

Sin affects tongues because speaking rashly causes ruin (Prov 13:3)

Sin affects tongues because it keeps us from keeping control over our tongues (James 1:26)

#### *Affects Our Feet (vv. 15-17)*

Sin affects our feet by causing wicked thoughts to rush us into evil (Prov 6:18)

Sin affects our feet by causing us to walk away from justice and have no peace (Isa 59:8)

Sin affects our feet by causing us to walk crooked paths that are devious (Prov 2:15)

Sin affects our feet by causing us to walk in places with snares and lies (Prov 22:5)

#### *Affects Our Eyes (v. 18)*

Sin affects our eyes because the eyes are the lamp of the body and if they see darkness, the body is full of darkness (Matt 6:22-23)

Sin affects our eyes because it is through our eyes that we are influenced to sin (Matt 18:9)

Sin affects our eyes because Satan uses our eyes to make us lust (1 John 2:16)

### DEFINER OF SIN—THE LAW (ROMANS 3:19, 20)

#### *Confirms Our Guilt (v. 19)*

God's word confirms guilt because it allows us to recognize sin (Rom 7:12-13)

God's word confirms guilt because it provides warnings (Ps 19:11)

God's word confirms guilt because passions are identified by the law (Rom 7:5)

#### *Fails to Address Guilt (v. 20)*

The Law by itself failed because it was not perfect, but it introduced a better hope (Heb 7:18-19)

The Law by itself failed because it was only a shadow of the things to come (Heb 10:1-4)

The Law by itself failed because it was weakened by the sinful nature (Rom 8:3)

The Law by itself failed because no one can be justified by the law (Gal 2:16)