



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



Lesson Leader:
James Haymon

Class Leaders:
Joe & Comella Liles

Displaying the Righteousness of God A Study in Romans

Date	Lesson	Text
07/06	Introduction	
07/13	All Have Sinned	1:16-20; 3:9-20
07/20	God's Judgment	2:1-16
07/27	God's Promises	4:2-25
08/03	Justified By Faith Pt 1	5:1-21
08/10	Justified By Faith Pt 2	5:1-21
08/17	Victory in Christ	6:1-14
08/24	Life in the Spirit	8:1-16
08/31	Salvation in Christ	10:5-17
09/07	Marks of a Christian	12:1-21
09/14	Responsible Citizens	13:1-14
09/21	Do Not Judge	14:1-15:6
09/28	Review & Summary	

Food for Thought

People work for **MONEY**.
God worked for **LOVE**.

For God so loved the world...

John 3:16a

(shared by a Class Member)

MARKS OF A CHRISTIAN

ROM 12:1-2, 9-21

Radical Christianity. Has there ever been a more redundant phrase? **To be Christian means to follow Christ ... to be like Him.** Therefore, all we need to do to worship him is ... light a candle? No. Whisper a few prayers? No. Today's lesson text says our worship includes the following:

- Living out of step with our culture.
- Developing deep emotional bonds with brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Blessing those who persecute us.
- Serving others; doing what's best for them, no matter what it costs us.
- Being disgusted by sin.

Does this sound like extreme Christianity? Today's lesson shows us that this is *simply* Christianity. It's our appropriate lifestyle response to a radical Savior! There are two ways of looking at the sin-tainted world around us. The first sees people's hatred and disregard toward others and despairs. "It's no use. Why try to make any difference? Just look out for yourself and don't bother anyone else." The second sees the same needs and the same failures, but thinks of the possibilities for improvement and the divine resources behind them. "Yes, sin abounds; but grace abounds more. Yes, sin may win some occasional battles, but God's righteousness will win the war." Too many Christians have bought into the idea that serious faith fosters an outlook of worry, gloom, and doom. One is reminded of the story of two men who met along the street. "Say," said one to the other, "aren't you a minister?" "No," said the other man, "I've just been sick a lot recently." As Christians we should live out the hope we have found in Christ and do so with a joy that will cause others to crave what they see in us. Last week's study came from Romans 10, where Paul contrasts a "works" approach to being right with God with a "faith" approach. This teaching is found within a larger portion of Romans (chapters 9-11), where Paul considers the place of the Jews in God's plan of redemption. Paul concludes chapter 11 with a doxology praising God for the "depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!" (v. 33). Today's lesson is taken from Romans 12. This chapter begins a new direction in Paul's train of thought. Chapters 1-11 have been primarily doctrinal in their focus. With chapter 12 the apostle begins to examine some of the **practical issues that relate to living for Christ** in both the church and the world, among Christians and non-Christians. However, this "new" section is very clearly linked with what has preceded through Paul's use of the word *therefore* in verse 1. Paul's purpose in doing this should be clear: doctrine is practical as well as theological. **What we believe must affect how we live.** If it doesn't, then the world has every right to question the value of what we believe.

For if our faith in Christ is making no real difference in our lives, why should others embrace it? The doctrinal section of the letter concerns what to believe; the practical section concerns how to put those teachings to work in our daily lives. As believers, we must recognize the importance of both correct doctrine and correct living. Trying to build a godly life on something other than the truths of God's Word (doctrine) is like trying to build a house without a good foundation. Conversely, **having a correct understanding of Bible doctrine will be of little value unless it is fleshed out in a dedicated Christian life.** Just as John the Baptist told the multitudes, "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance" (Matt. 3:8), so it must be among those who have professed faith in Christ. If we talk the talk, we must walk the walk. Last week's lesson dealt with salvation, which is found only in Christ. Once a person has put his faith in Christ and has been born again, his life will change. Old ways will pass away, and new ways will come. This week's lesson deals with the life that has been presented to Christ as a living sacrifice. "If you talk the talk, you have to walk the walk." That little statement says a lot about the relationship between confessing Christ verbally and living the Christian life for all to see. There have been some who focus on the many negative things that Christians should not do. To be sure, turning to Christ does involve turning from sin. Christians should avoid activities that compromise their testimony. The emphasis of this week's lesson, however, is on cultivating the positive distinctives of the Christian life.

(adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary and the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

LIVING SACRIFICIALLY (ROM 12:1-2)

Sanctification (vs 1)

- Sanctification is when God makes one blameless (1 Thess 5:23)
- Sanctification through the blood of Jesus (Heb 9:13-14)
- Sanctification is presenting our bodies as a slave to God in righteousness (Rom 6:19)
- Sanctification is the purpose for which God has called His people (1 Thess 4:7)
- Sanctification into salvation (2 Thess 2:13)
- We must pursue sanctification (Heb 12:14)

Transformation (vs 2)

- Transformation through being made new in the attitude of our mind (Eph 4:22-24)
- Transformation through reconciliation (Col 1:21-23)
- Transformation through putting on a new self (Col 3:10)
- Transformation through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5)
- Transformation into an image of the glory of God (2 Cor 3:18)

LIVING A LIFE OF LOVE (ROM 12:9-15)

Love without hypocrisy (vs 9)

- Love by putting God's word into practice (Ezek 33:31)
- Love by being approved by God and by seeking to please Him (1 Thess 2:3-6)
- Love with a pure heart and in sincerity (1 Tim 1:5)
- Love by faith accompanied by action (James 2:15-17)
- Love not with words, but in truth and with action (1 John 3:18-20)
- Love without deceit (1 Peter 2:1)
- True love has no sin or deceit associated with it (Ps 32:2)

Honor others (vs 10)

- Honor others by serving them (Matt 20:26-28)
- Honor others by seeking their interests (Phil 2:3-4)
- Honor others by giving them honor they are due (Rom 13:7)
- An example of honoring others is honoring parents (Eph 6:2)
- Honor others by welcoming them in the Lord with great joy (Phil 2:28-30)
- Honor those whose work is preaching and teaching (1 Tim 5:17)

Serve others (vs 11-12)

- Serve others in love (Gal 5:13)
- Serve wholeheartedly (Eph 6:7)
- Serve others with the gifts God has provided (1 Peter 4:10)
- Serving others makes one great (Mark 10:43-44)
- Serve others by trying to build them up (Rom 15:1-3)
- Serve others by carrying their burdens (Gal 6:2)

Help others (vs 13)

- Help others by having regard for the weak (Ps 41:1-3)
- Help others by sharing possessions (Acts 4:32-35)
- Help others by materially blessing through contributions to the poor (Rom 15:25-27)
- Help others by giving of ourselves first to God (2 Cor 8:1-5)
- Help others by supplying their needs (2 Cor 9:12-13)
- Help others by continually being consistent in help (Heb 6:10)

Bless others (vs 14-15)

- Bless others by sharing with them (Heb 13:16)
- Bless others by taking advantage of every opportunity to do good to all people (Gal 6:10)
- Bless others by not expecting repayment (Matt 5:44-48)
- Bless others by doing to them as you would want to be done to you (Luke 6:28-31)
- Bless others by being kind to them (1 Thess 5:15)
- Bless others by repaying insults with good (1 Peter 3:9)

LIVING A LIFE OF HUMBLE GOODNESS (ROM 12:16-21)

Humility (vs 16)

- We should take the example of Jesus and submit ourselves to humbleness (Phil 2:5-7)
- Humbleness is a requirement of God (Mic 6:8)
- Those who are humble enjoy the presence of God (Isa 57:15)
- Humbleness means to be submissive to God and those in authority over us (1 Peter 5:5)
- Saints should live with humility (Eph 4:2)

Unity (vs 16)

- Unity through God composing the members of the body (1 Cor 12:24-28)
- Unity in Christ (Phil 2:1-4)
- Unity through baptism of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:12-13)
- Unity into one faith (Eph 4:4-6)
- Unity that lets the world know that Jesus was sent by God (John 17:23)
- Unity through the Church (Eph 4:10-13)
- Unity through love (Col 3:14)

Peaceful (vs 17-18)

- Peaceful by aiming for peace (2 Cor 13:11)
- Peaceful through promotion of peace (Prov 12:20)
- Peaceful through being a peacemaker (Matt 5:9)
- Peaceful through overcoming the world (John 16:33)
- Peaceful through being controlled by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:6)

Do not seek revenge (vs 19)

- Do not seek revenge, but love your neighbor (Lev 19:18)
- Do not seek revenge or try to pay back (Prov 24:29)
- Do not seek revenge because it is God's role to avenge (Deut 32:35)
- Do not seek revenge because God is a jealous and avenging God (Nah 1:2-3)
- Do not seek revenge because God does the judging (Heb 10:30-31)
- Do not seek revenge, instead bless those who have harmed us (1 Peter 3:9)

Love enemies (vs 20-21)

- Love enemies by praying for them (Matt 5:43-45)
- Love enemies by doing good to them (Luke 6:35-36)
- Love enemies by loving them as we love ourselves (Rom 13:8-10)
- Love enemies by serving them (Gal 5:13-14)
- Love enemies as we have been taught by God (1 Thess 4:9)
- Love enemies by defending them and sharing with them (1 John 3:16-19)