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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

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



Lesson Leader:
James Haymon

Class Leaders:
Joe & Comella Liles

REVIEW AND SUMMARY - PART 2 STUDY OF ROMANS

The Gospels provide us with four independent accounts of the life and times of our Lord Jesus Christ. The book of Acts describes the birth of the church and the spread of the gospel from Jerusalem and Judea to Rome. The New Testament Epistles are letters written to various churches, usually intended to address and correct specific problems. The Book of Romans is unique in that it is a systematic summation of the doctrine of salvation, as seen throughout the Bible, and as proclaimed in its fullness in the New Testament. Romans begins with man's sin (chapters 1-3a), for which provision is made by the atoning work of Jesus Christ on man's behalf, as received by faith alone (chapters 3b-5), resulting in a forsaking of sin and the pursuit of righteousness as one walks in the power of the Holy Spirit (chapters 6-8). All of Old Testament history is summed up, beginning with Adam (chapter 5), continuing through the history of Israel, currently resulting in the salvation of the Gentiles, and ultimately consummating in the restoration and salvation of the Jews (chapters 9-11). The unfolding of God's salvation in human history is a manifestation of God's infinite wisdom (11:33-36). The doctrine of salvation is to be lived out by the saints, as described in chapters 12-16. In this one book, **Paul "puts it all together" so that we see the salvation of God from an eternal perspective.** There are no truths more important than those set down in this great Epistle to the Romans. This study should have not only enhanced your understanding of the gospel, but should have stimulated your worship as well.

One of the primary reasons for Paul writing Romans is described in Romans 15:14-16. The great danger for Christians is that we may lose our focus on the fundamentals and begin to pay too much attention to the fine points. In the words of our Lord, we may "strain out a gnat and swallow a camel" (see Matthew 23:24). **Paul wrote Romans to remind these growing Christians of the fundamentals of their faith.** There is little "new" in Romans, but all of it is vital. The concept Paul highlights at the end of verse 15 and all of verse 16 is fascinating! Here, he explains his motivation for writing the Book of Romans. If his *purpose* was to remind the Roman Christians of the fundamentals of the faith, his *motivation* was to carry out his God-given mission and calling as an apostle to the Gentiles. Paul was fully aware of his purpose. God made his purpose most evident at the time of his conversion (see Acts 9:15-16; 22:21; 26:15-18). Paul sets out this purpose at the beginning of this Epistle to the Romans in Romans 1:5. Notice that Paul perceived his calling to be a very broad one. He was not just called to evangelize among the Gentiles; his words indicate he was called to bring about "the obedience of faith among *all* the Gentiles." Paul sensed a responsibility to all the Gentiles, even those he had not seen before and those he had not led to Christ. *His responsibility was to minister in such a way as to encourage and facilitate an obedience which stems from faith.* Paul's calling included all the Gentiles, encompassing the broad category of discipleship—and not just evangelism. *This is precisely why he wrote this epistle to the Roman saints: to challenge them to the obedience which stems from faith.* This is also Paul's reason for placing so much emphasis on personal convictions—because these are matters of faith.

(adapted from "Reasoning Through Romans" by Robert L. Deffenbaugh)

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 Pt 1	13:1-14
09/21	Responsible Citizens Pt 2	13
09/28	Do Not Judge	14:1-15:6
10/05	Review & Summary	Part 1
10/12	Review & Summary	Part 2

Food for Thought

Shalom is a Hebrew greeting for **Hello** and **Goodbye**.
Shalom also means "**PEACE**."

*Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give you...*

John 14:27a (NIV)

(shared by a Class Member)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

(1) **Condemnation (Romans 1-3a).** Without grace man is in desperate plight. All men are sinners who have rejected and perverted the truth of God revealed to them. More knowledge simply brings greater guilt and condemnation. The Gentile pagan is guilty of rejecting the revelation of God in creation. He has chosen to worship the creature rather than the Creator (chapter 1). The Jewish pagan is far more guilty, for although he knows the Law of God and even teaches it to others, he fails to live by its standards (chapter 2). All are sinners, none is a God-seeker and thus all deserve eternal doom (3a).

(2) **Justification (Romans 3b-5).** The grace of God is revealed at man's greatest point of need. The righteousness which God requires and man cannot produce by his best efforts, God has provided through the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. He alone has satisfied God's requirements of righteousness. He has suffered the punishment of God for our sins, and He offers in place of our filthy rags of self-righteous endeavor His own righteousness (Romans 3b). The justification which God offers men in Christ is by faith, not works, as the case has always been. This is illustrated in the life of Abraham (chapter 4). The fruit of justification is peace with God, even in the midst of life's trials and tests (5a). The root of justification is the work of Jesus Christ. Just as one man sinned and thereby brought all who were his descendants into a state of sin, so one man, Jesus Christ, by His righteous life, death and resurrection, justifies all who are in Him (5b).

(3) **Sanctification (Romans 6-8).** The grace of God is not just needed for salvation. It is the grace of God which has brought us thus far, but it is grace that will also make us what we will be, what we should be. In chapter 6, Paul says that our practice (our practical Christian experience) must conform to our position (in Christ) and our profession (in baptism). Although we should live holy lives, this is humanly impossible due to the weakness of the flesh and the power of sin. What we desire to do we do not and what we despise we practice (chapter 7). At this point of human desperation, the grace of God is revealed and realized through the provision of the Holy Spirit Who enables us to meet God's requirements for godly living (chapter 8).

(4) **Dispensation (Romans 9-11).** The grace of God is defended in the matter of Jewish unbelief. How could God be gracious when the Jews to whom God had made eternal promises of blessings were turning in unbelief and the Gentiles were being saved? Since God is dealing with men according to grace, He is under no obligation to save every Jew, but only those whom He chooses (Romans 9). Those who demand justice will get exactly what they deserve, and those who reject the righteousness of God in Christ by trying to establish their own will get what they insist upon. (Although men are eternally doomed because God has not chosen them (chapter 9), they are equally lost because they have not chosen God (chapter 10).) God's promises to Israel are a future certainty, for there is still a Jewish remnant with whom Israel's hope rests. Israel's hardening is neither total nor permanent. God has hardened the Jews to save the Gentiles. When His purposes for the Gentiles are realized He will once again bring salvation and restoration to Israel (chapter 11).

(5) **Application (Romans 12-15).** The grace of God does not nullify human responsibility. In Romans 16:26, Paul speaks of the obedience of faith. This obedience is our response to the biblical imperatives and injunctions found throughout the Scriptures. This obedience is not our effort to do something for God, but our submission to God's activity through us. We are commanded to do certain things because God has given us the means (His Holy Spirit) to do them. We should read the Bible, pray, witness and so on because God has commanded it, and God will empower us to do it. (I must also say that we can do these things in the power of the flesh, and with no profit.)

The only reasonable response to the grace of God is submission and service (Romans 12:1-2). The grace of God has been revealed in Jesus Christ, but it is also to be reflected in the life of the Christian. Christians are individually stewards of divine grace in that we each possess spiritual (grace) gifts which we are to exercise for the building up of the body (Romans 12:3-8). The grace of God is reflected also in our human relationships (12:9-21). The grace of God is to be reflected by our obedience to the 'law of the land' and by our expression of the 'law of love' (Romans 13). The law of love is also expressed by accepting the weaker brother as he is, and by refraining from the exercise of any liberty which would impair his spiritual growth (Romans 14:1-15:13).