

December 21, 2025



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

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

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Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon
Barry Hosford

Class Leader:

Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

As we thank and trust Jesus, our willing Savior, He can empower us to love others sacrificially with our words and actions.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

Dear Jesus, help me trust in your provision as I place others first today.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

(Romans 5:8 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", February 15, 2025)

Winter Series: Enduring Beliefs of the Church

UNIT 1: Our God and the Holy Scriptures

NEXT WEEK

The Holy Spirit
Romans 8:12-17, 26-27

Christ the Savior Luke 15:3-7; Romans 5:6-10

Lesson Background and Introduction

The first of our two printed texts for this lesson is drawn from a sequence of three "lost and found" parables that constitute the entirety of Luke 15. An element common to all three parables is the joy that occurs when that which was lost is found.

Jesus spoke these parables while on his final trip to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51-56). It was a lengthy journey, but the crucifixion was near. Matthew 18:12-14 is another version of today's parable.

Paul's letter to the church in Rome was most likely written in AD 57 or 58. During Paul's third missionary journey, he spent about three months in Greece (Acts 20:1-3). This may have been the time during which he wrote this letter. He had never visited the church in Rome, but he planned to (Romans 1:8-13).

Many consider Romans to be Paul's most outstanding epistle. It is a profound doctrinal treatise, dealing with many aspects of the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 1:5). The universal sinfulness of humanity was the issue (1:18-3:20). The remedy is "the righteousness of God" that comes to individuals through their faith in Jesus (3:21-24). The printed text leads us to explore the intersection of these facts.

Key Verse: Rom 5:10

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Christ the Savior through His Seeking the Lost (Luke 15:3-7)

Seeking the lost (3-4)

Seeking lost because Jesus wants everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9)
Seeking lost because of Jesus' kindness (Rom 2:4)
Seeking lost because Jesus wants all to be saved (1 Tim 2:2-4)
Seeking lost because Jesus will give rest (Matt 11:28)

Rejoicing when found (5-6)

Rejoice because of passing from spiritually dead to alive (Luke 15:23-24)
Rejoice because finding the lost one (Luke 15:8-9)
Rejoice because a sinner who has repented (Luke 15:7)
Rejoice because one has been honored into salvation (1 Cor 12:26)

Joy in repentance (7)

Joy in repentance because of the blotting out of sins (Acts 3:19)
Joy in repentance because of the removal of shame and humiliation for sin (Ezra 9:6)
Joy in repentance because of the receiving of God's mercy (Mic 7:18)
Joy in repentance because of receiving of the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)

Christ the Savior through His Sacrifice (Rom 5:6-10)

Through Jesus' death (6-7)

Jesus' death brings us to God (1 Peter 3:18)
Jesus' death proves what true love is about (1 John 3:16)
Jesus' death allowed Him to live in and through us (Gal 2:20)
Jesus' death allowed Him to be the mediator of a new covenant (Heb 9:15)

Through God's love (8)

Love that prompted God to provide Jesus as our sacrifice (John 3:16)
Love that is incomparably rich (Eph 2:6-7)
Love that God expressed in mercy (1 Tim 1:15-16)
Love that is defined as Jesus laying down His life for us (1 John 3:16)
Love that shows itself through living through Jesus (1 John 4:9-10)

Through Jesus' blood (9)

God defined the blood as the atonement vehicle for sins (Lev 17:11)
The law states that blood cleanses everything (Heb 9:22)
Jesus' blood reconciled man to God (Col 1:19-20)
Our conscience has been washed and cleansed by Jesus' blood (Heb 10:22)

Through reconciliation through Jesus (10)

A reconciliation that brings peace with God (Eph 2:14-16)
A reconciliation that requires a humble seeking of God and a repentant heart (2 Chron 7:14)
A reconciliation of the mind and body (Col 1:21-22)
A reconciliation where God does not count sins against His people (2 Cor 5:17-19)

