

A Bible Study

based on

The Romans Road To Salvation

Especially designed for individual use

Written by

Aaron Bruce

Romans Road to Salvation Bible Study

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Writers Note: I have not deliberately tried to use so many translations of the Bible. Nor have I picked and chose different versions to prove a point or make a verse appear to bolster a specific doctrine. I have chosen different versions which I believe make clear what I believe the Bible is saying according to my interpretation of the verse or verses in The New American Standard Version of the Bible. Please look up and read every verse in your personal favorite translation of the Bible.

Introduction

This short Bible Study on the Book of Romans is based on an old Gospel Track. The goal was not to completely cover the book of Romans, but to use this as a guide to look at basic Christian doctrine. We will use it to look at many of the aspects of our beliefs.

I choose a short and excellent Gospel Track as a guide for this study. I do not mean to imply that the Gospel or Christianity can be reduced to five points or ten scriptures or a system of rules or things to believe or do. Notice that even the scriptures used in Romans Road do not appear together or in the order used in the track. I have yet to find a formula in scripture. Christianity is a relationship. I can not emphasize how strongly I believe this, that Christianity is a relationship with Jesus.

Many in the Western church today appear to me to have forgotten this. They have reduced Christianity to a system. Saying if we can just get people to accept a certain belief, repent, say this prayer or ask for forgiveness then they will be “in like Flint”. No one can argue that according to John 3:3 the new birth is necessary to enter the Kingdom. What does that mean, what after that, what happens, what changes and what does a persons life look like after this are questions that seem to difficult for most churches to answer.

The purpose of this Bible study is not to teach you how to use these verses to share the plan of salvation. The purpose of this study is to deepen your understanding of your own salvation. It will explain with scripture why we as evangelicals believe as we do about many aspects of salvation through Jesus. Hopefully it will equip you to answer questions you may be asked when explaining the way of salvation. Being born again is not a thing of the head, but rather a thing of the heart, the spirit. However we were meant to gain head knowledge. 2 Timothy 2:15 commands us, “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” It is my hope that this short study will help you gain that deeper understand of what it means to be saved.

1 John 4:10 says that love for God is not that we first loved him, but that God first loved us and God made provision to take away our sin. This is Grace. When this Grace is preached and legalism that is avoided, motivation for serving God is different. I believe people will do much more for love than they will do to keep some rules.

Grace. The Christian life is about grace. Relationship. The Christian life is a relationship.

Serving the King,
Aaron Bruce

Instructions for the Study

Let me explain just a little about the study. Following this introduction you will find my version of the Romans Road on one and one half pages. Carefully read those pages first. The study follows and is divided into seven different sections or chapters according to each of the verses in the Romans Road. Each verse is explained in more detail and depth by several other Bible verses and comments about these verses. Some of the verses have questions and blank lines on which to write your answer to the question. You will learn much more if you take time to write your answer to the question in the blank. Some of the questions have an answer and explanation following the blank line. Some verses are quoted from various translations of the Bible. I have used the World English Bible extensively because it is in the public domain and can be quoted as much as desired. There are strict requirements as to how many verses of a translation can be quoted in a writing. I have tried to comply with these requirements. The study was originally done using the New American Standard Version, which is regarded by most bible scholars as the most accurate translation. You will want to read each verse from your favorite translation in your own Bible. I suggest you write notes in the margins of your Bible when something speaks to you clearly. The main sources for this study are: *The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge* (a scripture cross reference), *Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible*, *Albert Barnes' Notes on the Bible*, *Matthew Henry's Commentary*, and *The People's New Testament Commentary*. These are all old standards for bible study, considered accurate and accepted by most all evangelicals.

It is my sincere hope that you will prayerfully use this Bible study to gain knowledge about the grace that is ours in Jesus. As R. T. Kendall former pastor Westminster Chapel said of Grace, "You don't deserve it. You can't buy it. You can't live without it."

Serving the King,

Aaron Bruce

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Electronic copies of this study may soon be available at my web site.

Other Versions of this Bible Study

This version was written for individual use or use in a group which does not have a teacher or designated leader. If it is being used in a class atmosphere I recommend downloading the Student Version and the Teaching Version of the study.

Romans Road

The following scriptures are often called the Romans Road to Salvation. They represent the essence of the Gospel message in just a few verses. These verses are not only a good evangelism tool, but can also help us understand our own relationship with the Lord when closely examined.

Christianity is often said to be one of the world's great religions. In fact Christianity does not fit the dictionary definition of a religion. It says, "A religion is trying to please or earn favor with a god by a system of beliefs or actions." Christians are not trying to earn favor with God. It is given to them by God. For no person could live a good enough life to earn eternal life.

Romans 3:10 tells us, "as it is written, THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;"
(Romans 3:10 NASB)

As the Scriptures say: "There is no one who always does what is right, not even one."
(Romans 3:10 NCV)

The requirement of God is a perfect life. A sinless selfless life. Who has not sinned?

And Romans 3:23 adds, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"
Since we've compiled this long and sorry record as sinners (both us and them) and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us,"
(Romans 3:23 MSG)

Why does man sin and where did sin come from?

Romans 5:12 states that sin started with Adam, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned--"
(Romans 5:12 NASB)

Sin came into the world because of what one man did, and with sin came death. This is why everyone must die -- because everyone sinned.
(Romans 5:12 NCV)

What happens to those who sin?

Romans 6:23 tells us, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23 NASB)

When people sin, they earn what sin pays -- death. But God gives us a free gift -- life forever in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23 NCV)

If all have sinned and the penalty for sin is death, what can a person do? How can anyone be saved?

Romans 5:8 tells us how we can be saved from our sin and its penalty, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
(Romans 5:8 NASB)

But God shows his great love for us in this way: Christ died for us while we were still sinners. (Romans 5:8 NCV)

If Jesus did die for me and was raised from the dead, how does that save me from sin and its penalty?

Romans 10:9-10 is clear, "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation." (Romans 10:9-10 NASB)

If you use your mouth to say, "Jesus is Lord," and if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved. We believe with our hearts, and so we are made right with God. And we use our mouths to say that we believe, and so we are saved.

(Romans 10:9-10 NCV)

Any one who realizes he can never live a perfect life can be saved.

Romans 10:13, for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." (Romans 10:13 NASB)

For everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord [invoking Him as Lord] will be saved. [Joel 2:32.] (Romans 10:13 AMP)

There is no waiting period. There is no test period to see if you qualify. Anyone can accept the gift of salvation which God has to give. And a gift is free to the receiver. Jesus has paid the price; but you must accept the gift of salvation by confessing before God and men that you want the salvation through Jesus Christ which God offers.

Bible Study on Romans Road

Romans 3:10

Christianity is often said to be one of the world's great religions. In fact Christianity does not fit the dictionary definition of a religion. It says, "A religion is trying to please or earn favor with a god by a system of beliefs or actions." Christians are not trying to earn favor with God. It is given to them by God. For no person could live a good enough life to earn eternal life.

Romans 3:10 tells us, "as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one;"

Paul is primarily writing to and reasoning with the Jews in these verses so he quotes from their scriptures Psalms 14:1-3 and Psalm 53:1-3. He knows they believe them and will accept what these verses say. The point to be proved by him was that the Jews, in the matter of justification before God, have no advantage or preference over the Gentiles; that the Jew had failed to keep the Law which had been given to him. Neither had the Gentiles, and that both, therefore, were equally dependent on the mercy of God. If we look back to the Psalms, we will see that they not only apply to those who had the Law given to them, but to the "children of men" at large "to see if there were any that did understand and seek God."

None righteous: None absolutely free from sin.

None seeks God: We seek for ourselves from the time we are born.

There is none righteous as Adam was, in a state of innocence, for all have sinned and are really filled with unrighteousness; however good they appear in their own eyes and in the sight of others, none are righteous in the sight of God. Indeed there is none righteous, no, not one, but those who are justified by the righteousness of Christ which is imputed to them. They are righteous before God.

Rom 15:4 tells us the scriptures are written for our _____

1 Peter 1:16 calls us to be holy because _____

Psalm 14:1-3 - "The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt. They have done abominable works. There is none who does good. Yahweh looked down from heaven on the children of men, to see if there were any who did understand, who did seek after God. They have all gone aside. They have together become corrupt. There is none who does good, no, not one." (Psalms 14:1-3 WEB)

How many people do these verses say do completely good all the time?

Job 14:4 - Who is the only one who can make the unclean to be clean? _____
The answer to Job's question of course is, "No one." But we know today that God through Jesus does in fact make the unclean to be clean.

Job 15:14 asks the rhetorical question "what is man that he should be pure and righteous" implying that man is not pure or righteous.

Romans 3:10

Jeremiah 17:9-10 - What do these say about the heart? _____

Matthew 15:19 - “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: (Matthew 15:19 KJV)”

This verse tells us we have evil thoughts and plans because of our sick _____

Mark 10:18 - When they called Jesus good master, he asked why they called him good when only God was good. Was he not good and perfect? Why do you think he asked them this?

He asked this because they did not know he was God the Messiah. They only thought he was a prophet and he wanted to emphasize to them only God was good and not any man.

1 Corinthians 6:9 - Paul tells the unrighteous will not _____

Galatians 5:19-21- What do these verses list? _____

We may not do all of these things but do some of them and desire to do more of them than we do.

So what of those who do them? _____

Only God is able to make an exception for man through Jesus the Savior.

Ephesians 2:1-3 - Do these verses show that there is hope for mankind from following the selfish desires that he or she has and can be freed from the control of their flesh.

Ephesians 2:5 - Says we were made alive when we were dead in _____
Different translations use words such as: our transgressions, our sins, our disobedience, our failures, the things we did against God. It is easy to get the idea that man is dead spiritually.

We behaved as we did because we lived as the _____

We followed the “prince of the powers of the air”. Who is this that Paul is talking about us following?

See John 12:31 and Ephesians 6:12

1 Timothy 1:9 - Tells us the law was not made for righteous people but made for _____

Romans 3:10

The law is to show them their sin so they will realize their need for a savior. I remember an old saying that before you could get somebody to be saved you had to get them lost. That is what the law does.

1 John 1:8, 1:10 These tell us that if anyone says they do not sin then they are _____

Don't forget 1 John 1:9 which says, "if we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Everyone needs to be good before God, good in his eyes. Only those who receive the reborn and forgiven state through trust in Jesus can be good and righteous in God's eyes. Good before God and fit for use in His Kingdom. It was for that purpose man was created.

Romans 3:23

The requirement of God is a perfect life. A sinless selfless life. Who has not sinned?

Romans 3:23 adds, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

Romans 3:21-25a (To be sure we get the verse in context, we need to read the complete sentence which ends halfway through vs. 25.)

“But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith.” (Romans 3:21-25 NASB)

We said Paul is primarily writing to the Jews in this chapter. When we examine verse 23 we can't help but look back to Romans 3:9 and see we are included also.

Romans 1:25 says people have exchanged _____

Romans 1:28-32 - KJV & WEB says God gave them over to a “reprobate mind” and the NASB uses the word “depraved.” What main point do you think Paul is making in these verses?

JB Phillips translation, “He allowed them to become slaves of their degenerate minds, and to perform unmentionable deeds.”

I think Paul means God let them do whatever they wanted to and to suffer the consequences of those actions. He had warned them enough and it was and is plain to see that there is a Creator of the universe. The universe is not some kind of accident that just happened. I can think of some of those actions and consequences: (1.) AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

(2.) The ruin associated with drug addiction. (3.) The shame that often goes with being caught in criminal activities. (4.) The killing of each other by the drug lords in Central America.

Are there others you can think of ???

Ecclesiastes 7:20 - Solomon realized there was no one who was good all the time and never sinned.

Romans 11:32 - “For God has shut up all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all.” (Romans 11:32 NASB) Note the words “shut up” used in most traditional translations.

The word is used in reference to those who are shut up in prison or those in a city who are shut up by a besieging army. The Scriptures, God's Words, has included, shut up, enclosed all people under sin, that is, declared them to be sinners; having no hope of rescue by any works or ability of their own. Shut up as in prison by unholy drives and desires and to be liberated only in God's own way and time.

Romans 3:23

Luke 5:6 - The same word here is translated “enclosed”, that is “their nets enclosed a great quantity of fish.”

Galatians 3:22 - “But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.” (Galatians 3:22 NASB) The World English Bible uses the word “imprisoned” here which is very accurate. The Scriptures are showing that we have no hope of rescue by any works of our own. We must be rescued by someone else.

Where must this rescue come from? _____
The jailer does no wrong in keeping a criminal confined nor the judge condemning him; so it is with God.

The Scriptures were given to the Jews for many purposes. One of those purposes according to Galatians 3:22 was to show everyone is controlled by sinful natures. The Scriptures paint a picture of the sad state of actions by Israel’s Kings down through the years. The men who should have guided their nation to worship God, instead took it in the other direction. The Scriptures show that so many times when man is faced with important choices, because of his lost nature he will make the bad choice. Does this show you that man needs to be rescued from his dead spiritual condition and changed before God can accept him?

Romans 7:12-13 - Paul says the Law is good. But strangely says it is good because it shows us how bad we are. The Scriptures put forth a moral standard which is accepted by most of what we would call the civilized world. God’s Word tells us man was made to glorify God by the life he lives. The Scriptures or the Law as Paul refers to them, show us a high standard which give us direction, but at the same time set a standard which we can not achieve.

How does this differ from man’s civil laws concerning our ability to keep them?

I believe we generally are able to completely keep civil laws. I don’t have to speed or steal or kill somebody. Some people can no doubt completely keep all the laws of the land which apply to them. However it is much more difficult to measure up to God’s standards because they deal with the heart and desires.

Do you think it is unfair for God to set a standard we can not keep? Why or why not?

The standard is the nature of God. His measure of holiness is the standard by which we are judged.

Romans 3:23

THINK-ABOUT-IT

Have you ever thought about this? How many people did Jesus die for? All of course. Would he have died as the sacrifice for just “some people” if some were good enough on their own? If you think “yes” or “maybe so” think about this. If that were the case then there would be some people in eternity that deserved to be there and some there because of God’s mercy. Would God be showing partiality by showing mercy to those? Just something to think about!!!

Though men differ greatly in the nature and extent of their sinfulness, there is absolutely no difference between the best and worst of men in the fact that “all have sinned,” and so underlie the wrath of God. (James, Faucet, Brown Commentary)

Romans 3:23 “Since we’ve compiled this long and sorry record as sinners (both us and them) and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us” {MSG} The Message Translation comes closest to what various commentaries add to explain the phrase “short of the glory of God.”

Adam was created by God to be a glorious creature. A powerful man with authority to be God’s under-ruler over the whole earth. He became instead a shameful creature through his disobedience. How would you picture a person living the glorious life God willed for them today?

How does the phrase “only by grace” fit in to what you think about this part of the verse?

Only by the grace of God are we able to bring glory to God. Because he is able to blot out, if you want to use that phrase, our sin. He is able, because of Jesus, to “not count” our sin against us, and enable us to bring him glory. 1 Corinthians 11:7 calls man “the image and glory of God.”

When God looks at me, and I know this doesn’t fit most peoples’ theology, but I believe he sees me through the blood of Jesus, and doesn’t see my sin. He sees me as a sinless creation. I know many want to say, “yea, but.” Just accept that belief of mine as much as you can because I believe that is what the Scriptures teach. Romans 8:1 says there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

I believe that it is because of that fact, people like T. L. Osborne have worked such powerful miracles in the late 20th century. And Oral Roberts also, worked thousands of mighty miracles and probably second only to Billy Graham in people led to Christ. Or Rhinehard Bonnke who moved with such power across Africa having 10,000 professions of faith some days.

I think God just may have used these people so powerfully because they accepted their forgiveness completely and they realized God saw them as completely forgiven and holy before him. They were able to go boldly to the throne of grace. I am afraid most of us are not able to go boldly to the Throne of Grace per Hebrews 4:16, because we have difficulty realizing just how forgiven we are.

Romans 5:12

Why does man sin and where did sin come from?

Romans 5:12 states that sin started with Adam, “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Romans 5:12 NASB)

“Sin came into the world because of what one man did, and with sin came death. This is why everyone must die – because everyone sinned.” (Romans 5:12 NCV)

It came from Adam doing on purpose what God had said not to do. It became our nature as decedents of Adam.

Romans 5:12-21 is usually regarded as one of the most difficult parts of the NT to completely understand. The point which is argued is that of “imputed sin”. The question, did the act of Adam, as a type of everyman, cause sin to be imputed, that is counted, to every person born after him? Or did we just inherit his nature, his tendency to commit sin, that is acts which do not please God are against the very nature of God? Well, I don’t consider myself a Bible scholar, but I have seriously considered both points and read commentaries on both points and heard sermons which took either side. Here is what I believe. If Adam’s sin is imputed to everyone, then we are condemned before God the moment we are born. That is the stand of most who accept imputed sin. In light of what I read in God’s word about Him, I find this view almost impossible to accept. Little babies condemned as sinners before God, just does not fit what I know of God’s nature. No discussion of imputed sin and inherited sin nature would be complete without at least a light discussion of Calvin and Wesleyan Theology. St. Augustine, more properly called Augustine of Hippo, where he was Bishop, was one of the early Church Fathers. He lived from 354 AD until 430, wrote several things we have even today, among them, “The Confessions.” Augustine is considered to be the first to call the “Sermon on the Mount” by that name. He framed much of what we believe about original sin. However, later he took it to the infinite power and wrote that everybody was predestined to either heaven or hell from birth, because of this original sin. That is my problem with imputed sin. The man who came along and really picked up on this and wrote much about it and caused it to be a doctrine in the church was John Calvin, a Frenchman. Today we refer to those who believe in predestination as identifying with Reformed Theology or as Calvinists. There are five main doctrines or points which they believe. TULIP is an acronym used to describe what Calvin taught. Here is a quick description of Calvinism without any discussion. TULIP: T = Total depravity of man. U = Unconditional election. L = Limited atonement. I = Irresistible Grace. P = Perseverance of the Saints (Once saved always saved). A recent Barna Group survey showed that 31 percent of protestant pastors consider themselves as five point Calvinists. In Calvin’s day the chief opponent of his teaching was Joseph Arminius? That opposing theology today we call Wesleyan or Arminian. Wesleyans today may or may not call themselves by that title and do accept some of Calvin’s five points. Probably the most Christians do not accept all of Calvin’s or Arminius’s theology and do not align with Reformed or Wesleyan Theology completely but are somewhere in the middle.

The other view is that we inherited Adam’s sin nature is. I believe the Bible teaches children are born with this nature, but until they reach a certain maturity, which only God can know, they are not held accountable and are innocent and un-condemned before God.

Romans 5:12

Romans 5:19

How does this verse compare with 5:12? _____

“For as through the one man's disobedience many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one, many will be made righteous.

(Romans 5:19 WEB)

Therefore, as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; and so death passed to all men, because all sinned.

(Romans 5:12 WEB)”

We may come back to this verse later in the study because of what the second half of it says.

Who do you think it is speaking of concerning one man's obedience many being made righteous?

What does the doctrine of imputed sin mean? _____

That sin is imputed to us when we are born. We are not acceptable to God at birth according to this view. I can not accept this view completely.

What is the other common view for the reason we sin? _____
It is in the nature we inherited from our parents and all the way back to Adam.

What major differences in “imputed sin” and “inherited sin nature” do you see and which do you find easiest to accept based on what you know about the Bible and the nature of God?

Imputed sin means we are born counted as sinners before God. Inherited sin nature means we sin because it is our nature. I have heard it said we are not sinners because we sin, but we sin because we are sinners, if you can catch the play on words. Whichever view you take, imputed sin or inherited nature, the important thing which is agreeable to each, is that man is in need of rescue from his sin and his sinful nature. He can not rescue himself.

Genesis 2:17 - “the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Did they actually die the day they eat of the tree? _____

They did not actually die physically that day, although I guess we could say they received a death sentence and it was fixed that no matter what one day they would die. But they did die spiritually that day. That is the death which came that very day. We are going to save our discussion of spiritual death, and just what that means, for Romans 6:23 is the next verse in our study.

Romans 5:12

Where did this tree come from and why was it there? Well, Genesis 2:9 says, “Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
(Genesis 2:9 NASB)

NOTE: The word translated midst here is translated “among” 135 times and “midst, center, middle” 204 times in the NASB according to that concordance.

So; God made the tree. Why did he make the tree? I have never heard anybody quote or give a verse that explained that. I have heard it explained that without a possibility of some way to disobedience then there was no value or true obedience. I can accept that.

Genesis 3:6 - What made it possible for the serpent to tempt Eve to eat from the tree?

Genesis 3:22 - What immediately happened to Adam and Eve as a result of their disobedience?

When they were put out of the garden they were denied access to the tree of life. Tree of Life - we really don't know much about the Tree of Life. Some have said if man would have been allowed to eat of it, then redemption would have been impossible. But we can only theorize about all that. We just do not know much about it. It is mentioned in the book of The Revelation of Saint John the Devine, as it is called in old Bibles, Rev. 2:7, 22:2, 14, 19. I read an interesting and very thought-provoking book called *There Were Two Trees in the Garden*, by Rick Joyner. The book seems to be controversial in conservative circles and I do not know if that is because Joyner is controversial or the book is. I have read it at least 3 times and it is great. He lays forth the premise that almost everything we do is associated with one tree or the other. And many things which are good things we do are associated with the Tree of Knowledge and therefore not good for one reason or another, usually motive. All good things which are associated with the Tree of Life are Spiritual things done according to Grace and not Law and are acceptable to God.

Ezekiel 18:4 & 18:20 - Each person is _____
God speaks through the prophet and declares a proverb, mainly 18:2, void and not to be said. Each person is responsible for his own sin. Not the sins of his father. Not for the sin of Adam? Apparently Jesus' disciples had not read this verse nor picked up on it in Synagogue, because they asked Jesus why a man was born blind; if it was because his parents had sinned. Hindus belief in Karma is bad enough, but here the disciples are wondering if this blind guy has got some second-hand, hand-me-down-Karma going on.
Don't think I am saying children do not suffer because of their parents, because they do in the natural and we all know that. But God does not judge us eternally because of someone else's sin.

Romans 5:12

What is Karma? _____

Karma is a major part of the belief in reincarnation. According to Hindu teachings Karma is the belief that what happens to you in life is a result of what you did, good and bad, in your last life. Now you have been reincarnated and your suffering is because of some bad thing or things you did in your life or lives before. This belief in karma is one of the reasons India is so poor and so many people suffer. If I help one of them who is just living out his karma, then I would be disturbing his sentence, if you would, and he would just have to suffer later. So why help him now. Just let him get it over with. Let him suffer. Let him starve or whatever, and maybe he will be reincarnated better off next time, if he fulfills his duty in this life and his or her Karma sentence is served. His Karma debt is paid. Pathetic!! Yes, according to the doctrine of reincarnation and Karma, suffering and blessings and your lot in this life are a result of how well you lived out your required role in your last life.

In the west we don't believe in karma, but sometimes when things are going really bad, I might use the phrase, "Well, I'm just burning off a little Karma."

Exodus 20:5 - "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;" (Exodus 20:5 KJV) What about this verse? What does it seem to say about the children suffering for the sins of the parents?

Genesis 18:25 - Compare with these verses.

Be it far from you to do things like that, to kill the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be like the wicked. May that be far from you. Shouldn't the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25 WEB)

I can't help but remember the story of when God was about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. The story starts off with God saying it would not be right to keep that from his friend Abraham what He is about to do, that is, destroy the two cities. A discourse between God and Abraham takes place. Abraham said will you destroy the city if there are fifty righteous people there. "Far be it for the righteous judge of all the earth, to destroy the righteous with the wicked. He negotiated God down to ten good people. There were not even ten. God sends Angels to remove Lot & family from Sodom. When they are all about to leave the city, an angel said let's get moving because we can't destroy the city until you are all out. This reflects the nature of God's judgement.

Abraham speaks to God here and uses God's nature for the basis of his praying. Can we pray in that manner? Why would I and what benefit would it have? Well, one thing I can think of, it shows God we understand his nature and are basing our prayer and our faith on that understanding.

James 1:14-15 - **When lust has conceived:** The course of sin is described as that of a birth. The sinful desire is the conception; the sinful deed the birth; moral and eternal death the final result. {Peoples New Testament Commentary}

Romans 5:12

Is it a sin to be tempted? _____

Do you think desire is sinful? _____

Look back at James 1:13 - something to think about.....

Let no man say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God," for God can't be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one. (James 1:13 WEB)

You probably have heard of "circular logic" and this may be circular thinking, i.e. ,thinking about something which we probably can not really figure out. God tempts no one. If God sends to us or causes us problems and trials so that we can grow as Christians by overcoming or enduring the trials, as many people believe and teach he does, and that trial causes us to fail. What if that trial caused me to turn against God, quit praying, quit going to church, and just quit? That would be disobedience and thus sin. Could that happen? If it did then God would be the author of it and be the one bringing the temptation. Just something to think about. Think about the man Job. What do you think?

Romans 6:23

What happens to those who sin?

Romans 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23 WEB)

According to Albert Barnes Notes on the Bible, the word translated here as “wages” properly denotes what is purchased to be eaten with bread, such as fish, meat or vegetable and it also means the pay of the Roman Soldier. In the early days of the Empire it was the custom to pay the soldier in these things. Therefore, the word wages means what a man earns or deserves. As applied to sin, it means what sin deserves; what will be its proper reward. Ref. Luke 3:14 Death stands opposed to eternal life, one is just as enduring as the other.

People’s New Testament commentary says, “The wages of sin is death, is one of the saddest but profoundest truths of the world.”

Matthew Henry Concise Commentary says, “Shame came into the world with sin, and is still the certain effect of it.”

Remember Genesis 2:17 Adam was told that if he disobeyed God he would die.

This brings to my mind several questions that beg to be answered. How did man die? What did that mean to him and us? What is the cure, if there is one? We are going to look at and try to answer some of these questions.

Genesis 3:19 -“dust to dust” - First of all it is death of _____

Second, and most importantly man is Spiritually dead. These verses speak of being born again or born from the dead or being dead. We are alive physically therefore we know it is speaking of spiritually dead.

Ephesians 2:1-3 “To you, who were spiritually dead all the time that you drifted along on the stream of this world's ideas of living, and obeyed its unseen ruler (who is still operating in those who do not respond to the truth of God), to you Christ has given life! We all lived like that in the past, and followed the impulses and imaginations of our evil nature, being in fact under the wrath of God by nature, like everyone else.” (JB Phillips NT) What do these verses say are some consequences and even some signs that people are spiritually dead?

Ephesians 2:5 “even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),” (Ephesians 2:5 WEB)

We were born spiritually dead and made so by our actions. What hope is in this verse?

Romans 6:23

Romans 8:29 “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:29 NKJV)

John 3:7 “Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’” (John 3:7 NASB)

These verses speak of another birth. The writers and speakers here understood the concept that man was dead even though he was walking around. Physically alive, but spiritually dead. Man had to be brought to life from this dead condition. Born again, born from above, born anew as various translations put Jesus’s words in John 3:7.

What difference do you see here in Christianity and other religions?

Man was created by God in God’s image. Man was a spiritual being. He was alive spiritually and had fellowship and communion with God his creator. Then spiritual death entered the life of man. When man rebelled against God’s instructions he became a partaker of the satanic nature. That nature is spiritual death. For the reign of spiritual death began with Satan. Ephesians 5:2-3 reveals man’s condition in spiritual death, “in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience; among whom we also all once lived in the lust of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest .”(WEB) Suddenly, man who had walked and talked with God, who had ruled over creation with spiritual power, now finds himself afraid of that same God. Once he operated in the spiritual realm of God, the realm of faith, but now he operates in the realm of the flesh. The five senses of sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell have become the doors and windows of his mind. He forms his opinion of the world and himself by means of these senses. He orders his life by what he sees, hears, feels, tastes, and smells. The senses bring the material to the mind and reason draws its own conclusions. Faith has died. The supernatural is lost. Reason is born.

It is from this condition which man must be rescued. He must be brought to life spiritually. No man could ever redeem humanity for every man would be under Satanic dominion. Someone greater than Satan must undertake redemption on man’s behalf. God Himself must redeem humanity. That is why the fact that Jesus was God is important to what we believe. That he was born without an earthly father, so that as a figure he did not inherit that sin dead nature. When we are born again we are born into eternal life. Born into the life of God. For a more in depth explanation visit my web page <http://lightinside.org> and read the article titled “The Reign of Spiritual Death.”

Looking Back:

Ezekiel 18:4 says, “Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins, he shall die. “ (Ezekiel 18:4 WEB)

Jeremiah 31:29-30 - We may inherit our sinfulness but we do not inherit _____

Romans 6:23

Deuteronomy 24:16 - According to this verse how does this also apply? _____

2 Kings 14:6 - “but the children of the murderers he didn't put to death; according to that which is written in the book of the law of Moses, as Yahweh commanded, saying, The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, nor the children be put to death for the fathers; but every man shall die for his own sin.” (2 Kings 14:6 WEB) Here we see the law being observed.

These verses from the Old Testament show that when God gave the law, He applied responsibility the same in both physical and the spiritual realm. Not only can a person not be punished in the natural civil realm for another person's crime, God only holds us accountable for our own actions in the eternal or spiritual realm.

Galatians 3:10 - These verses make it plain that each one is responsible for his or her own actions. With that said, what are the standards for keeping the law? _____

Romans 6:16 - We are servants to who or what we obey.

“You know well enough from your own experience that there are some acts of so-called freedom that destroy freedom. Offer yourselves to sin, for instance, and it's your last free act. But offer yourselves to the ways of God and the freedom never quits. All your lives you've let sin tell you what to do.” (Romans 6:16 MSG)

What freedom can you think of that leads to bondage in a persons life? _____

Some things that quickly come to my mind are the use of drugs or alcohol, gambling, monetary debt or poor health caused by bad lifestyle and diet.

The worst thing about sin may just be that when we sin we are not being servants of Jesus. We are being servants of darkness, of Satan. And this applies whether we are Christian or not. Satan certainly rewards his servants, and we can see that everyday. Look at the drug wars in Mexico. Those dealers have been doing pretty well for themselves. But now, they are being rewarded by their true master. And the list goes on and on.

Jesus also rewards his servants. I believe he does it here as well as in eternity. After all, eternity is already here for Christians. It has already begun.

In Romans 6:21 Paul asks a question about the rewards of a sinful lifestyle.

“Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.” (Romans 6:21 NASB)

Romans 6:23

We have recently seen some folks who lived according to the flesh, rebelled against God and man's laws, and lived high on the hog for a time. When they were found out to be law breakers they are now reaping their just rewards for the things they did. And this is just for breaking man's laws. Do some crooks seem to not only get by with their actions, but be better off than the law-abiding folks?

Do they really get by with it? _____

Some people may actually get by with it while on earth but not in eternity.

I will be the first to admit some folks seem to have no shame. But most people are ashamed when they do bad things. Even the lost folks. They know better in their hearts, but they do otherwise and when it comes out, they are ashamed. That is why some cities have started posting pictures of people who get DUI's or other offenses in newspapers. The attempt is to shame them and sometimes it works when paying a fine fails.

Reminds me of the old practice of putting people in stocks.

The rewards for serving darkness, shame and death. The rewards for serving God glory and life.

But all that said, these are not the real reasons Paul wrote this verse. The question discussed throughout this chapter is, whether the gospel plan of justification by faith leads to indulgence in sin? The argument here is drawn from the past experience which Christians have had in the ways of transgression. They have tried it; they know its effects; they have tasted its bitterness; they have reaped its fruits. It is implied here that having once experienced these effects, and knowing the consequences of sin, they will not indulge in it now.

I remember a preacher who once confided in me that he believed in eternal security, but said, "You can't preach that. People will get into sin if you do". In other words he wanted to keep people under the law just enough to keep them straight. Well, that might appear OK, but it won't work. People under the law sin anyway. That is pretty plain. Putting Christians under the law is causing them to live a life of condemnation. It is robbing them of their joy, their faith and their power. People really in love with Jesus will be the best people. I believe it was St. Augustine who said, "Love God and do as you please."

Romans 8:6 says, "For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace," (Romans 8:6 NASB)

"If people's thinking is controlled by the sinful self, there is death. But if their thinking is controlled by the Spirit, there is life and peace." (Romans 8:6 NCV)

These verses 8:5-8, are definitely talking about unsaved and unredeemed mankind. I have worked around many bi-vocational pastors and they, for the most part, regularly condemned the lost folks around for the way they lived, the things they did, the way they talked and the way they looked at things. I guess I was amazed at their inability to see things from my perspective. I would often, very often, reply, "Hey, they are lost. How do you expect lost people to behave." Most of them would mumble a reply something like, "well, better than that." As appalling as it can be, we should not be amazed when unredeemed mankind acts as he does. I am more amazed when unredeemed men do great and charitable acts, sometimes of great sacrifice, for their fellow man.

Romans 6:23

Galatians 6:8 Most translations say if we sow to the flesh, that is do as we want to, no-matter-what, then we will harvest corruption or ruin. The Good News Bible says, “If you plant in the field of your natural desires, from it you will gather the harvest of death; if you plant in the field of the Spirit, from the Spirit you will gather the harvest of eternal life.” (Galatians 6:8 GNB)

This verse and the ones around it, appear to apply to the saved people of God as well as the unredeemed. In fact, I don't guess the lost would sow to the Spirit of God. Anyway, I am sure it applies to us and we can see the result of it in our lives. There is a principle of sowing and reaping. It is so simple it is almost not worth stating, but it is whatever you sow you reap. This is not only in the world of seed, but life also.

What negative thing stands out most to you in these verses? _____

What positive thing stands out? _____

When people do bad things there are always consequences at some point. And people choose to do bad things we see the effects of those choices in the lives of others and our own lives.

There is hope for us. When we do positive things we reap positive results. When we are controlled by the Spirit of God living inside us, we have peace and joy. And we serve him because we want to, it is our new nature to be controlled by the Spirit.

Hebrews 11:6 - Tells us what positive thing? _____

God rewards those who seek him. God does not hide from mankind, but reveals himself to those who seek him. Faith the verse mentions is really confidence in God's nature, his fidelity, his truth, his wisdom and his promises. Sometimes I think we have heard so much sin preached to us and so much about our need for repentance, that we do not have the confidence in the love of God for us. His love and desire for good in our lives is stronger than our love and desire for good in the lives of our children. It is difficult for me to please God if I do not trust him and have confidence in his love for me. (But all this is another lesson. See 1 John 4:18)

Romans 5:8

If all have sinned and the penalty for sin is death, what can a person do?
How can anyone be saved?

Romans 5:8 says,

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8 NASB)

“But God shows his great love for us in this way: Christ died for us while we were still sinners.”
(Romans 5:8 NCV)

To get the full understanding of this verse we need to read at least Romans 5:6-8.

Compare Galatians chapter 4 to Romans 5:6.

“But when the right time came, God sent his Son who was born of a woman and lived under the law. God did this so he could buy freedom for those who were under the law and so we could become his children.” (Galatians 4:4-5 NCV)

“For while we were yet weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.” (Romans 5:6 WEB)

Some translations use the phrase “in the fullness of time” or “at the right time.”
Exactly what do you believe is implied by this phrase?

The correct time for the Messiah to come into the world and for the world was determined by God. We can only guess some of the things which determined this time. Some have said it was because the Pax Romania, Roman Peace, which was in place at the time of Jesus birth. This made it possible for Jesus to travel around teaching and working miracles freely. He was to be the sacrifice and this was the time in history when He could be offered on the altar of the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. Scholars can only speculate if God orchestrated world events so that this would be the right time, or if God saw the future and knew this time was coming. We can not know exactly what made this the best time in history for Jesus to come, but it was, and only God can fully understand the complex issues involved.

If we were studying the complete book of Romans we could take Romans 5:6-21 as one block. Because in these verses the apostle Paul describes the very foundation of Justification. This foundation which was laid for our salvation was the death of Jesus. Everything about our salvation and about Christianity is built on this foundation.

Read Romans 5:6-21 now and notice the events Paul describes as taking place which are the foundation of Jewish beliefs.

Romans 5:8

Romans 5:12 who is the “one man” through sin entered into the world? _____

Romans 5:17-19 compare Adam and Jesus. These verses answer the question asked by many, “Why or how can Jesus make me right with God?” Verse 19 says through disobedience we were all made sinners. Through what are we all made righteous?

Even the Jewish Law was built on this foundation. The Jews did not know it. They thought the animal sacrifice system of the law was the final deal. When in fact it was just a “shadow of things to come” according to Colossians and Hebrews. “For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near”. (Hebrews 10:1 NASB) Adam for sure did not know it. I remember one day about 30 years ago, I was reading Genesis about the fall of man and how they had made garments of leaves to cover themselves. But in Genesis 3:21 it says, “the Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.” It struck me all of the sudden that God was showing innocent blood was shed to cover their sin. Then all through the years Israel sacrificed the blood of thousands of animals for the forgiveness of their sin. But this was just really something to show them how serious sin was. It was a type and fore-shadow of Jesus death. The writer of Hebrews tells us in 10:1 & 10:4.

(A True Story: I remember a lady in church who was all confused and upset about the church and Christians using the cross, or the symbol of the cross in whatever way. She said to me, “The cross was an instrument of death. What if Jesus had been killed with a shotgun, would we hang shotguns in our churches and wear little shotguns on necklaces around our necks”. I explained to her the cross was an instrument of death, but it was so much more than that. It was an altar on which Jesus offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for all our sins. When we use the cross as a symbol we are remembering his sacrifice for us and not the fact that it was an instrument of death. That is why Protestants always use an empty cross. We never use a crucifix as the Catholic church does. Our cross is empty. It reminds us our savior has risen from the dead and is not on the cross. The cross was the altar of sacrifice for our sin. Her question was evidence of how little she understood Christianity and our salvation.)

Romans 5:20 tells us something about the law. The Jews thought that their salvation could be found in the law. “The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,” (Romans 5:20 NASB)

Jesus said this about the Jews of his day and the Law, “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;” (John 5:39 NASB)

In 2 Corinthians 3:7, what does Paul call the giving of the Law?

Romans 5:8

In light of these verses what do you think was the real reason God gave the Law to Israel?

The Law shows people their sin. That is the true purpose of the Law and the commandments. Although it was given to Israel as a code to live by, its real underlying purpose was to show people they could not keep it completely. I think the same thing applies to us today. Some churches get religious and think they are earning something from God by keeping some set of rules, which are usually based on the Law and their interpretation of the Bible.

Dr. R. T. Kendall, in his book *Grace*, describes how the Law was “added” to the promise given to Abraham. Paul stated in Galatians 3:19 that the Law was added, “What then is the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the seed should come to whom the promise has been made.” (Galatians 3:19 WEB) He is referring to its being given some 430 years after the time of Abraham. The promise to Abraham was actually the “Gospel” according to Galatians 3:8, “The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “all the nations will be blessed in you.” (Galatians 3:8 NASB) Jesus said in John 8:56, “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad” (John 8:56 KJV). The Law could be called parenthetical, or added by God to the promise made to Abraham. Therefore the Gospel of Christ is the same promise that had been made to Abraham, as though there had been no Law at all. The Law was a 1,300 year parentheses in God’s redemption plan. In Matthew 5:18 Jesus says not one part of the Law will pass away until all of the Law is fulfilled. That is, until some person keeps it completely. Then the Law will have been fulfilled or accomplished and will pass away. We know Jesus kept the Law perfectly for he was, according to scripture sinless, though born under the Law. Those who today think they earn their salvation by keeping the Law understand neither the Law and its purpose nor the Gospel of salvation that is ours in Jesus.

I believe the term “ministry of death” in 2 Corinthians 3:7 refers to the fact that the Law, or Commandments, show us we are really spiritually dead and need to be brought to life. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 3:4-6, “Such confidence we have through Christ toward God; not that we are sufficient of ourselves, to account anything as from ourselves; but our sufficiency is from God; who also made us sufficient as servants of a new covenant; not of the letter, but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.” (WEB) The letter here refers to the law given at Sinai.

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),” (Ephesians 2:4-5 NKJV)

Romans 5:8

In these verses Paul lists two characteristics of God which come into play in redeeming us from death.

What do you see them as? _____

My translation says He is rich in mercy and His great love.

Psalmist said,

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD

Forever.” (Psalms 23:6 NKJV)

Surely (means for sure) God’s goodness and his mercy will always be with me. This is a concept that I am afraid that we as Christians have a hard time remembering. When we sin we should run straight to God. But instead we usually run from him. We are sorry for what we have done, but instead of going to God and dealing with it we many times act just like kids usually do. We try to hide it, or at least ignore our sin and just get farther and farther away from God. Things like that are the reason you and I have to have a daily personal relationship with God. If I do not, then I don’t deal with the problem. Oh, I think about it. I mull it over in my mind. I chew on it like a dog does a bone, but that is not the same as dealing with it. It is not the same thing as accepting God’s forgiveness and getting back on track.

John 15:13 speaks of the greatest love, or the greatest expression of love. What is it?

In his commentary on this verse Albert Barnes said, “No higher expression of love could be given. Life is the most valuable object we possess; and when a man is willing to lay that down for his friends or his country, it shows the utmost extent of love. Christ was willing to die for his enemies - bitter foes, who rejected his reign, persecuted him, reviled him, scorned him, and sought his life.”

John 10:11 – The shepherd _____

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

(John 10:11 WEB)

Ephesians 1:7-8 – In Jesus we have _____

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding”.

(Ephesians 1:7-8 NIV)

Romans 5:8

1 Peter 1:18-19 – We are not redeemed with _____
“knowing that you were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from the useless way of life handed down from your fathers, but with precious blood, as of a faultless and pure lamb, the blood of Christ”; (1 Peter 1:18-19 WEB)

We are redeemed with _____

1 Peter 2:24 – We are saved because Jesus Himself _____
“who his own self bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed”. (1 Peter 2:24 WEB)

1 John 2:2 – For our sin, Jesus is _____
“and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world”. (1 John 2:2 NASB) The word use here “Propitiation” is a “Bible” word. It only occurs twice in the Scriptures and is more than “atoning sacrifice” used in many translations. That is an easy way to translate it, because that is easier for us to understand, but it is not exactly what he was. He was so much more than the atoning sacrifices made for thousands of years by the Jews. The book of Hebrews tells us that “For it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins.” (Hebrews 10:4 WEB) Jesus’ sacrifice took away sins. Not only are we now righteous before God, the Holy Spirit lives inside us to change us into the likeness of Jesus. Is this not the purpose of our salvation? I have heard it said if God saved us just to take us to heaven then we would go as soon as we were saved. No, we are to become more like Jesus in the way we think, feel and live our lives.

One of the five tenants of Calvinism is that Jesus only died for the elect and not for everybody. What does 1 John 2:2 have to say about the whole world?

Ephesians 2:7 – “that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus;” (Ephesians 2:7 WEB)

In this verse Paul tells us something God will do. Look back at the entire sentence and read Ephesians 2:3-7. When do you think this, “ages to come” is and what do you think it means?

Romans 5:8

Albert Barnes Notes wrote, “That the ages to come - In all future times. The sense is, that the riches of divine grace would be shown in the conversation of Christians and their salvation to all future times. Salvation and changed lives would be an everlasting monument of his mercy, a perpetual and unchanging proof that he was good.”

AMP Bible says immeasurable, limitless, surpassing riches.

Who needs this mercy and forgiveness?

1 Timothy 1:16 – Paul includes himself as one who needs mercy.

“The saying is faithful and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. However, for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first, Jesus Christ might display all his patience, for an example of those who were going to believe in him for eternal life.” (1 Timothy 1:15-16 WEB)

“though I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If any other man thinks that he has confidence in the flesh, I yet more: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the assembly; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, found blameless. However, what things were gain to me, these have I counted loss for Christ.” (Philippians 3:4-7 WEB)

Isaiah 53:6 – “All of us were like sheep that were lost, each of us going his own way. But the LORD made the punishment fall on him, the punishment all of us deserved.” (Isaiah 53:6 GNB)

This verse was considered prophetic by the Jews of Jesus’ day as referring to the Messiah.

John Calvin said about this verse in Isaiah, “In ourselves we were all scattered. In Christ we are collected together; by nature we wander, driven headlong to destruction; In Christ we find the way to the gate of life.”

What do you think of when you think “gone astray” as the verse says or “scattered” as Calvin wrote?

I think of being without a true home or without our true purpose in life. Not belonging to God, like a stray cat or in the old west, stray cattle were anybody’s who could catch them because they did not belong.

What does the “collected together” Calvin wrote mean to you?

1 Peter 3:18 – “Because Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God; being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;”

(1 Peter 3:18 WEB)

Romans 5:8

Who do you think Peter is referring to as being put to death in the flesh?

Do you think he could be referring to Christians as being put to death in the flesh and made alive
in the Spirit? _____

Many translations make it appear that it is referring to Jesus as being put to death and made alive and this is certainly the case. In considering your answer to the above question read these verses. Romans 6:1-11, 1 John 4:9, Galatians 2:20

John 3:16 makes it clear that our salvation comes from God and through Jesus. In Romans 8:33 Paul further points this out. “Who can accuse the people God has chosen? No one, because God is the One who makes them right.” (Romans 8:33 NCV)

One of my favorite verses is Romans 8:1 – “Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1 NASB) I have found out; however, many preachers and many of us read this verse and we add the word “but” to the end of it. Write your thoughts on this, no condemnation, and what it means to you.

Romans 10:9-10

If Jesus did die for me and was raised from the dead, how does that save me from sin and its penalty?

Romans 10:9-10 says, “that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

(Romans 10:9-10 NASB)

Before we go further let's look at the word “confess” and what some commentaries say.

- According to Albert Barnes Notes, the Greek word is “homologeo”. It properly means to, speak what agrees with something which others speak or maintain. Thus, confession expresses our agreement or concord with what God holds to be true, and what he declares to be true. It denotes a public declaration or assent to that here expressed by the words, “with the mouth.”
- Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible, of verse 10:9 says, “Acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Savior. Believe in thy heart that he who died for your offenses has been raised for that justification, and you shall be saved”
- John Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible, “that Christ is his Lord and Savior, whom he desires to serve, and to be saved by.”

Matthew 10:32- 33 - Jesus says, “Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, _____

But whoever denies Me before men _____

Jesus was saying this during his ministry in Judea, but there is not doubt that it applies to us and for all time.

1 John 4:15 - “If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God and all that it includes then

This verse and many others which say the same thing are a litmus test for all cults, religions, and belief systems that claim to be Christian. It is also a test for anyone who teaches a way of salvation, whatever they conceive salvation to be.

Romans 10:9-10

Philippians 2:9-11 tells us that the name of Jesus is above every name that there is. Many will confess that he is Lord and Master here and now by faith. Many knees will bend to him, that is worship him as God, here and now by faith. And one day when all that he is will be revealed so that everybody will know for sure and not by faith that he is the God of the universe everyone will also

I sometimes say one of the most important words in Scripture when it comes to understanding and applying it, is the word “therefore”. Or as the old saying goes every time you see a therefore look and see what it is there for. Well here we have a phrase which draws my attention in the same way. The phrases in various translations, “For this reason”, “Because of”, or just “so” in the New Century Version, all point us back to the verses before, if we desire to really understand these verses. When we look very thoroughly at Philippians 2:5-8 then we can get a good idea of why God exalted Jesus as he did.

He did it because Jesus gave up his right to be completely and only God and became a man. And as that man was 100% obedient to the Father even to death. Now this is the important part; this and only this made him a suitable sacrifice for the sin of mankind. The sin of Adam which was passed on as Spiritual death and our individual sins.

The literal translation of verse 5 is, “Let this mind be in you” then goes on to give details.

Adam Clarke says, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus - Christ labored to promote no separate interest; as man he studied to promote the glory of God, and the welfare and salvation of the human race. See then that ye have the same disposition that was in Jesus: he was ever humble, loving, patient, and laborious.”

I think humble or humility is the key word here. James 4:6 says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

The Message paraphrase of the new testament of these verses from Romans the tenth chapter really makes clear to me just what these verses say. Although The Message is an interpretation and not a true translation it often is useful to understand what is being said. Here is what it says for this part of Romans, “The earlier revelation was intended simply to get us ready for the Messiah, who then puts everything right for those who trust him to do it. Moses wrote that anyone who insists on using the law code to live right before God soon discovers it's not so easy--every detail of life regulated by fine print! But trusting God to shape the right living in us is a different story--no precarious climb up to heaven to recruit the Messiah, no dangerous descent into hell to rescue the Messiah. So what exactly was Moses saying? The word that saves is right here, as near as the tongue in your mouth, as close as the heart in your chest. It's the word of faith that welcomes God to go to work and set things right for us. This is the core of our preaching.

Romans 10:9-10

Say the welcoming word to God--"Jesus is my Master"--embracing, body and soul, God's work of doing in us what he did in raising Jesus from the dead. That's it. You're not "doing" anything; you're simply calling out to God, trusting him to do it for you. That's salvation. With your whole being you embrace God setting things right, and then you say it, right out loud: "God has set everything right between him and me!" (Romans 10:4-10 MSG)

Eugene Petersen wrote The Message. What do you think he is trying to get across with the phrase, "every detail of life regulated by fine print?"

We do not use the term lord in our everyday lives or thinking. However we do more easily understand the word master in our thinking process and that is probably why he interpreted this phrase as he did. "Say the welcoming word to God--Jesus is my Master". What word if any would you use here, in place of master, to make the meaning more personal to you.

Several years ago a Pastor by the name of John F. MacArthur wrote a book titled "The Gospel According to Jesus." In this book he put forth the premise that according to the teachings of Jesus, just saying the right things was not enough to get you "saved." That there was a deeper thing in the heart that required one truly to make Jesus Lord and Master to have salvation. He being a Baptist Pastor, distinguished writer and preacher, the book caused considerable stir in some circles. Most preachers aligned one way or the other, either agreeing or disagreeing with the teachings of John MacArthur. Opponents labeled his point of view as "Lordship Salvation" considering that a negative term. He gladly accepted and even embraced the term and said that was exactly what he believed; not a works-based salvation, but one based on faith and acceptance of Jesus as Lord. He said that if the confession was truly from the heart there would be a change in masters and thus a change in lifestyle. Do you think someone can make the right confession and pray the right prayer and still not be saved? Do you think a person must make Jesus their Lord to be born again? What do you believe about this?

To me the phrase "believe in their heart, resulting in justification" means that it is more than just making a confession out of fear or even conviction, which does result in a changed life. If we truly become a child of God, then there will be a difference in us.

Kevin Hamm, Gardendale First Baptist Church, once said, "True confession is life changing."

The other point of view is often called “easy believeism.” I don’t think believeism is even a real word. Sometimes called greasy grace. Meaning if you can just get somebody to say the right words they will be saved. I think this is only a problem with hyper-evangelism and not most churches today. MacArthur also taught the idea of, let me look in a year and see how you are living and I will tell you if your salvation experience was real. Sometimes the reluctance to be baptized by some casts doubt on the depth of their experience. I have sometimes said, “If there is no change in the way you think and live, then you didn’t get what I got when you got saved.” I do not feel it is judgmental to say that.

In the Message translation notice how Petersen uses the phrase, ““The earlier revelation was intended simply to get us ready for the Messiah.” This is exactly what we have been saying. So what is this earlier revelation, as he puts it?

I think Peter wants to make sure to those that he is writing that Jesus Christ is the same God the Jews have always worshiped. That it is through Jesus that they believe in God now.

In 1 Peter 1:21 he says, “Through Christ you believe in God, who raised Christ from the dead and gave him glory. So your faith and your hope are in God.” (1 Peter 1:21 NCV)

Notice the phrase, “ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead.”

Read 1 Corinthians 15:14-18. Is there any doubt that the resurrection of Jesus from the dead is

important to what we believe? _____

Many other religions and pseudo-Christian cults who claim to believe in Jesus do not believe this. For instance; One of the distinctive doctrines of Jehovah's Witnesses is their belief that Jesus, after His death and burial, was not raised to life again in His body, but rather as a spirit creature (the archangel Michael). They say that Jesus' fleshly body was disposed of by Jehovah God forever.

So if they do not believe Jesus died and rose from the dead, what does Paul say here about their beliefs?

Their beliefs and works and preaching are in vain and through them no one can gain eternal life.

If Christ was not raised, he was an impostor, since he repeatedly declared that he would rise Matthew 16:21; Luke 9:22; Luke 9:22, and since the whole of his religion depended on that. The system could not be true unless Christ had been raised, as he said he would be; and to believe a false system could be of no use to any man. In Paul’s day and in our day, there are those who preach and teach a gospel that claims to be Christian, but do not teach or believe that Jesus was raised from the dead. Most of these have some other doctrine which precludes the resurrection of Jesus from having happened.

Romans 10:9-10

This fact that Jesus was raised from the dead is not only an important part of our theology, Paul sometimes just mentions it making other points. For instance read

Romans 8:34, “Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, yes rather, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

(Romans 8:34 WEB)

For more on the intercession made for us read Hebrews 7:25.

I know it is not simple to answer but, what does Jesus “making intercession for you” really mean to you? Do you see it as a one time thing he did or as something he does all the time now?

I believe it is something he did on a grand scale the moment I believed and confessed him as Lord. I also believe he still intercedes for me in several ways. One of these ways is to the Father God. I believe that when I pray a prayer that may not be worded correctly or there is some problem with sin in my life or whatever, He is there between me and God to get the prayer through. The other is through the Holy Spirit speaking to others to intercede for me.

We often use the term “receiving Christ”. Where do we get this term?

Maybe it is from John 1:12-13. “But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his name: who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12-13 WEB)

Other translations word these verses differently, but many lose the strong things said in verse 13. First John says, “who were born not of blood”. That means you can not inherit salvation. Second he says, “nor of the will of the flesh”. Meaning you can not bring your flesh into obedience and follow the law and earn this salvation. Third he says, “nor of the will of man.” You can not be elected to this salvation by a vote or desire of other people. It is all “of God.”

We are considering all of this about believing in the heart and confessing with our mouth, but let's not forget faith is the key ingredient to salvation. Faith in several things.

Read Galatians 2:16 about faith, “yet knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the law, because no flesh will be justified by the works of the law.” (Galatians 2:16 WEB)

By "the works of the law" are meant, not only obedience to the ceremonial law, though this is included, but also to the moral law; for it can hardly be thought, that the men the apostle opposes could ever dream of justification by their compliance with the rituals of the ceremonial law if they believed there could be no justification by their obedience to the moral law.

Romans 10:9-10

There are several reasons why man can not be justified by keeping the law. First no one could really do it. Those who depended on keeping the law for salvation, really were deceiving themselves into thinking they were perfect. Or they believed their good would outweigh their bad. I am sure the latter is what most believe today; that think they can earn eternal life by living a “good life.” A life in which their good out weighs their bad.

The line “faith in Jesus Christ” is a very broad and often quoted term. When you read the phrase “faith in Jesus Christ” what does it mean to you?

I have thought about this quite a bit and to me it simply means; faith that he was the Son of God, faith that he is able to forgive all my sins because he has paid the price for them, if I ask him to do so.

Philippians 3:9 has more to say about faith in Jesus, “and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, that which is of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;” (Philippians 3:9 WEB)

The righteousness spelled out here is not my actions or my lifestyle. It is my standing before God. Even if someone was the best person in the world, how good would their righteousness be? That is their right standing before God. It would certainly lack.

How about the righteousness which is from God by faith? How good is my standing before God the creator of the universe if I have the righteousness he grants?

It is really quite simple, is it not. The righteousness which God gives, and only that righteousness, is completely adequate to allow me to go to him in prayer and expect him to answer those prayers.

And Romans 10:9-10 tells us how to get this righteousness.

Romans 10:13

Anyone who realizes he can never live a perfect life can be saved.

Romans 10:13, for “WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.” (Romans 10:13 NASB)

“For everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord [invoking Him as Lord] will be saved,” (Romans 10:13 AMP)

Here Paul is quoting Joel 2:32 from the Old Testament. He quotes Old Testament extensively in this 10th chapter of Romans.

Read Romans 10:11-13. Notice he is making the point that both Jews and Gentiles, non-Jews, gain salvation and favor with the same God and by the same way. God is the same God of all. Jesus is the same savior of both and thus is the savior of all mankind.

Read Acts 2:21, again a quote from Joel.

Who is speaking here? _____

If we wanted to look at the verse carefully and examine all that it says, I see four (4) points in Romans 10:13. (1) whoever (2) call (3) the Name of the Lord (4) saved.

We will look at each one.

Whoever here seems to denote the fact that the one and only the one who is saved or delivered is the one who calls on the Lord. When taken in the context of the verses around includes both Jews and Greeks. When this is taken further does it also mean anyone can call on the name of the Lord and be saved? We will look at this question later.

John 3:14-16 says, “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:14-16 WEB)

Numbers 21:4-9 - Read here the story of the brazen serpent which Moses put up on a pole and why he did it. This was done as a foreshadow of how Jesus would be sacrificed on the cross.

Does this seem strange to you that God would do this. To tell Moses to make this brass snake and put it up on a pole and the people could be healed by looking at it? Makes you wonder if the people wouldn't start worshiping it. We know how quick they were to adopt any-ole-god that came along from the people who lived in the land before them. Do you think they ever worshiped this image? Well, if you said yes or probably so, you were correct.

Romans 10:13

Look at 2 Kings 18:1-5, especially the 4th verse.

“Now it happened in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah. He did that which was right in the eyes of Yahweh, according to all that David his father had done. He removed the high places, and broke the pillars, and cut down the Asherah: and he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for in those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it; and he called it Nehushtan. He trusted in Yahweh, the God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor among them that were before him. (2 Kings 18:1-5 WEB)

This shows me how easy it is to take something or some instruction or some doctrine or some “whatever” and make a god out of it. And I have learned about this as I have about other things to never say, “I would never do that.” Reminds me of Sean Connery. He said he would never make another James Bond movie. So when he did make one they titled it “Never Say Never Again.”

Do these verses from John imply or say that whoever could be anyone. That is, anyone could believe and be saved?

Revelation 22:17 says, “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” (Revelation 22:17 KJV)

Read this verse from different translations. Does this verse say that anyone who is thirsty can take of the water of life?

Albert Barnes on whosoever:

Every one that is disposed to come, who has any sincere wish to be saved, is assured that he may live. No matter how unworthy he is; no matter what his past life has been; no matter how old or how young, how rich or how poor; no matter whether sick or well, a freeman or a slave; no matter whether educated or ignorant; no matter whether clothed in purple or in rags - riding in state or laid at the gate of a rich man full of sores, the invitation is freely made to all to come and be saved. With what more appropriate truth could a revelation from heaven be closed?

Adam Clark on whosoever is thirsty and feels need of salvation.....

No soul is excluded: Jesus died for every man; every man may be saved; therefore let him who wills, who wishes for salvation, come and take the water of life freely - without money or price!

Romans 10:13

PNT (Peoples New Testament Commentary) on Romans 10:11-13

The Jew objected to salvation by faith, instead of by the law. Paul has just shown that righteousness could not be obtained by the law, secondly, that the prophets had predicted salvation by faith. But the Jew is now supposed to object that this salvation was for Jews only, yet Paul is preaching it to the Gentiles. Hence he declares that it is for Greek (Gentile), as well as Jew, as shown by the passage just quoted in Romans 10:11. It says, Every one that believeth, etc. (Isaiah 28:16). He further shows that "the same Lord is rich to all that call upon him," of whatever race, by a second quotation from the prophets, found in Joel 2:32

Most of us have a strong conviction that salvation is for "whosoever will," that is anybody who chooses to accept it and that anybody can choose to accept it. That Jesus truly did die for everybody and that everybody can accept the salvation that he purchased. They just have to hear the gospel message and accept that message in faith and act on it to be born again into the kingdom of God. Keep in mind that Five Point Calvinists do not accept this belief that anybody can be saved but only the elect who have been predestined or chosen by God. True Calvinists are quick to point out that they are not chosen because of the foreknowledge of God but rather by the election of God. Do you think Calvinism is a danger to the church today?

It lies deep in our Puritan roots. It is a problem today because so many prominent Baptist and Presbyterian pastors now accept all the tenants or points of Calvinism. Some fear this will be the next big issue in the Southern Baptist Convention, even though only a small number of Baptist accept this doctrine. Some Calvinists are not evangelistic. For why be? If whoever God wants saved will be saved no matter what. In my opinion, this is the biggest danger to us as Evangelicals. Some Calvinists are exceptions and are very evangelistic. A big exception would be Bill Bright who founded Campus Crusade for Christ. Another big danger is it sometimes causes church divisions or many people leaving the church. It is a known fact when people leave a church in numbers some of those people simply quit going to church anywhere. I have mentioned only negative aspects of John Calvin, but he was an important theologian who helped shape important doctrines and make clear much of what we believe today.

The "call on" in Romans 10:13 is surely the confession in Romans 10:9-10.

1 Corinthians 1:2 - Paul uses the term here for those who are Christians.

Acts 9:14 - Ananias also used the term to describe believers.

Adam Clarke's Commentary says of this verse:

"Believing in Jesus Christ and calling upon God, are in effect the same thing; as calling upon God necessarily connects and supposes faith in him: and he who duly believes in Christ has such a sense of his dependence upon Divine grace, that he looks unto God and trusts in his power and goodness alone for happiness: which is the true religion of the Gospel."

Romans 10:13

“The Name of The Lord” phrase in Romans 10:13 is another way of saying calling on God.

Mark 11:9 - When Jesus entered Jerusalem and they put down palm branches and their coats on the road in front of him they shouted this phrase, “Hosana! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD;”

I heard a sermon recently which explained that this was much like our custom of sending ambassadors or other prominent diplomats who do not go in their own name, but in the name of the one or country sending them. That up to the point and limits which have been given and explained to him he acts in full authority of the one sending him. So it is, up to that point, that he is for all practical purposes that person. When someone is said to be calling on the Name of the Lord, it is another way of saying calling on God.

Albert Barnes

This sentiment is found substantially in Joel 2:32, “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered.” This is expressly applied to the times of the gospel, by Peter, in Acts 2:21. To call on the name of the Lord is the same as to call on the Lord himself. The word “name” is often used in this manner. “The name of the Lord is a strong tower, etc.;” Proverbs 18:10. “The name of the God of Jacob defend thee;” Psalms 20:1. That is, God himself is a strong tower, etc. It is clear from what follows, that the apostle applies this to Jesus Christ; and this is one of the numerous instances in which the writers of the New Testament apply to him expressions which in the Old Testament are applicable to God;”

Terms such as this are often called “Bible language.” Do you think this use of Bible language confuses or at least makes unclear our message?

If you answered yes, what do you think we can do about it? _____

The word translated “saved” in Romans 10:13 is a common word in the New Testament. It is translated to various English words such as: bring safely, cured, ensure salvation, get, get well, made well, preserved, recover, restore, saves, saving, save (36 times) and saved (50 times). To us it means gain salvation. Different churches use different words for salvation. Some use converted, regenerated, born again, or saved. What other term or word best describes “saved” to you?

Romans 10:13

Albert Barnes Notes:

Shall be saved - In Hebrew, shall be delivered, that is, from impending calamities. When they threaten, and God is coming forth to judge them, it shall be that those who are characterized as those who call on the Lord shall be delivered. This is equally true at all times. It is remarkable that no Christians perished in the siege of Jerusalem. Though more than a million Jews perished, yet the followers of Christ who were there, having been warned by him, when they saw the signs of the Romans approaching, withdrew to Aelia, and were preserved. So it shall be in the day of judgment. All whose character it has been that "they called on God" will then be saved. While the wicked will then call on the rocks and the mountains to shelter them from the Lord, those who have invoked his favor and mercy will find deliverance.

Romans 10:13 "for whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved."

There is no waiting period. There is no test period to see if you qualify. Anyone can accept the gift of salvation which God has to give. And a gift is free to the receiver. Jesus has paid the price; but you must accept the gift of salvation by confessing before God and men that you want the salvation through Jesus Christ which God offers. And by confessing that you want Jesus as your Lord, the directory of your life.

There are many today who say that there are many ways to God. Many ways as long as you are sincere. That to think that Jesus is the only way to God is narrow-minded. Many Christians and even some clergy take this position today. Well, it may be narrow-minded to believe Jesus is the only way to God, but let me give it a little perspective. For a Christian to believe or say that there are many ways to God is like saying to Jesus, "Thank you for coming to earth as a man and for suffering and dying for me. Thank you for humbling yourself and allowing men to mistreat you and kill you. But you didn't have to do it because there are other ways to God. You really did it for nothing, but thank you anyway." Once we deviate from what the scripture says we are always headed for trouble. Jesus himself said he was the only way to the Father. How can anyone accept anything Jesus said if they believe he was incorrect on this claim to be the only way? Do not be deceived, there are many people of many religions who are sincere in what they believe, but that sincerity will not grant them access to eternal life and a relationship with God.

Serving the King,

Aaron Bruce