

CHRIST'S TEACHINGS THROUGH PAUL

In our historical survey of the New Testament in Volume I, we saw that Paul wrote many letters to churches and individuals of his day. On page one of this volume, we saw that Paul's letters are the teachings of Jesus Himself--and for that reason, they are preserved for our use today. As these letters are arranged in our Bible, they form a progressive picture of the salvation God has provided for us. Study the first of these letters below.

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

This letter was written from Corinth near the end of Paul's third missionary journey to announce Paul's plans to visit Rome. See now what else he told these people:

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK

Romans 1:1-17

1. What is the main subject of this letter? Romans 1:15b, 16a

2. What is one of the main things revealed in the gospel? Romans 1:17

THE CONDITION OF THE WORLD

Romans 1:16 - 3:20

- A. The Condition of the Heathen: Read Romans 1:18-32
1. Do the heathen know anything about the true God? Romans 1:18-19

 2. What two invisible qualities of God can they clearly see and understand by considering the things which have been made? Romans 1:20

 3. In spite of this knowledge concerning the true God, what did they do?
 - a. Romans 1:21a _____
 - b. Romans 1:23 _____
 - c. Romans 1:25 _____
 - d. Romans 1:28a _____
 4. Therefore, what did God do concerning them? Romans 1:24a, 26a, 28b

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5. Notice all the sins they committed as a result: Romans 1:24b, 26b-27, 29-31

6. What did they know that those who do such things deserve? Romans 1:32a

7. What gives them this knowledge? Romans 2:15

8. Yet what do they continue to do? Romans 1:32b

9. Therefore, what is God's conclusion concerning the heathen? Romans 1:20b

B. The Condition of the Religious People: Read Romans 2:1 - 3:20

1. What would some religious people do as they read about the sins of the heathen? Romans 2:3a

2. Yet what do they themselves do? Romans 2:3b, 1b

3. Why do they think they are better than the heathen? Romans 2:17b, 23a

4. Yet what more than this is necessary to be considered just in God's sight? Romans 2:13b

5. Therefore, what is God's conclusion concerning the Jews? Romans 2:1a

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What is the condition of the whole world in God's sight? Romans 3:9b, 29b, 23

2. Is there any hope for me, in the face of such an accusation from God?

GOD'S PROVISION FOR SINNERS

Romans 3:21 - 5:21

Having shown that the whole world, Jews and Gentiles alike, are under the condemnation of God, and that it is impossible for them to be saved by the works of the law since no one keeps the law, Paul proceeds with his outline of the gospel:

A. Righteousness Made Possible: Read Romans 3:21-31

1. Since men could not be made righteous by the law, how did God make righteousness possible? Romans 3:21-22a, 28

2. Who then could be *justified* (declared righteous)? Romans 3:22b, 26b, 30

B. An Example of this Righteousness: Read Romans 4:1-8

1. Whom did Paul use as an example of this righteousness? Romans 4:1

2. Was Abraham justified by his works? Romans 4:2a, 4

3. If he had been, what would he have been able to do? Romans 4:2b

4. But how was Abraham justified? Romans 4:3, 5

5. Who else, who lived after the law was given, also realized the truth of this way of obtaining righteousness? Romans 4:6-8

C. Who Can Obtain This Righteousness: Read Romans 4:9-25

1. The question naturally arises, "For whom has God made this righteousness possible? For the Jews only, who were circumcised? Or for the Gentiles also, who were not circumcised?" When did Abraham receive this righteousness? Romans 4:10

2. Why did he later receive the sign of circumcision? Romans 4:11a

3. Is it possible for others who have not been circumcised to be declared righteous? Romans 4:11b

4. On what basis? Romans 4:12b

5. On what basis did Abraham receive the promise that he should be the heir of the world? Romans 4:13

6. Did Abraham have any natural reason to believe that God would fulfill His promise to make him the father of many nations? Romans 4:18-19

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7. Yet why did he believe this promise? Romans 4:20-21

8. What did he receive as a result? Romans 4:22

9. For whose sake are these things recorded in the Old Testament? Romans 4:23-24a

10. What is it that makes possible this justification? Romans 4:24b-25

D. The Results of This righteousness: Read Romans 5:1-11

1. What three things become ours as soon as we receive Jesus' righteousness or justification?
Romans 5:1, 2a, 5b

2. What three things does this justification enable us to do throughout life? Romans 5:2b, 3a,
11

3. What hope does it give us concerning the future? Romans 5:9

4. What was the result of Adam's sin? Romans 5:12, 18a, 19a

5. But what was made possible through Jesus' righteousness and obedience? Romans 5:18b,
19b, 6:23

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Have I accepted God's wonderful provision of righteousness and justification?

2. Am I enjoying the benefits of this justification in my life from day to day?

GOD'S PROVISION FOR SAVED PEOPLE

Romans 6 - 8

In addition to His wonderful provision for freedom from the guilt of sins past, God has also made provision for the present life of the believer. Study about this now.

A. Things Which Happened at Salvation: Read Romans 6:1 - 7:6

1. What happened to Christians when Jesus was
 - a. crucified? Romans 6:6a, 7, 8, 10a, 11a _____
 - b. buried? Romans 6:4a, 3 _____
 - c. raised again? Romans 6:5b, 4b, 8b, 11b _____
2. If Christians KNOW these facts, what should they *RECKON* (count on) concerning themselves? Romans 6:11

3. Although in the past, they have been servants of sin, to what new master should they now YIELD themselves? Romans 6:13-22

4. Although in the past they have been married to the law, what new husband do they now have, whom they should OBEY? Romans 7:2-4

B. The Believer's Relationship to the Law: Read Romans 7:7-25

1. Does this mean that the law is sinful? Romans 7:7a, 12, 14a

2. What was one great purpose of the law? Romans 7:7b, 13b, 3:20b

3. After a person becomes a Christian, how does he feel toward the law of God? Romans 7:22

4. What does he therefore for want to do? Romans 7:21a, 19a

5. But is he able to do this in himself? Romans 7:15-23

6. Therefore, what does he become? Romans 7:23b

7. For what does he then cry out? Romans 7:24b

8. Who is the only One who can do the thing which he asks? Romans 7:25, 5:3

C. The Believer's Present Standing: Read Romans 8:1-39

1. What is the present condition of every one who has accepted Christ Jesus? Romans 8:1a

2. What is it which has accomplished this freedom for him? Romans 8:2

3. What does this new law make possible? Romans 8:4a

4. How is this made possible? Romans 8:4b

5. Notice the great contrasts between this new life, lived in the power of the Holy Spirit of God, and the old life, lived in one's own human power:

Carnal (Fleshly) Life: *Spiritual* Life:

a. pays attention to (8:5)_____

b. results in (8:6, 13)_____

c. relation to God (8:7-8)_____ (8:16b-17)_____

d. pattern of life (8:13)_____

6. Notice some of the other great things the Holy Spirit does for Christians:

Romans 8:11, 14, 16, 26

7. Is it possible for a person to be a Christian and yet not have the Holy Spirit? Romans 8:9b

8. Therefore, what should every Christian be, throughout all his lifetime?

Romans 8:37

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is it necessary for Christians to live in constant defeat because of sin?

2. Do I know, and constantly count on, what happened to me at salvation, yielding myself to God, and obeying His laws through the power of His Holy Spirit?

GOD'S PROVISION FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

Romans 9 - 11

After showing God's provision for freedom from the guilt of sins in the believer's past life, and from the power of sin in his present life, Paul now relates these provisions to God's plan for the whole world. Study this plan below:

A. The Relation of Israel to the Gospel: Read Romans 9:1-29

1. What nine wonderful things had come to the world through the nation Israel? Romans 9:4-5

2. Did they therefore have any part in providing the salvation Paul has been describing? (THINK!)

3. Yet what was their own condition as a nation? Romans 10:1 and THINK!

4. Therefore, how did Paul feel concerning them? Romans 9:2-3

5. Although Israel, as a nation, had rejected Christ who were left to carry on God's purposes for the world? Romans 9:24, 27b

B. The Reception of the Gospel by Jews and Gentiles: Read Romans 9:30 - 10:21

1. Although in the past the Gentiles had not tried to be righteous, how had they now obtained righteousness? Romans 9:30

2. Although in the past the Jews had really sought righteousness, why were they not able to obtain it? Romans 9:31-32

3. What was the stumbling stone over which they had stumbled? Romans 9:32b-33, I Peter 2:6-8

4. How did they seek to establish their own righteousness? Romans 10:5

5. But what must they do if they would receive God's righteousness? Romans 10:9-10

C. The Purpose of God's Calling Both Israel and the Church: Read Romans 11:1-32

1. Since Israel has rejected Christ, does this mean that God is through with her and has no more purpose for her? Romans 11:1, 2a

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2. Although the nation, as a whole, did not obtain the righteousness for which they sought, who did obtain it? Romans 11:5, 7

3. What was one great result of the fall of the Jews? Romans 11:11a, b, 12a, 15a

4. What was one purpose of God's bringing salvation to the Gentiles? Romans 11:11c, 14

5. What will eventually happen to all Israel? Romans 11:26a

6. What will be one great result of this? Romans 11:12b, 15b

7. How long will Israel's blindness to God's salvation continue? Romans 11:25b

8. Therefore, what was God's purpose both in the calling and rejection of Israel, and in the calling of the Church (mostly made up of Gentiles) to replace her as God's messenger on earth? Romans 11:32

D. Paul's Response to God's Provision for the World: Read Romans 11:33-36

1. What two great attributes of God does this wonderful plan of His reveal? Romans 11:33a

2. Would it be possible for anyone to understand His decisions? Or trace out His methods and paths? Or understand His thoughts? Romans 11:33b-34

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is there anyone who was left out of God's plan for the world? Did everyone receive a fair opportunity of accepting Christ? II Peter 3:9a, c

2. Do I appreciate God's fairness to me? Enough to accept His offer of salvation?

MAN'S RESPONSE TO GOD'S PROVISION

Romans 12 -16

Having outlined fully God's plan for saving the world, Paul now appeals to men everywhere for the proper response to such a wonderful plan. Discover now what this response should be:

A. The Believer's Relation to God and Fellowman: Read Romans 12:1-20

1. What attribute of God is shown in His great plan for saving the whole world?
Romans 12:1a

2. Therefore, what is the reasonable thing for believers to do in response? Romans 12:1b

3. What should be the believer's relation to this present world? Romans 12:2a

4. What will the believer be able to know and prove, if he does this? Romans 12:2b

5. What should be the believer's attitude toward himself? Romans 12:3

6. What makes the difference in any gifts or abilities different believers may have? Romans 12:3b, 6a

7. Therefore, what should be the believer's attitude toward his fellow-believer? Romans 12:9a, 10, 16

8. How should the believer live in relation to unbelievers? Romans 12:17b, 18, 20

B. The Believer's Relation to Governments: Read Romans 13:1-14

1. What is the general rule for Christians in relation to higher powers, such as governments?
Romans 13:1a

2. Why should Christians observe this rule? Romans 13:1

3. What is a person doing when he resists governmental powers? Romans 13:2

4. What will he receive for so doing? Romans 13:2b

5. To what are officials of the law a terror? Romans 13:3a

6. How may one keep from being afraid of governmental officials? Romans 13:3b

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7. What else should one do concerning governments besides being subject to them? Romans 13:6-7

8. What is the only thing believers should owe to anyone? Romans 13:8

C. The Believer's Relation to Doubtful Practices: Read Romans 14:1-23

1. Are all believers agreed as to what is right and what is wrong in certain instances? Romans 14:2, 5

2. What two things do people sometimes do to each other when they are not agreed on certain issues? Romans 14:3

3. What are some general rules to remember in deciding such issues?

a. Romans 14:5b, 23

b. Romans 14:13b, 21, 15:1-3

c. Romans 14:19

4. To whom will every one have to give answer for what he has done, and what he has refused to do? Romans 14:4, 10, 12

D. The Believer's Relation to Minority Groups: Read Romans 15:1-13

1. How did Paul urge the Jews and Gentiles in the church to treat one another? Romans 15:7, 5

2. Notice that the rest of the book gives Paul's personal plans to visit the church at Rome, and his greetings to those whom he knew personally there.

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. How much of the believer's life does God want to control? How much of it does He deserve the right to control?

2. Have I given God absolute control of every area of my life? Romans 12:1-2
