



Reviewing Paul's Epistle to The Romans

**Weeks 2 & 3:
Major Terms Found In Romans**

Major Terms In Romans

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LAW – (Moses & Jesus)

- ❑ What's true of terms like “faith”, “grace” and “love”, is also true about the term “Law” – it has different meanings, even in Romans
- ❑ Generally speaking, “LAW” refers to the revelation of the will of God for mankind in the O.T. and later within the N.T.
- ❑ Others terms used: “The Law and Prophets”, “Covenant”, “Commandments”, “Decrees”, “Judgments”, “Traditions”, “Word”
- ❑ In O.T. the first five books of the Bible (*the Pentateuch* – 5 books or 5 scrolls) and known as the books of Law (Heb. “Torah”)
- ❑ In N.T. Jesus ushered in a new understanding of God's intent for the Law - moved the Law of Moses from the external, legalistic meaning to a more spiritual meaning.

Christ both “completes” & “transcends” the Law!

- ❑ Rom. 10:4 “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

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LAW – (Paul)

Paul wrote extensively about “Law” and used it in various way.

1. The Law of Moses (Rom. 2:17-29)
2. The Law of the Gentiles (Rom. 2:12-16)
3. The Law of Christ – royal law (Gal. 6:2, see also James 2:8)
4. The Law of Works as opposed to The Law of Faith (Rom. 3:27)

“Law of Works” and “Law of Faith” in Romans

LAW OF FAITH

- ✓ Law requiring faith that finds its fulfillment in 100% trust in God

LAW OF WORKS

- x Law that demands all of law be flawlessly carried out for one to be justified before God.

- ✓ Both are “laws”
- ✓ Both require “obedience”

“BUT the outcome is very different”...

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Comparison of the "LAW OF FAITH" and the "LAW OF WORKS"

LAW OF FAITH

- ✓ Excludes boasting (3:27)
- ✓ Justifies Freely (3:27, 5:1, 8:1)
- ✓ Offers The Possible – Trusting Obedience (3:21-22)
- ✓ Effective In Saving Despite Man's Weaknesses (8:2-3)
- ✓ Brings Peace (5:1)
- ✓ Transgressions NOT Imputed (3:27 – 4:8)
- ✓ Promise Is fulfilled (Salvation) (4:13-16)
- ✓ Redeemed from Curse (Gal 3:10-14)
- ✓ Died To Sin & Alive In Christ (6:1-7, 7:1-6)
- ✓ Saved By Grace (5:2)

LAW OF WORKS

- X Gives Ground For Boasting (3:27)
- X Cannot Justify (3:20)
- X Offers Impossible – Flawless Obedience (3:19-20)
- X Ineffective To Save Because Of Man's Weaknesses (8:3)
- X Brings Wrath (4:14-15)
- X Transgressions ARE Imputed (7:8-11)
- X Promises (Salvation) Unfulfilled (4:13-14)
- X Remain Under Curse (Gal 3:10-14)
- X Dead To Sin, Severed From Christ (7:7-11)
- X Outside Of Grace (11:1-6, Gal 5:2-4)

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RIGHTEOUSNESS

- ❑ “Righteousness” – Another key term in Romans and key to Paul’s opening thesis in 1:16-17
For the gospel “reveals” God’s righteousness !
- ❑ Righteousness: The character or quality of being right (Right-wiseness) It is “the” divine attribute of God, essentially the same as God’s “faithfulness” or “truthfulness” (3:5-6), *It’s this attribute which demonstrates that quality of holiness in God that MUST find its expression in His Condemnation of sin!*
- ❑ *When referring to the “requirement of the Law” it generally means, “regulation”, “requirement”, “commandment” of (by) law.*

Jesus became what we are, so we could become what He is!

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RIGHTEOUSNESS

1. God's Very Nature Is RIGHTEOUS!

- ❑ Rom. 1:16-17, God is the very source of all “righteousness”
- ❑ 2 Tim. 4:7-8, The Lord is the “righteous” judge
- ❑ 1 John 1:9, His forgiveness of us is a “righteous” forgiveness
- ❑ Rom. 3:26, The death of Christ proved God to be “righteous”
- ❑ So, because God's very nature is righteous,
 - 1) He always does what is JUST & RIGHT
 - 2) He is always FAITHFUL to fulfill all His promises
 - 3) Therefore, His JUSTIFICATION must be “righteous justifying”
(That is, it must honor this very nature of God (3:26))

2. God's Chosen Are To Be “RIGHT-LIVING” People!

- ❑ 1 John 3:1-12 makes it clear a “righteous” man is a man that “practices” righteousness (Example – Cain's deeds verse Abel's)
- ❑ Since God is the very source of righteousness, our righteousness can only exist in relation to God by faith (1:17, 3:22, 9:30)

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RIGHTEOUSNESS

Justification: Sometimes a synonym for “righteousness”

- 1) “The removal of a penalty or debt”, “It is a restoration of a right standing and a renewal relationship with God Himself”
- 2) “Being justified is not being declared innocent but being declared not guilty by virtue of payment already made to satisfy the crime”
- 3) “Justified” is “just-if-I’d” never sinned”
- 4) Being “justified” does not equal being made virtuous, it means to be cleared, acquitted, and declared right, made possible by faith in the only Virtuous One - Jesus! (3:22)
- 5) Being Justified Means:
 - ❑ New Status: Right with God & Forgiven! (3:21-26)
 - ❑ New Family: Included in God’s People! (8:12-17)
 - ❑ New Future: Transformed Life (12:1-2)

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FAITH

- ❑ **Generally Speaking - “Trusting commitment of one person to another”**
- ❑ **We live every day with a level of faith (Doctors, Flying, Driving, etc.)**
- ❑ **From Latin, “fides” which eventually evolved into “belief” (10:9)**
- ❑ **An attitude of the HEART and MIND (10:9-10)**
 - ❑ **An attitude that causes a person to act (Heb. 11:1)**
 - ❑ **An attitude of certainty that demonstrates “trust” (2 Tim. 1:12)**
 - ❑ **An attitude that promotes “righteous obedience” (1:5, 16:26)**
 - ❑ **An attitude that can only be created by God’s Word (10:17)**
 - ❑ **An attitude that is ESSENTIAL for our “justification” (5:1, Heb 11:6)**
- ❑ **Some have said, “Grace” is God’s attitude toward sinners, and “Faith” is a sinner’s thankful response (attitude) toward God.**

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FAITH

- ❑ Paul uses “faith” and “belief” interchangeably (1:5 & 1:16, 4:10)
- ❑ Paul understood “faith” had various degrees in believers (4:19, 14:1)
- ❑ Paul understood like James, that “faith” could be fruitless (Jam. 2:14-17, 9:30-33)
- ❑ Paul understood “faith” in the wrong person or object will result in loss (1:18-32, 10:1-3, Gal. 1:6-8)
- ❑ Paul understood there was no power within “faith” itself ! True biblical faith (acceptable faith) before God all begins with God! (10:1-17)
- ❑ God brings them to faith BY THE PREACHED MESSAGE!

“For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.” (1 Cor. 1:21)

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FLESH

Paul's uses the word "Flesh" in several ways within Romans:

- ❑ The substance of which our bodies are made: Our physical (fleshly) bodies (2:28, also Eph. 2:11, Col. 1:22)
- ❑ Human (blood) relationship, natural or physical origin, descendants (1:3, 9:3, 8, 11:14 – *"move to jealousy my fellow countrymen"*)
- ❑ Humanity in general, *"because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified"* (3:20)
- ❑ Fleshly in relation to their spiritual development and understanding when apart from God (7:5, 18, 25), also referred to as "men of flesh", "babes in Christ", "carnally minded" (1 Cor. 3:1-3, Gal. 3:1-3)
- ❑ Man's blatant rebellious condition toward God - "man's sinful passions" or "works of the flesh" that becomes an eager instrument to do wickedness (8:1-8, 13:14, also Gal. 5:16-21, 1 Pt. 2:11)

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SIN

- ❑ **SIN: “a deviation or transgression of God’s law either by commission or omission”, “it’s actions are by which man rebel against God”, “missing the mark”**
- ❑ **Other terms: “Transgressions”, “sin”, “iniquity”, “deceit” (Psa. 32:1-2)**
- ❑ **Used in Romans:**
 - **Sin is universal (3:9-10, 23)**
 - **Sin permeates the whole of man – all our faculties (1:28-32, 3:9-18)**
 - **Sin brings man into condemnation (1:32, 6:23)**
 - **Sin weakens & demoralizes man, physically & emotionally (1:24-32)**
- ❑ **Two Headed Monster – “SIN” and “DEATH” (5:12-21)**

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GRACE

- ❑ “...where sin increased, grace abounded all the more...” (5:20)
- ❑ **Grace:** “The friendly disposition from which the kindly act proceeds.”
“An attitude of heart and mind that causes one to act.” (Vines)
- ❑ “Grace is not God’s way of “overlooking” our sins, it is His way of “overcoming” our sins!” (Edwin Crosier)
- ❑ God’s gift of grace was **COSTLY!** (3:24-26, See also Eph. 2:1-9)
- ❑ God’s gift of grace made the **PROMISE** of God certain! (4:16)
- ❑ God’s gift of grace is **ALL SUFFICIENT!** (5:15-21)
- ❑ What should our response toward this wonderful gift of grace be?
 1. To recognize our **ABSOLUTE NEED** for it! (5:21)
 2. To **STAND FIRM** in it! (5:2)

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Sanctification:

- ❑ The process of being made holy resulting in a changed life style for the follower of Christ
- ❑ Literally to “consecrate” or “set apart” for particular use in a special purpose or work - to make holy or sacred (Ex. Moses & burning bush)
- ❑ 1 Peter 1:13-16 *“You shall be holy, for I am holy.”*
- ❑ Sanctification differs from Justification
- ❑ Sanctification is the result of God’s activity in the disciple when we respond in faith!
- ❑ Sanctification is achieved only by and through God’s Word
- ❑ **SO, WHY IS SANCTIFICATION SO IMPORTANT ?**
 - ❑ Sanctification was important concept in order to defend the slanderous teaching about “SIN” & “GRACE”
 - ❑ What was that false concept? (5:20, 6:1-2, 6:15-23)

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JEW and ISRAEL

- ❑ The terms, “Jew” and “Israel” in Romans most always refers to fleshly descendent of Jacob (passages sometimes disputed, 2:28-29, 9:6, 11:26)
- ❑ The fulfilled promise of salvation through the Messiah (Jesus) brought intense challenges from Jews that felt themselves to be God’s chosen people of promise
- ❑ This heavily affected and weighed on Paul over his Jewish brethren (kinsman) because of their lost condition (9:2-3)
- ❑ Chapters 9-11 speak directly toward this, one of Paul’s main points within Romans...

Had God gone back on His promises to Israel?

“May it never be!” God was faithful, in spite of Israel’s unfaithfulness (11:1)