

## Daily devotions

*(Romans Week 1)*

(Vs 31) Read this verse very carefully. Some today say the law is no longer valid since we are under grace. The law condemns man and sets the stage for grace. No law, no grace.... No law, no salvation. Read this verse again!

### **Saturday:** Romans 4:1-12

Yesterday we saw how the law could never bring God's righteousness into our lives, but grace could. The law just set the stage for grace. Jewish people were and still focused on the law and Abraham and Moses. Paul uses Abraham here to point out righteousness was by Faith

(Vs 1-8) Abraham simply "believed God" and it was counted to him righteousness. (Vs 3)

(Vs 9-12) Was this blessing only for the "circumcision?" (Jewish) Paul asks the question "When did Abraham believe God?" It was before the law and circumcision was established! Reality it was for those who walk in the steps of faithful Abraham (Faith) (Vs 12)

### **Sunday :** Romans 4:13-25

(Vs 13-18) Here we see that there was more to the promise God made to Abraham than just a nation. He promised to bring salvation by Faith. In this Isaac represents "salvation by Faith" and Ishmael represents "salvation by works" (See also Galatians 4:19-31)

(Vs 19-25) Here we see God's amazing lack of memory with our sin. If you know the story you know Abraham did doubt God.... Yet God's forgiveness is there.

### **Monday:** Romans 1:1- 17

"Romans" is a powerful doctrinal thesis put forth by Paul. We can divide it into two sections. 1. What salvation is (Chapt 1-11) 2. What salvation does (Chapt 12-16). The transition takes place in Chapt 12:1. Because of Salvation we present our bodies a living sacrifice unto God.

(Vs 1-14) This is the equivalent of our "small talk" Paul is greeting the church at Rome.

(Vs 15) Paul was saying that the opposition that would come in Rome did not deter him.

(Vs 16- 17) Paul was not deterred because of his love for the gospel (Vs 16) and his faith in God (Vs 17). Paul knew God would call men unto Himself through the gospel.... Even in wicked Rome!

Let us not make excuses why we cannot share Christ, let us love the gospel and have faith in its power.

### **Tuesday:** Romans 1:18-32

This passage details the apostasy of man and our state before God.

(Vs 18-20) Every man holds the truth about God. He either holds it in righteousness or unrighteousness. God has given 3 records of Himself. 1. His Word. 2. The law written upon our hearts (Vs 19) 3. Creation (Vs 20). This renders every man "without excuse" (Vs 20)

(Vs 21-32) When man rejects this knowledge of God and rebels against it.... He proceeds down this path. I am sure you can see our society in these verses.

Notice that God “gives them up” (Vs 24 +26) Man resists God so long and loves his sin so long that God gives people up....

What should we do with this passage? Allow it to motivate us to bring the gospel to men before it is too late!

### **Wednesday:** Romans 2:1-29

Paul has just shown in Chapt 1 how the world is gone astray. However as human nature goes, others sins are always worse than mine! Paul in Chapt 2 is showing the cultured Romans are just as pagan as the people they view as pagan!

(Vs 3-6) Every man is under the judgment of God.

(Vs 17- 29) The law condemns even the stately Jews.

Friend, if you are “saved” from your sin. You are just as bad as the fellow who is described in Romans 1:29-32. The difference is God’s grace saved you from it!

We sometimes get an idea that we are good but the world is in wickedness. We bear the righteousness of God, not of our merit but of His mercy. We have nothing to boast of! The rest of our lives should be lived to bring glory to God!

### **Thursday:** Romans 3:1-20

In the early Bibles chapters and verses were non-existent. While these make the Bible much easier to read, it sometimes causes us to end thoughts at the end of a chapter where the thought should continue into the next chapter. Such is the case here:

(Vs 1-8) God through Paul has just written a scathing diagnosis of mankind. The “pagans” are enemies of God, the “cultured Romans are vile in the sight of God and the Jews who know the law are condemned by the law!

At this point we must ask. “Why the negativity?” Because Paul is setting the stage for grace. God’s saving grace only saves from total death.

(Vs 1-2) The Jews have a benefit because the “word of God” was given to them.

(Vs 9-20) God is giving His verdict for the world. All are lost, all are astray, Jew, Gentile, it makes no difference.

(Vs 19) This verse is the first step of conversion.

Be advised that there are some who preach “another gospel” It is grace without knowledge of sin, resurrection without the death, and forgiveness without wrong..... it is a gospel of convenience.

Do you see how “Grace” is only amazing if it overcomes my sin.... It becomes a license if it’s merely my ticket to heaven. (Jude 1:4 warns us of this)

Friend, you were saved from (Vs 19) read it and ponder this. What grace that would save a sinner like I!

### **Friday** Romans 3:21-31

After man has been thoroughly thrashed by the law, the stage is set for Grace! God’s grace can bring God’s righteousness into our lives where the law could not. However; grace can never work until the law has set the stage!

(Vs 21-22) When a person allows the law to “slay” them. God’s grace can redeem them if they believe. This is “universal.” (Vs 22)

(Vs 23-26) God has set forth His Son as a “propitiation” (substitute) for our sin. In this God could maintain His justice and justify man. Impossibility if it were not for Calvary. (Vs 26)

(Vs 27-30) Who can boast of their salvation? It is of grace, NOT the law. (Vs 30) shows that God saves Jews and Gentiles the same way. Through faith!

