

ROMANS Lesson 4

FIRST DAY

Read Lesson 3 Notes

SECOND DAY:

Read 3:1-4

God's Faithfulness

[3:1] What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? [2] Much in every way! First of all, they have been entrusted with the very words of God.

[3] What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness? [4] Not at all! Let God be true, and every man a liar. As it is written:

“So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge.”

Question 3a

Romans 2:6-29;

[6] God “will give to each person according to what he has done.” [7] To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. [8] But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. [9] There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; [10] but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. [11] For God does not show favoritism.

[12] All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. [13] For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. [14] (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, [15] since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)

[16] This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

The Jews and the Law

[17] Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and brag about your relationship to God; [18] if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; [19] if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, [20] an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— [21] you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? [22] You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? [23] You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? [24] As it is written: “God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.”

[25] Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised. [26] If those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised? [27] The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker.

[28] A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. [29] No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.

Question 4

Genesis 12:1-7; The Call of Abram

[12:1] The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

[2] “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you;

I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

[3] I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;

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and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

[4] So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. [5] He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

[6] Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. [7] The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; [15] Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you. That is why I give you this command today.

[16] But if your servant says to you, “I do not want to leave you,” because he loves you and your family and is well off with you, [17] then take an awl and push it through his ear lobe into the door, and he will become your servant for life. Do the same for your maidservant.

[18] Do not consider it a hardship to set your servant free, because his service to you these six years has been worth twice as much as that of a hired hand. And the LORD your God will bless you in everything you do.

The Firstborn Animals

[19] Set apart for the LORD your God every firstborn male of your herds and flocks. Do not put the firstborn of your oxen to work, and do not shear the firstborn of your sheep. [20] Each year you and your family are to eat them in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose.

Jeremiah 31:35-37; [35] This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the seas that its waves roar— the LORD Almighty is his name:

[36] “Only if these decrees vanish from my sight,” declares the LORD,
“will the descendants of Israel ever cease to be a nation before me.”

[37] This is what the LORD says: “Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done,” declares the LORD.

Question 5

Psalms 51:1-6; *For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.*

[51:1] Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

[2] Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

[3] For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.

[4] Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are proved right when you speak
and justified when you judge.

[5] Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

[6] Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;
you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

John 2:18-19; [18] Then the Jews demanded of him, “What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

[19] Jesus answered them, “**Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.**”

James 1:13-14; [13] When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; [14] but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

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THIRD Day:

Read Romans 3:5-8

[5] But if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? (I am using a human argument.) [6] Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world? [7] Someone might argue, "If my falsehood enhances God's truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?" [8] Why not say—as we are being slanderously reported as saying and as some claim that we say—"Let us do evil that good may result"? Their condemnation is deserved.

Question 6b

Romans 1:18-32; God's Wrath Against Mankind

[18] The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, [19] since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. [20] For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

[21] For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. [22] Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools [23] and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

[24] Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. [25] They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

[26] Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. [27] In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and

received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

[28] Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. [29] They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, [30] slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; [31] they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. [32] Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Romans 2:1-5; God's Righteous Judgment

[2:1] You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. [2] Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. [3] So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? [4] Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

[5] But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

Question 7a

Luke 6:46; The Wise and Foolish Builders

[46] "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

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FOURTH DAY:

Read Romans 3:9-18

No One Is Righteous

[9] What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. [10] As it is written:

“There is no one righteous, not even one;
[11] there is no one who understands,
no one who seeks God.
[12] All have turned away,
they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good,
not even one.”

[13] “Their throats are open graves;
their tongues practice deceit.”
“The poison of vipers is on their lips.”
[14] “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”
[15] “Their feet are swift to shed blood;
[16] ruin and misery mark their ways,
[17] and the way of peace they do not know.”
[18] “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Question 9a

Psalms 14:1-3; *For the director of music. Of David.*

[14:1]

The fool says in his heart,
“There is no God.”
They are corrupt, their deeds are vile;
there is no one who does good.
[2] The LORD looks down from heaven
on the sons of men
to see if there are any who understand,
any who seek God.
[3] All have turned aside,
they have together become corrupt;
there is no one who does good,
not even one.

Psalms 53:1-3; *For the director of music. According to mahalath. A maskil of David.*

[53:1]

The fool says in his heart,
“There is no God.”
They are corrupt, and their ways are vile;
there is no one who does good.
[2] God looks down from heaven
on the sons of men
to see if there are any who understand,
any who seek God.
[3] Everyone has turned away,
they have together become corrupt;
there is no one who does good,
not even one.

Question 9b

James 3:5-10; [5] Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. [6] The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

[7] All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, [8] but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

[9] With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. [10] Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.

Matthew 12:34-37; [34] *You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.* [35] *The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.* [36] *But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.* [37] *For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”*

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FIFTH DAY

Read Romans 3:19-20

[19] Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. [20] Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

SIXTH DAY:

Review Romans 3:1-20

God's Faithfulness

[3:1] What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? [2] Much in every way! First of all, they have been entrusted with the very words of God.

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[15] “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

[16] ruin and misery mark their ways,

[17] and the way of peace they do not know.”

[18] “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

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