

# Romans

## How to be a Christian without Being Religious!

Lesson 1

Romans 1:1-17

Righteousness by Faith

1. What do the following terms/phrases mean to you (take a guess if you don't know):
  - a. "servant" (bondservant) (v. 1)
  - b. "apostle" (v. 1)
  - c. "set apart" (v. 1)
  - d. "gospel" (v. 2) (John 3:16 and I Cor. 15:1-5)
  - e. The two natures of Christ (vv.3-4)
  - f. "grace" (v. 5) (Ephesians 2:8-9)
2. Paul was called to belong to Jesus Christ. See Acts 7:54-8:3; 9:1-19 and 13:9. Do you belong to Jesus Christ? How do you know? See I John 5:13 and Romans 8:16.
3. Why do you think Paul felt obligated to share the gospel (v. 16)? Also, see I Timothy 1:15-17.
4. Why was Paul not ashamed of the Gospel (v. 16)? Why do you think men are often ashamed of the gospel? See Matthew 10:32-33 and John 12:42-43. What about you? Have you ever been put in a place where you were ashamed of the name of Jesus?
5. What does the term salvation mean to you (v. 16)? Why do we need to be saved? See Luke 19:10. How is a person saved? See John 3:16-17 and Acts 4:12. What are we saved from? See Revelation 20:11-15.
6. What does the term "righteousness" mean to you (v. 17)? Who does our righteousness come from (us or God)? What role do "good deeds" play in terms of our salvation? See Ephesians 2:8-9. How does one become righteous (by good deeds or simply by faith)? See Genesis 15:6 and Romans 3:20-22.

7. What is the wrath of God (v. 18)? How has/is God's wrath been/being revealed to the world? Why do you think we rarely, if ever, hear anything about the wrath of God in church today?
8. What are men guilty of according to verse 18? (See **Chart entitled, "The Downward Spiral of Sin," for the remaining questions.**) How do we do this (suppress the truth)? This is the 1<sup>st</sup> step downward in man's rebellious turning away from God.
9. How has God revealed Himself to the world? See Psalm 19:1-4. According to verses 19-20, is the evidence of God clearly seen by men? Can you think of some ways that God has revealed Himself to you? See Romans 2:14-15 and Ecclesiastes 3:11.
10. Will anyone be able to stand before God one day and simply say, "Well, I just didn't know about You, otherwise I would have believed (v. 20)?"
11. What is man's second step downward, away from God, according to verse 22-23? What happens to the heart of man as he turns away from God? Can you think of some things that we turn to rather than turning to God for our source of contentment and satisfaction?
12. As man turns away from God, how does God respond according to verse 24? What do men turn to and where does this desire originate (v. 24)? See Jeremiah 17:9; Matthew 5:28; Luke 6:45; and, James 1:14-15.
13. In verse 23, man exchanged the glory of God for images made to look like man and animals. What is the third downward step in man's rebellious march away from God (v. 25)?
14. Does God force man to turn back to Him? What does He do, again, according to verse 26?

15. What is the next downward step that man takes further distancing himself from God (vv. 26-28)? See Genesis 2:24-25. What has always been God's perfect plan for man according to this Genesis passage?
16. Because of man's continued rebellion, what does God do a third time according to verse 28? What is the result of man's rebellion? What is a depraved mind? What does it lead to according to verses 29-32?
17. According to verse 32, what does man know deep down inside, in his very soul, about his sinful practices? What does he continue to do?
18. Read Romans 3:23 and 6:23. What do you conclude from these two verses?
19. Paul begins his letter to the Romans by referring to "the gospel of God." The Greek word for gospel is euangelion. It simply means "the good news." After reading Romans 1:18-32, Romans 3:23 and 6:23, why do think this message from God that is recorded in the Bible would be referred to as "the good news?" Why did Paul so desire to tell everyone? What is your response to this "good news?"