

# Romans

## How to be a Christian without Being Religious!

Lesson 8

Romans 8:1-39

The Key to Victory!

1. The word “therefore” is a very important word. It refers back to everything that Paul has already said in the first 7 chapters. Summarize Paul’s formula for salvation based on these preceding chapters.
2. What is the Good News that Paul gives in verse 1 concerning the “legal status” of the believer before God? What does this mean to you personally?
3. Read verse 2. What do you think Paul means by the “law of the Spirit of life?” How are we set free from the “law of sin and death” (See John 8:31-36; Romans 6:17-18)?
4. Read verse 3. What did God do to provide a way for men to be set free? What does Paul mean when he states that God sent Jesus “in the likeness of sinful man” (II Cor. 5:21; Philippians 2:7; I Peter 2:24)? And, what does Paul mean that Jesus was sent to be a “sin offering” (Isaiah 53:4-12; Hebrews 9:22; 27-28)?
5. According to verses 3 and 4, what was the purpose for God sending His Son into the world to be a sin offering?
6. Does God ultimately want us to obey His laws according to verse 4? What is the key? (Hint: The Holy Spirit is mentioned but once in the first 7 chapters but is mentioned 18 times in Chapter 8.)
7. In verses 5 through 11, Paul contrasts the life of a believer with that of a non-believer. One of the key contrasts has to do with the “mind!” Dr. John MacArthur in his commentary on Romans states that the Greek word for “mind” “refers to the basic orientation, bent, and thought patterns of the mind, rather than to the mind or intellect itself. It includes a person’s affections and

will as well as his reasoning.”<sup>2</sup> What does Paul state that non-believers have their minds set on (v. 5)? Conversely, what do believers have their minds set on?

8. What does the mind of sinful man lead to (v. 6)? What does the mind which is controlled by the Holy Spirit lead to (John 10:10)? Describe the person who is experiencing “life and peace.” Are you experiencing “life and peace?”
9. Read Galatians 5:16-25. Describe the difference between those who live by the Spirit and those who do not. Again, what is the key to having victory over sin?
10. According to Paul in verses 7 and 8, the non-believer’s mind is \_\_\_\_\_ to God. This hostility is evident in that he is not willing to \_\_\_\_\_ to God’s law; furthermore, he \_\_\_\_\_ submit to it. Finally, the nonbeliever is so controlled by the sinful nature that he cannot \_\_\_\_\_ God. This is man’s predicament from the moment he is born (Psalm 51:5); he can never please God because hostility exists between God and sinful man. That is why man needs to be \_\_\_\_\_ to God (Romans 5:10).
11. Read verse 9. What determines whether a man belongs to God? Who is in control of the believer?
12. Even though we belong to Christ as believers, what is happening to our physical bodies (v. 10)? On the other hand, what has happened to our spirit (II Corinthians 4:16)?
13. Read verse 11. Who raised Jesus’ body from the dead? Who is living in our bodies, if we are believers (I Cor. 6:19)? What is the promise for the bodies of those who have the Spirit living in them (I Cor. 15:35-57)?
14. Read verses 12-14. Believers have an obligation to do what? Who gives the Christian the strength to live according to God’s law?
15. Read verse 15. When a man believes in Jesus and is sealed with the Holy Spirit what does he become to God according to this verse (Romans 8:23;

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<sup>2</sup> John MacArthur, Jr., *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary Romans 1-8*, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1991). 416.

Galatians 4:4-7)? What does this mean to you? As a son, we can cry out “Abba, Father.” The word “Abba” actually means “Daddy!” It implies a very intimate, personal relationship.

16. Read verse 16. What is perhaps the most significant evidence to support a man’s claim that he has in fact trusted in Jesus?
17. Read verse 17. According to this verse, a “son” of God is also an \_\_\_\_\_. Everything belongs to Christ. What does this verse state that the believer is with Christ? If a man follows Jesus, what will he encounter? What will he later share in?
18. Read II Corinthians 4:17-18. What do these verses state about our troubles? What will far outweigh them one day? What should we as believers fix our eyes on? What do these verses state will happen to the things we can see and touch? How does a man fix his eyes upon eternal things?
19. What is the key to victory?
20. Read verses 18-21. Paul refers to “our present sufferings!” There are many evangelists today who preach what is commonly referred to as the “prosperity gospel!” That is, a gospel message that essentially says that God saves us so that He might prosper us with health and wealth. Why is this a false message (See John 16:33, II Corinthians 4:16-17; 11:23-28; and Hebrews 11:32-40)?
21. Paul states that “our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” Remember that Paul is speaking about the future glory of God’s children (believers). What do you think this coming glory means (See Romans 5:2; Phil. 3:21; Colossians 1:27; Hebrews 2:10; Rev. 21:11)? (Hint: “Glory” might be seen as value to God, acceptance by God, or His personal delight in His children and approval of them. It might include the honor and reward that will be displayed in His children that is only made possible by His Son)
22. Who are the “sons of god” in verse 19 (Romans 8:14-15)? What do you think Paul means by stating that “creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed?”

23. Paul states that “creation was subjected to frustration.” When did this happen (Genesis 3:17-19)? Who subjected it to frustration? What is the promise given in verse 21 concerning creation? When will this take place (II Peter 3:13 and Revelation 21:1-5)? What do you think will happen (I Corinthians 2:9; John 14:1-4)?
24. The Bible teaches that God is going to “make all things new!” His children will receive “spiritual bodies,” and live in a gloriously restored earth. This is the “hope” that every Christian is given. Read I Corinthians 15:35-56. Give 6 characteristics of this “resurrection body” that Scripture promises to all believers. (See specifically vv. 40, 42-44, 49 and 53; and Philippians 3:21) Does this not excite you?
25. Paul states that creation “will be liberated from its bondage to decay.” How does John characterize this “new life” that God’s children will inherit one day according to Revelation 21:3-4?
26. Read verses 22-25. Paul presents an image of creation groaning as if it is a woman getting ready to give birth. Similarly, he states that Christians groan as they wait for all these things to happen. What do you think Paul means by this term “groaning?” In Matthew 24 Jesus gives the signs of the end of the world. In Matthew 24:8 Jesus said, “All these [wars, famines, and earthquakes] are the beginning of birth pains.” Birth pains increase in frequency and intensity as the arrival of the baby nears. Even so, as we see the “birth pains” increasing around us in the world today, do you think His arrival is near? Perhaps, our “adoption as sons” draweth nigh!
27. Read verse 24. Are we saved by “hope” or “faith?” Hope accompanies faith. Define faith according to Hebrews 11:1. What tool has God given us to enhance, even bring about, our faith (Romans 10:17)?
28. Read verses 26-27. Who does God give us to help us through the struggles of life? Are you going through a struggle now? Who are you leaning on to help you? What does the Holy Spirit do for us according to these two verses?
29. Read verses 28-30. Romans 8 is considered by some to be the greatest chapter in the Bible. Romans 8:28 is one of the most comforting verses of Scripture in

the entire Word of God. Who is this verse (and all of chapter 8) addressed to? According to this verse, in how many things does God work out for good? What does this mean to you?

30. What do the following terms mean to you?
  - God's foreknowledge (Amos 3:2 "You only I have I **chosen** of all the families of the earth..." The word chosen comes from the Hebrew word, *yada*, which means "to know." Also, see Ephesians 1:4; I Peter 1:1-2)
  - Predestination (Acts 17:26-28; Ephesians 1:4-5, 11; II Timothy 1:9)
  - Conformed to the likeness of His Son (Phil. 1:6; Romans 12:2)
  - Called (effectual) (John 11:43-44; Eph. 1:18)
  - Justified (Romans 3:24)
  - Glorified (I John 3:2; II Thess. 1:10; 2:14)
31. Read verses 31-39. In terms of a believer's eternal standing before God, can anyone bring charges against a believer (vv. 33-34)? Who is our advocate? See I John 2:1). What is Jesus doing for us even now according to verse 34 (See John 17)?
32. Can anything or anyone separate us (believers) from the love of God? (vv. 37-39) Can death separate us from God? What happens to a believer the moment he dies (See Phil. 1:21-23 and II Cor. 5:8)?
33. What great promises have you learned about through this study of Romans that are in store for God's children (believers)?
34. In Paul's last letter, II Timothy, which he wrote while imprisoned by Emperor Nero in 66-67 AD, he knew that his work was done and his life was nearly at an end. He now languished in a cold dungeon, chained like a common criminal. Read what he writes in II Timothy 4:7-8. Paul was prepared to die to go and be with His Lord! Are you?